FOR YOUR TEAM · THE CLOSING CYCLE

The Closing Cycle

Accounting & Monthly Close

Own the books through month-end, then survive the audit. Every shortcut leaves something on the books the auditor finds later.

Learning objectives

- Run a month-end close against a days-to-close target with limited staff hours.
- Judge errors against materiality, individually and in aggregate (SAB 99), and see deferred errors carry forward (SAB 108).
- Make and defend judgment calls on accruals, reserves, cutoff and disclosures.
- Recognize control lapses and how auditors grade them: deficiency, significant deficiency, material weakness (AS 2201).
- Separate preparing from approving: every memo signed off by a second person, and what an approval gap costs in the audit.
- Read an audit report: the opinion, proposed adjustments and the management letter.

How it runs

1. **Inbox arrival**
   The same close items reach every team on the same day: accruals, recs, adjustments, review, reporting, audit, process, each tagged urgent, important or info. An item the class has had before comes back with different amounts.
2. **Spend the hours**
   Each treatment shows the staff hours it takes. The close has 4.7 hours per item; the team decides where thoroughness pays and where a quicker sound call will do.
3. **Choose or write**
   Choice items hide their grades until you answer; memos are graded 0-10. After answering, the inbox shows the grade and what the call left on the books.
4. **Close and test**
   Every 5 active days the close ends: days to close against the target, and the uncorrected-error list tested against materiality. The next close opens with a review: book the corrections or carry them.
5. **The audit**
   After the middle close, the auditor's interim review shows the opinion and findings so far and asks how the team will respond. At year-end the auditor turns what is left into proposed adjustments, grades the control lapses, issues the opinion and writes the management letter.
6. **Prepare, review, reflect**
   With roles on, every memo is prepared by one teammate and signed off by another (ideally the Controller), and each student writes a short reflection from their role after each close.

Pillars & scoring

CLOSE DISCIPLINE

60% grades on review, sign-off and close-process calls; 40% days to close against the company's target.

ISSUE RESOLUTION

60% grades on reconciliations, variances and suspense items; 40% how much of each close's errors the team cleaned up in time.

AUDIT READINESS

60% grades on the calls that have to survive the auditor; 40% the control findings (deficiencies, significant deficiencies, material weaknesses).

REPORTING ACCURACY

60% grades on accruals, adjustments, revenue and disclosures; 40% the errors left on the books at each close test against materiality.

Key features

- **The books under the inbox**
- **A close calendar with staff hours**
- **The audit as the finale**
- **A grader with a memory**
- **Three companies**
- **Light roles with a second-person review**

Fit & format

PACING

One sim day per active day, and a month-end close every 5 days: 25 days (five closes) on the 5-week format, 40 (eight) on 8-week, 70 on a semester, then the audit. Mon-Fri at 3 items a day by default.

COHORT SHAPE

Designed for ~15-30 students in teams of 4-5. Each team runs one persistent close team and splits four light roles (one student can hold two on a small team).

BEST FOR

Graduate or upper-undergraduate accounting courses, controllership and audit electives, accounting capstones.

WHAT SETS IT APART

The only sim where the close has a calendar, the books keep score and the year ends with an audit. Case studies teach standards; this teaches what closing books under time pressure and auditor scrutiny actually costs.

LMS

Canvas, Blackboard, Brightspace, Moodle via LTI 1.3. Students launch from your LMS with single sign-on; one-click grade publish posts scores back with the rubric breakdown as the comment.

PRICING

$20 / student

Founding Faculty: free in spring 2027, then $10 / student

Per semester. No platform fee, no per-section charge, no seat minimums. Institutional invoicing available.

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