EDITION

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

THE IMPACT ON DECISION MAKERS

GARY A. PORTER CURTIS L. NORTON

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

# THE IMPACT ON DECISION MAKERS

## **SECOND EDITION**

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Loyola University Chicago

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Northern Illinois University



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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

# The Porter/Norton Story

When the first edition of *Financial Accounting: The Impact on Decision Makers* was published in 1995, an unparalleled success story was created. The authors' own teaching experiences and observations, combined with extensive research by The Dryden Press, culminated in a new entry into the accounting market and a fresh approach to teaching. This approach was simple: deemphasize procedures, focus on introductory accounting concepts, and teach financial accounting from a financial statement user—rather than preparer—perspective. The Porter/Norton story was born.

Now, with the second edition, a great book has been made even better. Gary Porter and Curt Norton listened to users of the first edition who suggested three things: emphasize key concepts, eliminate unnecessary procedural detail, and engage the student even more in subject material.

The changes have resulted in a more streamlined, less procedural, and more student-friendly textbook—a book based on four guiding philosophies: (1) today's introductory accounting students must learn how to interpret and use financial statements; (2) students need practice relating the fundamental accounting concepts to real-world statements; (3) students should focus on the "why" instead of the "how" in using accounting information to make decisions; and (4) students do not all learn the same, nor do professors teach in the same way.

The authors invite you to share these philosophies in the second edition, as they have in their own classrooms and professional lives.

**Gary A. Porter,** CPA, is Professor of Accounting at Loyola University Chicago. He earned Ph.D. and M.B.A. degrees from the University of Colorado and his B.S.B.A. from Drake University. He has published in the *Journal of Accounting Education, Journal of Accounting, Auditing & Finance*, and *Journal of Accountancy*, among others and has conducted numerous workshops on the subject of introductory accounting education.

Dr. Porter's professional activities include membership on the Illinois CPA Society's Innovations in Accounting Education Grants Committee, experience as a staff accountant with Deloitte & Touche in Denver, and a participant in KPMG Peat Marwick Foundation's Faculty Development Program.

He has won an Excellence in Teaching award from the University of Colorado and an Outstanding Professor award from San Diego State University. Dr. Porter has served on the steering committee of the midwest region of the American Accounting Association and is currently on the board of directors of the Chicago chapter of the Financial Executives Institute.

**Curtis L. Norton** is Deloitte & Touche Professor of Accountancy at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. from Arizona State University, his M.B.A. from the University of South Dakota, and his B.S. from Jamestown College, North Dakota. His extensive list of publications includes articles in *Accounting Horizons, The Journal of Accounting Education, Journal of Accountancy, Journal of Corporate Accounting, Journal of the American Taxation Association, Real Estate Review, The Accounting Review, CPA Journal, and many others. In 1988–89, Dr. Norton received the University Excellence in Teaching Award, the highest university-wide teaching recognition at NIU. He is also a consultant and has conducted training programs for governmental authorities, banks, utilities, and other entities.* 

Dr. Norton is a member of the American Accounting Association and a member and officer of the Financial Executives Institute.





## **PREFACE**

#### To the Instructor

It is our goal in writing this textbook that students gain a thorough understanding of introductory concepts in accounting as well as the powerful ability to make the transition from textbook concepts to the real world, an ability that is important in any business career. This textbook offers the flexibility of teaching a conceptual and real-world approach to financial accounting.

Throughout the development of the second edition, we were continually reminded by adopters and reviewers of the demands in accomplishing the above goal in the class-room. We were also reminded of the need to emphasize key concepts, eliminate unnecessary procedural details, and find ways to engage students in the material. In writing the second edition, we have responded to such feedback while utilizing four guiding philosophies:

- 1. Today's introductory accounting students must learn to interpret and use financial statements. Our original two introductory chapters, "Accounting as a Form of Communication" and "Financial Statements and the Annual Report," have been retained, given their great success in launching a financial statement focus in the course. We have taken greater steps to incorporate information that will allow students to gain the necessary knowledge of the uses and interrelationships of financial statements:
  - To increase our emphasis on how to read and understand financial statements, we have **reduced the number of preparer-oriented topics**. We continue to link transactions and journal entries to the financial statements by way of the accounting equation.
  - A new cash flows exhibit found in Chapters 6 through 12 relates the material presented in each chapter to the statement of cash flows.
  - Our end-of-chapter problems and cases have been revised to add more thought-provoking questions and more practice in interpreting financial statements.

