

Advanced Spreadsheets for Business Applications

AP/ADMS 3370 Section M
Winter 2026

Course Information

Course Instructor: Di Gao
Course Days: Wednesday
Office Hours & Location:
By Appointment.

E-mail: digao35@yorku.ca
Course Time: 7:00 pm – 9:50 pm
Class Location: SLH - B
Test/Exam: On Keele Campus

Course eClass site: <https://eClass.yorku.ca>

Land Acknowledgment

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region ([LA&PS Land Acknowledgement](#)).

Course Overview

Course Description

This course provides students with hands-on experience and skills with Excel. Students learn various functions and commands of Excel as well as how to plan, create, and program spreadsheets for common business applications. This course offers students the opportunity to master the advanced functionality of Excel, and to apply those skills to genuine business applications such as financial modeling, reporting, and the automation of accounting and financial tasks. Although the basic functions of Excel will be covered, areas of focus include graphs and charts, the use of advanced financial and statistical functions, analytical tools, reporting templates, linking of worksheets and workbooks, importing and manipulating data, macros (automation of tasks), auditing tools, and other features. The main topics to be covered include pivot tables, what-if analysis, financial and statistical functions,

multiple-sheet workbook management, XML, power add-ins, collaboration, and macros.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Construct, modify, and print a professionally designed and formatted spreadsheet.
2. Create and use complex and advanced financial and statistical functions.
3. Using various Excel tools, perform what-if analysis and projections on business data.
4. Link data from several workbooks to one workbook and share data with other applications.
5. Analyze data using Power Add-ins.
6. Write VBA code using VBA Editor.

Course Format and Organization

All classes will be held on campus. During the lecture, material will be covered as described in the course schedule.

Course Communication Plan and Office Hours

Communication in the course will occur during lectures and through announcements and postings on the course website. If you have course-related questions, you can use email to send inquiries or ask during class sessions.

1. Please ensure you read all documentation on the course website.
2. It will be your responsibility to check online posts and your email regularly.

Office hours will be held by appointment. The email must be sent 48 hours prior.

Course Evaluation

Assessment	Weight %
Weekly quizzes (best 8 of 10)	20%
Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	40%

Assessment Descriptions

1. There will be one term test within the term and a Final Exam, which are all planned to be conducted in person, in examination rooms to be designated by the Registrar's Office, on dates/times as specified in the Course Schedule.
2. Both term test and the final examination will consist of multiple-choice questions and questions/problems requiring complete answers/solutions.
3. The format/mode of administration of each Term Test and the Final Exam will be announced before the test/exam.
4. If you miss term test, the weight missed test (40%) will be transferred to the final examination. As stated in the [Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work](#), the following extenuating circumstances qualify for students' requests for academic consideration (in this case, transfer to the final examination of the weight of a missed test): (i) a short-term health condition such as illness, physical injury, or scheduled surgery; (ii) bereavement of an immediate family member; and/or (iii) an unforeseen or unavoidable incident beyond a student's control that precludes a student from meeting their academic obligations. Appropriate documentation in support of such extenuating circumstances will need to be submitted by the student – e.g., an Attending Physician's Statement in the case of illness, physical injury, or scheduled surgery.
5. If you have written Term Test, the final exam will be non-cumulative. On the other hand, the 80% final exam (with the transfer of 40% weight of one term test) will be comprehensive.
6. Do not write an exam if you do not feel well. Once you start to write an exam, the marks you receive will be used towards your grade calculations. (If no work is completed, a mark of zero will be assigned.)
7. If a student misses the Final Examination and applies for and is granted deferred standing, the deferred exam will be a comprehensive examination.

8. Feedback regarding term test will be given to students as explained in the following two points.
9. Due to strict copyright rules, MCQs, if included in the testing components, will not be reviewed. Concerns regarding marks on, and requests for reappraisal of, term tests will only be entered within five regular school days following the class session in which the test results/marks are returned/released.
10. After receiving the Term Test result/mark, you may submit a request to your professor for reappraisal. Your complete work on the test will be re-marked, and there will be three possible results: Marks may (1) remain the same, (2) increase, or (3) decrease. Reappraisal marks will accordingly replace your previously recorded marks.
11. If you need religious accommodations, please follow the York University policy/procedure and once approved, update your professor at least 96 hours before the testing component.
12. Should any Term Test/Final Exam component/s need to be conducted online, details will be posted on eClass.

Missed Tests and Exams - See above.

