

# Accounting Spring 2014 Student SLO Report

## 1. What did you like about this program?

### Text Response

I like the fact that all the instructors were experts in their fields. It found it very valuable that the instructors were working or had worked in the areas they were teaching. The fact that I am an older adult student and looking to start a new career, I found their real world work experience helped enhance my learning capacity.

The one thing I liked was the diverse classes with the instructors and their knowledge. Some of the instructors have real life experience working in the field, and I believe that contributed to the students learning the material a lot better.

everything was great

I really enjoyed the classes only being one night (blended). This made it very easy to schedule other things around.

I liked the option of both day and night classes. I loved the on-line classes and the ability to track grades and submit homework through Blackboard.

I really enjoyed everything about the program. I thought a the teachers were great and I can tell they really care about all the students.

I liked the core accounting structors a lot I think that they were very helpful. I also like the projects we had to do I think that they are very helpful in the learning process.

I liked the blended format classes at night. I also liked that the day and night classes followed the same schedule so it was easy to take a combination of day and night classes. Class size was small. As much as the projects for the accounting classes were time consuming, they were the best learning tools of the entire two years and they were very personally rewarding.

The program was more than adequate. Being taught by instructor's with real world experience is paramount.

It was very hands on and this aided in my learning.

I liked that we were exposed to a wide variety of accounting topics.

I liked how most of the teachers new what they were teaching. some of them taught from the book witch is also ok, but i would rather be taught by experience than being read vocab or when the teacher doesnt even know how to fix or answer the problem you have.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

## 2. What would you change about this program?

### Text Response

I liked the program in its entirety. I think everything offered was vital to prepare me for employment in the accounting field.

Some of the instructors that could not exactly help as much as I would have liked them to. The other thing I would change is the fact that some of the courses that are required are definitely not necessary, and could either be dropped or changed to other classes that might help a lot more.

I would only change the management accounting project and make it a two semester class conjoined with cost so as to give the students a better understanding of small business.

My Accounting Orientation class did not orient me to the field of accounting. It taught me how to be a good student, which I already am. It was a waste of time and money. The Professional Development class also did not help me become a better accounting student. It did present me with opportunities to become a good job search candidate, but I already know how to do that as well. I would change the requirements in Accounting Orientation so that students would learn more about accounting and discover if this is a good career choice for them. Talk more about job situations, require more job shadows, bring in area accountants from different businesses to talk to students about their future careers. I would also like the Management Accounting Project class to not be a group project. There is very little opportunity for individual grades. A person with a poor work ethic in a group can bring down everyone's grade. I would provide more opportunities for computerized accounting work. While we have great comprehension of accounting processes I do not feel that we are able to operate any specific accounting computer program. We have never done any work on an accounting calculator and many employers require their use. Perhaps this would be a good activity in Accounting Orientation.

I would choose to have accounting information systems in class instead of online.

I really would not change anything.

I would change all the instructors I had except for two. Kristi Ellwanger, the night instructor, is a nice person who cares about how we do but she does not come across to students as being prepared for class or as having the knowledge to teach much past AP2. One big problem was that every time she had anything different going on in her personal life, her efforts towards class would drop to almost nothing. There seemed to be something almost every term. Even if we didn't know what was going on at the time, we would notice the change. Later, when the personal issue was over, she would mention something about it and the time frame would match the time in class that her efforts would drop. She probably would have been a better instructor if she was able to manage teaching and her personal life. The minimum effort I expect from an instructor is that they understand the material assigned to students, have done the homework problems and understand them enough to explain them in class and make sure any tests or quizzes have questions that match the material. I don't feel that Kristi met this minimum a lot of the time. All online instructors have Blackboard quizzes and test that use the questions straight from the text but they don't verify that the answer key from the book has the correct answers. This adds a level of stress that is not needed. Students should be able to take a test and either get a question right or wrong and not have to worry about making sure it is graded correctly. It is the instructor's job to make sure the quizzes and test grade correctly. Also this school year there were multiple times that we were tested on material not assigned to us and that we never did related homework on. The instructors need to look at assignments and decide which parts are busy work and which really enhance our knowledge or help us learn. We spent so much time doing assignments that are purely busy work which took away from time we had to do the assignments that were worthwhile. The format of the Information Systems class was more than 1/2 busy work. I did learn a little bit, but not enough to justify the time spent on it. What Information Systems really taught me: how to split a nicely worded long