Our approach to accounting topics is to provide very clear concepts, examples, and terminology for students. As in the first edition, we have taken great efforts to ensure we clearly explain difficult concepts. Additionally,

- Chapter 2, "Financial Statements and the Annual Report," is considerably streamlined by substituting the statements of only one company, Starbucks, for numerous companies' statements found in the first edition. We retained the parallel coverage of simple statements of our hypothetical company, Dixon Sporting Goods, with that of Starbucks.
- ALTERNATE TERMS in every chapter have been expanded to address the varying use of terminology that can roadblock a student's learning. We have also made

# FOCUS ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- certain that new terms are defined as they are introduced and that the vocabulary in each chapter is not overwhelming.
- End-of-chapter exercises, problems, and cases have been carefully checked to ensure that they fully conform to and adequately test the content of the chapter. Further, the test bank has also been developed in parallel with the end-of-chapter material to ensure maximum pedagogical value.

# REAL-COMPANY

#### 2. Students need practice relating fundamental accounting concepts to real-world statements.



- We continue to use **Ben & Jerry's** as a "flagship company." Its straightforward and entertaining annual report is packaged with new copies of the textbook, and its financial statements and notes are reprinted in an appendix at the back of the book.
- Each chapter-opening company has been more fully integrated into the chapter text and additionally as sidebars, in the chapter-ending statement of cash flows exhibit, in end-of-chapter materials, and onto our Web site. In many instances, financial statement items are compared and contrasted with other companies. Integrating the chapter-opening company into the chapter allows students to gain more familiarity with the company and its numbers, allowing them to more fully analyze the company, its industry conditions, and business strategies.
- A number of **new companies** have been added to this edition—both in the text and in the end-of-chapter materials—to stimulate student interest and identification with the topic. Companies with a similar appeal to Ben & Jerry's, such as Ride, Inc., a snowboard manufacturer, are used to illustrate key concepts.

#### **DECISION EMPHASIS**

- 3. If students have a concrete understanding of the "why" instead of the "how," they will be much better able to use accounting information to make decisions. As in the first edition, we continue to incorporate a decision-making emphasis, adding new material such as the uses of time-value of money concepts and the choice of stock versus bond financing alternatives. Additionally,
  - **ACCOUNTING FOR YOUR DECISIONS** boxes were a unique feature of the first edition that placed the student in a role-playing situation as a user of financial information. In the second edition, we have significantly increased the number of these in-text, role-playing scenarios (from two to four in most chapters), so they can also be used as a form of self-study problem. We have also broadened their focus to include both business decisions and financial decisions students might make.
  - The end-of-chapter material has been expanded to include more questions that ask the student to analyze, evaluate, and make decisions or recommendations regarding specific material.
  - The accompanying Interactive Decision Cases for Financial Accounting CD-**ROM** additionally reinforces practice in making decisions based on real company information.

### PEDAGOGY AND STUDENT APPEAL

- 4. Not all students learn in the same way, nor do their professors teach in the same way. For the *professor*,
  - Our textbook provides instructors with flexibility, allowing them to emphasize either journal entries or the accounting equation as a way to understand transactions.
  - We have retained the organization of the first edition in which the first two chapters give a big picture overview, followed by an introduction to the accounting model and sections on assets, liabilities, and owners' equity items. We believe this transactions-based approach to financial accounting provides a highly logical, structured approach to understanding the composition of financial statements and how they can be used in making decisions.

- We have also retained the 15-chapter organization of the first edition, which gives instructors the option of covering later chapters if desired.
- We **eliminated unnecessary procedural details**, and you will find such changes worth noting in the "Content Changes" section below.

