

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

ACC6165.E1 Tax Planning and Research
Fall 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Dr. Sharon Price, DBA, CPA
Amberton Extension: 972-279-6511 ext. 162
Amberton Email: **sprice@Amberton.edu** Utilize email for priority communication.

COURSE INFORMATION:

ACC6165.E1 Tax Planning and Research
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 12, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 19, 2026
Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Tax Planning and Research
Author: Sawyers and Gill
Publisher: Cengage
Year Published: 2025
Edition: 2025
ISBN: 10: xxxxxxxxxx or 13: 9780357988473

An e-book or hardcopy is acceptable.

Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Students should verify enrollment in course before purchasing textbooks. Textbook information and ordering options are available through the Amberton Virtual Bookstore. Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping.

APA REQUIREMENT:

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The Tax Planning and Research course will prepare students to engage in tax research and planning. Students will utilize the Internal Revenue Code, regulations and rulings, judicial interpretations, and tax research services to develop responses to tax problems faced by businesses. Activities include demonstrating knowledge of consolidated return concepts and tax accounting methods for different business entities.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Explaining the hierarchy in tax guidance.
2. Explaining taxation of sole proprietors.
3. Explaining eligibility requirements for an S corporation election and related concepts.
4. Describing concepts related to the taxation of limited liability companies.
5. Describing concepts related to tax planning for an S Corporation.
6. Describing concepts related to tax planning for partnerships.
7. Demonstrating knowledge of consolidated return concepts.
8. Describing and evaluating tax accounting methods for different business entities.
9. Explaining how tax compliance filings impact financial statement reporting.
10. Describing tax-exempt status and unrelated business income (UBI) concepts.
11. Identifying the ethical considerations specific to tax planning and research.
12. Recalling the different types of tax-exempt organizations and federal reporting requirements.
13. Performing computerized tax research.
14. Communicating tax research results effectively.
15. Evaluating common tax situations faced by businesses using artificial intelligence and other tax research resources.

ACQUIRED SKILLS

1. Using Tax Research Software
2. Computerized Tax Research
3. Evaluating Tax Strategies
4. Ethical Considerations Specific to Tax Planning and Research

COURSE POLICIES:

(Late assignments are accepted with prior permission. No assignments are accepted after the last date of the course.)

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin “Draft Coach” is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student’s writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

(The textbook is utilized to support concepts necessary for case study completion. Other articles and websites will be provided by the instructor to provide supporting information.

Monitor the announcement forum for any changes to due dates or assignments

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
1	Introduction to Tax Practice and Ethics and Tax Research And Methodology	Key Knowledge Quiz #1 (Chapters 1 and 2)	1,2,3	All due dates are listed in Moodle. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due at the end of the week (Friday).
2	Research Tools	Key Knowledge Quiz #2 (Chapters 7)	8,9,10,11,12,14	
3	Sources of Tax Law	Key Knowledge Quiz #3 Chapters 3-	4,5,10,11,12	

		4-5 Research Assignment #1		
4	Communicating Research Results	Research Assignment #2 Chapter 10	15	
5	Tax Planning and implications for the Sole Proprietorship and Partnerships	Research Assignment #3 Chapter 11	15,17	
6	Tax planning and implications for the S Corporation	Chapter 11 and Additional Moodle Readings Research Assignment #4	15,17	
7	Tax planning and implications for the C Corporation	Chapter 11 and Additional Moodle Readings Research Assignment #5	15,17	
8	Working with the IRS	Chapter 12 Key Knowledge Quiz #4	16,17,18	
9	Tax Practice Administration	Chapter 13 Key Knowledge Quiz #5	19,20	
10	Multijurisdictional Tax Research	Chapter 9 Research Assignment #6	13,14	

GRADING CRITERIA:

Key Knowledge Quizzes	5@25	125 points
Research Assignments	6@50	300 points
Total Points		425

Graduate

92 – 100	A
82 – 91	B
72 – 81	C
62 – 71	D
Below 62	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in Professor Information area.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

HOW TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE:

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY:

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION:

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.