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sentence into two awkward sentences to meet the 5 sentence in a paragraph minimum. The discussion board, as it was used for that class, was busy work. The night school classes were closer to straight online classes where most learning needed to be done independently. Some of the prerequisites held me back. Seems like several of them held me back and wouldn't have affected my performance in a class that had them as a prerequisite. Mix up the night class instructors a bit so that students would have a chance to learn using different teaching styles. Different instructors all have different experiences and knowledge and it would be helpful to get to experience all of that. I would change the MAP, doing the personal Binder is sooooooo pointless. because your just redoing some of the main book. Info Systems: This is a Accounting Class, not a english class Accounting Spreadsheets: have the teacher have more knowlegde of the program.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	10

### 3. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned effective communication skills.	0	0	0	5	6	11

### 4. Provide any comments you have on effective communication skills you learned.

#### Text Response

Speech has contributed a ton of help to getting up in front of a crowd of people and to speak what I know.

I already had good communication skills before I started at WTC. However, we were told that communication was important. Our written work was graded to show its importance. I can see that other types of students might need more opportunity to practice communication skills instead of being told to have them. Accounting instructors are not writing instructors yet they have to grade on written content, punctuation, spelling, etc. Many of the accounting instructors themselves are horrible spellers and use incorrect grammar in their emails and homework instructions. At the very least they should be good role models and lead by example!

I already had fairly good communication skills and probably learned a few more through this program. I'm not sure people with poor communication skills learned very much; some discussion board posts and emails from other students make me think that the instructors could be a little tougher with grading in this area.

I have learned from profecianally development how to "impress" the possible employer

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

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### 5. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to apply mathematical concepts.	0	0	0	4	7	11

### 6. Provide any comments you have on mathematical concepts you learned.

#### Text Response

Math with business applications has helped to solidify my mathematical concepts. Accounting involves a great deal of higher level thinking. For me, I need time to process information and think about situations so that I can incorporate mathematical concepts into my accounting work. Not all instructors are willing to provide this "thinking time" after presenting new content. Teachers should be required to let students think and also be required to not become angry or upset when students need this time.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	2

### 7. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned how to transfer social and natural science theories into practical applications.	0	0	5	2	4	11

### 8. Provide any comments you have on transferring social and natural science theories into practical applications.

#### Text Response

There are some classes that I didn't understand why I needed them, and therefore did not really apply those theories into practical applications. I do not know how either social science or natural science applies to the field of accounting. These areas do help students become well-rounded, and more intelligent. As part of my time at WTC I did not take any classes related to this topic.

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 9. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned critical thinking skills.	0	0	0	1	10	11

### 10. Provide any comments you have on critical thinking skills you learned.

#### Text Response

I am able to clearly find solutions to problems that I might not have been able to solve before. When I started in the accounting program, I had never taken a business class before. I have had to think about many new situations.

Case really was a twist on how you might think of a regular class. Cost was totally not what i was expecting. there was alot more of thinking to do in the class than in past classes.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 11. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to use technology effectively.	0	0	0	3	8	11

### 12. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about using technology effectively.

#### Text Response

A lot of my courses applied to using technology, and combined with my work experience I have been able to use technology way more effectively than before.

I am very impressed with the technology used at WTC. I feel that most instructors do an excellent job of helping students use the various software programs.

Even though my teacher was a little difficult, my favorite class was accounting spreadsheets. i love to use excel.

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 13. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to value myself and work ethically with others in a diverse population.	0	0	0	2	9	11

### 14. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about valuing yourself and working ethically with others in a diverse population.

#### Text Response

Before starting in the program, I had a high value of myself as a student, and I always worked responsibly and ethically with others. After being in two group projects, Management Accounting Project and the final Information Systems project, I have found that there are many students in the program who have yet to learn these skills. I do not think you can teach anyone to work ethically. They either choose to be responsible or not be responsible. If working with others is a value that WTC has, then more emphasis should be given to the group working together, not the work that the group generates. In my class experiences, I ended up doing most of the work so that I could ensure I would get a good grade. Unfortunately, my group partners got good grades because of my work, not because of their own personal efforts.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

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### 15. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to make decisions that incorporate the importance of sustainability.	0	0	4	1	6	11

### 16. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about incorporating the importance of sustainability in decisions you make.

#### Text Response

I do not know what sustainability is or what this question means.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

### 17. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
process financial transactions throughout the accounting cycle.	0	0	0	0	11	11

### 18. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

The AP end of semester projects, as well as chapter assignments, helped me learn about financial transactions.