For the *student*, we have added an **international perspective** throughout the text, serving the increasing need for students to have global business awareness and outlining conceptually interesting aspects of international accounting. Also, throughout the book we have attempted to engage the student in a variety of ways to learn other than simply the printed word:

- **STUDY LINKS** at the beginning of each chapter review the previous chapter, introduce the current chapter, and look forward to the following chapter. This gives the student an integrated perspective on the text.
- Photos and captions have been revised and expanded to better explain or elucidate text material.
- **Exhibits** have been enhanced and added wherever possible to be more visually appealing to students and make it **easier to learn.**
- Captions are used in selected real financial statements to allow students to focus their attention on a specific reporting issue and not become bogged down with the complexities of the statements. Wherever financial statement information appears in text, it has been highlighted with a green border to distinguish it from other tabular material.

## **Content Changes**

In **Chapter 1**, "Accounting as a Form of Communication," we have revised the exhibit that explains articulation of the financial statements to make it easier to understand. A new section was added to interest students in accounting as a career, focusing on both the opportunities and salaries in the profession. The section in the chapter on standard setting is enhanced with a discussion of the role of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC).

**Chapter 2,** "Financial Statements and the Annual Report," serves as an overview of the various elements in the annual report by comparing the statements of a hypothetical company, Dixon Sporting Goods, with those of a real company. The coverage in this chapter has been streamlined considerably from the first edition, most noticeably by substituting the statements of only one company, Starbucks, for the numerous company statements presented in the first edition. An international perspective has been added following the conceptual framework section of the chapter by introducing the efforts of the IASC in this area.

We have streamlined the coverage of the accounting cycle in **Chapter 3**, "Processing Accounting Information" and **Chapter 4**, "Income Measurement and Accrual Accounting," by eliminating procedural topics such as reversing entries, finding errors in the trial balance, and post-closing trial balances. The emphasis of the chapters is on accounting as an information system; therefore, topics such as posting from the journal to the ledger are still covered, but not in as much procedural detail as in the first edition.

We have made similar changes in **Chapter 5**, "Merchandise Accounting and Internal Control." Only the gross method of accounting for sales and purchases discounts is covered, and the appendix on worksheets and closing entries for a merchandiser has been eliminated. The coverage of internal control in the body of the chapter focuses on the fundamental concepts, with the material on document flow for a merchandiser moved to an appendix.

**Chapter 6,** "Inventories and Costs of Goods Sold," has been enhanced with a discussion of how companies in other countries account for inventory and the stance of the IASC. The section on analyzing the management of inventory turnover has been enhanced, and a new exhibit has been added to compare inventory turnover for Circuit

City and Safeway. Coverage of both the retail inventory method and the lower-of-costor-market rule have been streamlined. As mentioned earlier, beginning in this chapter and continuing through Chapter 12, two new exhibits have been added to each chapter to illustrate how key financial statement items are reported on the statement of cash flows.

**Chapter 7,** "Cash and Receivables," has been revised to focus sharper attention on the key reporting and control issues for cash and receivables. To do this, we have eliminated the coverage of bad debt recoveries and significantly shortened the discussion of discounting notes receivable.

Chapter 8, "Operating Assets: Property, Plant, and Equipment, Natural Resources, and Intangibles," has been simplified by eliminating much of the discussion of the capitalization of interest and by deleting the sum-of-years' digits depreciation method. The chapter has been enhanced by a new exhibit and explanation of the factors that management should consider in choosing a depreciation method. The cash flow consequences of depreciation and other transactions affecting long-term assets is illustrated for the opening vignette company.

A new exhibit has been added to Chapter 9, "Current Liabilities, Contingent Liabilities, and the Time Value of Money," to compare the current and quick ratios of six realworld companies. A new section has been added to explain more fully why the time value of money is important in both personal and accounting decisions. The discussion of contingent liabilities has been revised, and an exhibit illustrating the cash-flow impacts of current liabilities has been added.

**Chapter 10,** "Long-Term Liabilities," has been simplified by reducing the discussion of amortization of bond discounts and premiums to one method, the effective interest method. A new exhibit has been added to illustrate how to read bond listings in The Wall Street Journal. The chapter utilizes the real-world statements of both Coca-Cola and PepsiCo to allow instructors to compare two companies within the same industry. Finally, the section on analysis of long-term liabilities has been moved toward the end of the chapter.