General Policy

1. **WARNING: Distribution or uploading of course content is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. All material is copyright protected.**
2. **You are NOT allowed to take pictures or record any content of lectures in the classroom.**
3. Please ensure you access and read all information/documentation on the course eClass site.
4. It is your responsibility to visit the course eClass site regularly.
5. If any lecture session is missed due to unavoidable circumstances (e.g., inclement weather), a date for a make-up lecture will be announced on the eClass site.
6. In case of a fire alarm during an in-person class session (in the classroom), students are to get up instantly, collect their personal belongings, and leave the building. (You should not wait for someone to tell you to do so.)
7. Students will not be allowed to write the term test and final exam unless they are on the class list/sign-in sheet. There will be no exceptions. It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they are properly enrolled in the course.
8. Concerns regarding marks on term tests **will not be entered after five days** following the return/release of the test results/marks.
9. If you have a query about the problems/questions discussed in any tutorial session, please communicate directly with the tutor. If you are not satisfied with your tutor's reply, then contact your course director.

Grading

The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University [Academic Calendar](#).

Course Schedule: Weekly Readings and Activities

Required Course Materials

Poatsy, A., K. Mulbery, and J. Davidson (2025). Exploring Microsoft 365: Excel 2025, 1st edition

Textbook cost: \$68 for 6-month access

Optional Materials

Supporting/Additional material (if any) will be posted on the course website.

Course Schedule

Note that the course schedule below is subject to change as deemed appropriate/necessary by the Professor during the semester.

Check the course website (on eClass) periodically for possible changes in coverage, if any.

Session	Date	Topic	Quiz/Chapters
1	Jan 7	Microsoft 365 Common Features Introduction to Excel	Chapter 0 Chapter 1
2	Jan 14	Formulas and Functions	Chapter 2
3	Jan 21	Datasets and Tables	Chapter 4
4	Jan 28	Subtotals, PivotTables, and Pivot Charts	Chapter 5
5	Feb 4	What-If Analysis	Chapter 6
6	Feb 11	In-class Midterm Exam	
	Feb 18	No Class – Reading Week	
7	Feb 25	Specialized Functions	Chapter 7
8	Mar 4	Statistical Functions	Chapter 8
9	Mar 11	Multiple-Sheet Workbook Management	Chapter 9
10	Mar 18	Power Add-Ins	Chapter 10
11	Mar 25	Additional Specialized Functions	Chapter 11
12	Apr 01	Templates, Workbook Inspection, and Macros	Chapter 12

Common Final Examination**

(April 8-24) (Date and time to be announced on registrar's/university website)

* If the student wrote both term tests, Coverage will be Chapters 8, 9 and 11. If a student misses a term test (or both term tests), his/her final exam will be a more balanced, comprehensive exam that covers all chapters.

Latest Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures

<https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-conduct-policy-and-procedures/>

Course Policies

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- [Common University and Course Policies](#) (deferred exams, 20% rule, etc)
- [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [University and School Policies](#)

Please also review the following course policies:

Academic Integrity and Conduct

Academic integrity is a fundamental and important value of York University. To maintain a fair and honest learning environment, you are responsible for understanding and upholding academic integrity in all courses and academic activities. You are encouraged to connect with reliable [on-campus resources](#) that support your coursework and academic honesty. To better understand the serious consequences of breaching academic honesty policies, familiarize yourself with the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). You can learn more about upholding academic integrity in your courses by exploring [SPARK: Academic Integrity Module](#), [LA&PS Academic Honesty](#) and [Academic Integrity for Students](#).

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Submitting any work created (in whole or part) through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). Using AI apps such as Microsoft Copilot, ChatGPT, DALL-E, translation software among others to complete academic work **without your instructor's knowledge or permission**, is considered a breach under York's Academic Conduct Policy. For more information, please review [AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students](#).

If you're not sure whether using an AI app for your academic work is acceptable, it is recommended that you:

- Carefully review the guidelines for your assessments
- Check for any messages from your instructor on eClass
- Ask your instructor or TA if they are permitting the use of these tools

Turnitin

To promote academic integrity in this course, you will normally be required to submit your written assignments to Turnitin (on the course's eClass site) for a review of textual similarities and the detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, you are allowing your material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are

described on the [Turnitin.com website](https://turnitin.com). York students may opt out of using Turnitin. If you wish to opt out, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Accessibility

York University is committed to creating a learning environment which provides equal opportunity to all members of its community. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please discuss your concerns with your instructor as early as possible. For students with disabilities, contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) to coordinate academic accommodations and services. Accommodations will be communicated to Course Directors through a Letter of Accommodation (LOA). Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange. To learn more, please visit [Accommodated Exam/Test Scheduling](#).