I will be diving in to payroll once i get done with school this august. i will also go in to Tax and hopefully continue to go to school and get my cpa

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	2

### 19. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
analyze financial and business information to support planning and decision making.	0	0	0	2	9	11

### 20. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

The MAP class helped me better understand how budgeting supported planning and decision making.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

### 21. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
perform payroll preparation, reporting, and analysis tasks.	0	0	0	2	9	11

### 22. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

I am doing some payroll work in my current job and I am struggling. We were given a broad overview of rules and regulations, but my employer is expecting me to know more than I do.



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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

### 23. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
perform cost accounting preparation, reporting, and analysis tasks.	0	0	0	3	8	11

### 24. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

Text Response

The project in MAP helped me realize the cost accounting processes.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

### 25. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
perform organization and/or individual tax accounting preparation, reporting, and analysis tasks.	0	0	0	5	6	11

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### 26. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

I am doing some tax work in my current job and I am struggling. We were given a broad overview of rules and regulations, but my employer is expecting me to know more than I do.  
Individual tax accounting only

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	2

### 27. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
identify internal controls to reduce risk.	0	0	1	1	9	11

### 28. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

This chapter in Information Systems is very helpful.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

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### 29. CONCLUSION - Please use this space to share any other feedback, comments, or suggestions about your experience at Western Technical College.

#### Text Response

The Associate Degree program for Accounting is top notch. The classes, instructors, and resources available all helped me prepare for employment in the accounting field. I appreciate the setup of the program in that it offers students the opportunity to attend classes and work towards their degree at a time that best fits their life schedule. This includes night classes, online, ITV, and actual face-to-face instruction time. Western Technical College provided me with a great learning experience and I would strongly recommend the accounting program to anyone.

Trying to deal with financial aid was a very big pain, as some of the workers were not helpful what-so-ever. However, working with the career services has been truly a great help and has driven me to successfully find a career in this field.

I was very disappointed with the financial aid system at W.T.C. They should not be able to determine if you are able to receive loans. I can understand grants and things that the student does not need to pay back. But a student repays the loans so the Financial Aid office should have no control over these loans.

Overall, my experience was good. I am a student at the Independence campus and the whole staff is very helpful. Instructors are also great in this program (Independence) and very helpful. I have had James Murray as an instructor in several of my accounting classes. He seems to know his subject material, and he is very organized with his assignments and expectations. He grades work in a timely manner and can usually justify reasons for his grades. However, he is a horrible instructor. He yells at students when they ask for help or ask questions. He is bullying and intimidating, unwilling to offer his time or expertise to assist students with learning and comprehension. Some days he is kind and calm, but his attitude is so unpredictable that in general students prefer not to interact with him. He provides office hours, but acts as if time spent with students during office hours is a huge inconvenience for him. He belittles students for providing incorrect answers and provides corrections while making students feel embarrassed and stupid. Sometimes he is unwilling to provide the correct answers or cannot explain how to find the correct answer in a manner that all students can understand. I know that many students take classes at night just to avoid taking the class with him. He would be a contributing factor why so few students graduate from the accounting program compared with the number that start out as first year students. Kristi Ellwanger is the accounting night instructor. Due to her position, she has to be an expert in every area of accounting, while the day instructors can specialize (Karen Kettelson in beginning courses and income tax, James Murray in higher level courses and cost accounting). Kristi is very nice, compassionate, and helpful. However, she often does not know the material she is teaching. She does not know how to solve the homework problems that she assigns. She needs to do more class preparation so she can actually help students during class meeting times. Her instructions, expectations, and due dates are often vague.

I had a great experience here at Western from dealing with the staff at the Independence location who taught me a lot throughout my time here at Western and also the instructors were great.

The structure of the accounting program classes and assignments makes things more stressful than necessary. Often things seemed to be timed to maximize misery. This does not help us learn, it just makes us rush through things and not get as much learning value as we could out of anything. There are many good things about the accounting program but often they're hidden behind poor scheduling. Spreading assignments more evenly throughout a term would

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go a long way toward making the program seem less miserable. Assignments should also be looked at to make sure they are not mistaking quantity for quality.

I have had a wonderful experience with all the staff and instructors. Thanks for a great education.

maybe once a semester, for the itv class. maybe try and schedule a day when all the campuses meet in one class room for class. just to get a feeling like its a real class. because when you on ITV. the class rom feels different

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	9