Chapter 11, "Stockholders' Equity," contains a new section on comparing stock and debt as financing alternatives. Detail has been removed by eliminating the topic of stock subscriptions, much of the material on retirement of stock, and a portion of the material on treasury stock. The chapter introduces the real-world financial statements of both Ford and Chrysler and presents a new exhibit on the dividend payout ratios of the companies in the auto industry.

The focus of Chapter 12, "Analysis of Retained Earnings and Stockholders' Equity," has been altered to emphasize additional aspects of retained earnings and stockholders' equity, and the chapter title reflects the new focus. A section was added to stress the role of retained earnings as a link between the income statement and balance sheet, and a new exhibit illustrates this important concept graphically. Much of the discussion of appropriations of retained earnings has been eliminated, and the section on the statement of stockholders' equity has been reduced.

In Chapter 13, "Additional Reporting Issues: Intercompany Investments and Foreign Currency," we have added a new exhibit on foreign exchange rates to help students understand how to read foreign currency quotes in the newspaper. We have also added an excerpt from the statement of cash flows of Intel to augment the section on how companies reflect investments in their cash flows statement.

Chapter 14, "The Statement of Cash Flows," and Chapter 15, "Financial Statement Analysis," allow the instructor the maximum flexibility. In Chapter 14, instructors can emphasize either the concepts of cash flows or the preparation of the cash flows statement, or both, or they can defer the chapter to a later course. Chapter 15 consolidates the coverage of ratios that was integrated into the chapters, allowing instructors to teach financial statement analysis throughout the course, only in this chapter, or in another course. Thus we have made only minimal changes to these well-received chapters.

An extensive listing of chapter-by-chapter changes can be found on our Web site.

## **Supplements and Teaching Materials**

A key contributor to the success of the first edition was a supplements package that was flexible, functional, innovative, and fully integrated with the goals and pedagogy of the text. For the second edition, we have once again listened to instructors' and students' needs in the new classroom and study environment and created a teaching and learning package to meet those needs.

#### For the Instructor

**Solutions Manual** (by the text authors), contains solutions to questions, exercises, problems, cases, and "From Concept to Practice" boxes for each chapter. (Suggested solutions for research cases appear on the book's Web site.) End-of-chapter items have been independently solved by two instructors (David Malone of Texas Tech University and Michael Claire of the College of San Mateo) to assure solution accuracy. *Also available in Word 6.0 for Windows files*.

**Instructor's Resource Kit** (by Patricia Doherty, Boston University) is a complete toolbox for instructors who teach a more financial statement user—oriented, interactive course. Containing chapter outlines, projects and activities, and a bibliography of readings, the Instructor's Resource Kit will provide ideas, suggestions, and resources for a variety of classroom styles. Numerous activities throughout are based on annual report exhibits, supporting the approach taken in the text. *Also available in Word 6.0 for Windows files*.

**Test Bank** (by Diane L. Tanner, University of North Florida, and Kevin Feeney, Southern Connecticut State University) has been thoroughly revised to increase its flexibility. Now containing more test items (approximately 150 questions per chapter), the Test Bank for the second edition has a greater variety of types of problem material to choose from, including multiple choice, short problems, matching, fill in the blanks, new cross-out the incorrect answer, new true-or-false questions, and new essay questions. It has been thoroughly error-checked and compared with the end-of-chapter material in the textbook for maximum pedagogical value.

**EXAMASTER+ Computerized Test Bank (Windows)** allows instructors to customize their tests by selecting items according to their individual teaching preferences. In addition, RequesTest service allows instructors to call a toll-free number to order custom test masters. A fax service is also available. RequesTest service is available Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. (Central Standard Time). Your sales representative can supply details.

**Solutions Transparencies** for selected exercises, problems, and cases are available in large type in acetate form. Transparency masters are available for all remaining solutions.

**Teaching Transparencies** contain a variety of visual tools for lecture enhancement taken largely from the text and based on the Lectures in PowerPoint. Includes text charts and graphs, reproductions of selected financial statements, lecture outlines, and additional lecture aids.

**Lectures in PowerPoint** (by Sandra Devona, Northern Illinois University) have been extensively revised for easier use for the second edition. More concise and focused on key topics and visual learning styles, Lectures in PowerPoint slides feature charts and graphs from the text as well as real-world financial statements.

**Lecture Launching Videos** provide a fuller view of selected chapter-opening companies, their strategic concerns, and recent financial decisions.

**Classroom Guide to the Interactive CD-ROM** (by Karen Walton, John Carroll University) contains classroom suggestions on the use of the student Interactive Decisions CD-ROM.



**Software Support** is available by calling 1-800-447-9457 Monday—Friday from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. (Central Standard Time). Technical support is available twenty-four hours every day by fax or Internet. Users may access the fax-on-demand service at 1-800-352-1680. Users may contact the Technical Support Center at http://www.hbtechsupport.com

#### For the Student

**Study Guide** (by Mary Nisbet, University of California at Santa Barbara) contains study aids that let students better review chapter topics on their own, including a review of key concepts by learning objective with integrated Test Your Understanding questions and answers and a greater variety of self-test items.

**Student Lecture Mate** (by Sandy Devona, Northern Illinois University) contain printed versions of all the Lectures in PowerPoint slides in one handy booklet so that students can follow along during PowerPoint lectures and concentrate on the lecture rather than on taking notes.

**Working Papers** for every end-of-chapter exercise, problem, and case allow students to complete their assignments with a minimum of scratch work. Where possible, given data and repetitive or nonessential information has been pre-completed so that students can better concentrate on developing their problem-solving skills.

**Guide to Understanding and Using Annual Reports** (by Angela Bell, Floyd W. Kirby, and Elise M. Gantt, all of Jacksonville State University) contains a series of structured assignments in financial statement analysis, using World Wide Web and traditional research techniques outlined in the case, culminating in groupwork, decision-making scenarios, and writing exercises. The case is designed to foster business skills in systematic data gathering, understanding, analyzing, presenting, and making decisions using financial information. It is available with an Excel/Lotus spreadsheet disk.

**Interactive Decision Cases for Financial Accounting CD-ROM** (by Guided Explorations LLC) consist of eight cases linked to important financial accounting topics. This CD-ROM allows the student to play the role of an internal or external user of accounting information. Actual company financial statements as well as video and news clips, internal corporate correspondence, and other critical information are available to aid the student in making financial accounting decisions. Each case uses information pertaining to real-life companies such as Whirlpool, Kmart, or Dell Computer.

**Bridge Software** is tutorial software covering procedures no longer included in many user-oriented introductory accounting courses.

**Tax Supplement** (by Anita Feller, University of Illinois) contains essential coverage of corporate and individual taxation issues, complete with assignment material. (Instructor's solutions to assignment material are available free to adopters.)

**Computerized Practice Set** is a brief practice set containing reduced procedures and flexible, user-friendly general ledger software.

**Procedural Review Software** is based on the first edition's printed Procedural Review supplement. This software is designed to provide extra practice for procedures covered in the text, freeing class time for other activities.

**Key Figures** contain check figures for selected end-of-chapter assignments. It is available to adopters individually or in class bundles of 30.

Porter/Norton Web site. The Dryden Press has developed a Web site (http://www.dryden.com) to help instructors and students use the wealth of financial information available on the World Wide Web. The student can obtain financial statements, current news, SEC filings, and stock quotes for every company found in the text. The instructor can obtain all the above plus view and download many of the ancillaries to the text. As a special feature, the Porter/Norton Web site presents an Online Case Company to parallel the use of Ben & Jerry's annual report in the text. We have selected IBM's online annual report for its ease of use and instructional value. The student is challenged to read and interpret IBM's annual report by our online "FROM CONCEPT TO PRACTICE" exercises and online chapter cases.



# **Acknowledgments**

To develop, write, and publish a book to meet the changing needs of students and instructors truly requires a team effort. We appreciate the sincere and devoted work of all those who have contributed to our book.

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Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., like all companies in this book, uses its annual report to communicate the year's financial performance.



Starbucks Corporation has an ambitious growth plan, and by reading and understanding its financial statements, users can see how that growth can be sustained in the future.



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