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making reasonable and appropriate [accommodations to adherents for observances of days of religious significance](#). Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course assignments, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor not less than two (2) weeks (or 14 days) prior to the date for which accommodation is sought. If the requested accommodation is for an exam or falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a [Religious Accommodation Agreement \(PDF\)](#) at least three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the start of the exam period.

Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work

This policy applies to course assessments worth 20% or less of your overall course grade and does not apply to exams held during the final examination period. Students may self-declare two (2) 7-day consideration periods each 12-week term and one (1) 7-day consideration period per six-week term. An Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required for these self-declared absences. However, an instructor may request a signed APS for the final examination period, coursework worth more than 20% of the course grade and missed work outside of the self-declared academic consideration period(s).

Students can submit their self-declaration(s) for academic consideration [using eClass](#). Students are then responsible for contacting the instructor no later than two (2) business days after the end of the consideration period(s) to arrange details of any accommodation for missed coursework. If you do not do this, you may get a zero (0) on the missed work. Where courses have built-in accommodations already established, the instructor may decline providing additional accommodations under this policy. For further details, please review the [Policy on Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work](#).

Final Examination Identification Policy

For final exams in this course, you must present a valid York University official photo identification card ([YU-card](#)) to verify your identity. Also, you will need to sign the exam's attendance roster. Learn more about preparing for your exams by reviewing York's Policies on [Conduct of Examinations](#) as well as the Registrar's Office [Examination Tip Sheet](#).

Intellectual Property

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Student Support and Resources

York University offers a wide range of student supports resources and services, including everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- [Academic Advising](#) is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.
- [Student Accessibility Services](#) are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- [Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing](#) offers workshops, resources and counselling to support your personal wellness and academic success.

- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\) Program](#) provides free study sessions where students collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in select courses.
- [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#) supports students in courses involving math, statistics, coding and Excel.
- [The Writing Centre](#) provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio and an Accessibility Specialist.
- [Centre for Indigenous Student Services](#) offers a community space with academic, spiritual, cultural and physical support, including writing and learning skills programs.
- [ESL Open Learning Centre \(OLC\)](#) supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing and speaking English.
- [Learning Skills Services](#) offers workshops, resources and tips on learning-related topics like time management, note-taking, studying and exam prep.
- [Learning Commons](#) links to supports for writing, learning skills, career development, exam preparation and other learning-related resources.
- [Roadmap to Student Success](#) is a collection of timely and targeted resources to help students achieve academic, personal and professional success at different stages of their university journey.
- [Office of Student Community Relations \(OSCR\)](#) is responsible for administering the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) and provides critical incident and conflict resolution support.
- [Peer Mentorship](#) helps students transition through their first year by connecting them with upper-year students. The mentors can help students find supports and resources. They also lead a community hub on campus.
- [goSAFE](#) is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pick-up hub, parking lots, bus stops or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness and campus resources visit [Student Support & Resources](#).

Deferred Standing

Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their FINAL examination at the scheduled time (due to illness or other extenuating circumstances) or who are unable to submit their outstanding course work by the end of the term.

<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/sas/academic-resources/deferred-exam-requests/>

NOTE: The deferred examination will be cumulative/comprehensive and cover all material for the semester. This applies to all students writing a deferred Final Exam, including those who wrote both Term Test.

To be clear, deferred exams in this course will be cumulative exams.

If you are unable to write a final exam at the scheduled time - due to illness, a personal or family emergency, or religious commitment - you can ask to write the final exam at a later date, as arranged by the main office for ADMS and DEMS courses. Depending on the circumstances, you may be asked to provide supporting documentation.

Your request must be received by the office within 7 days of the date of the final examination for which you are asking for a deferred standing.

Please note that a new system has been implemented to facilitate the processing of Deferred Standing Agreement Forms.

To request a deferral of your final exam in ADMS or DEMS, follow the steps below. If you do not see your course code listed, please contact the department where your course is offered.

1. Download and complete the [Final Exam / Assignment Deferred Standing Agreement \(DSA\) form](#).
2. Gather any relevant supporting documentation, scan them, and keep the paper copies for your records. Health issues will require an Attending Physician's Statement ([APS Form](#)).
3. Log in to the [Deferred Exam Request system](#) using your Passport York and complete the online form.
4. Upon completion of the online form, the system will issue a ticket number. Record the number at the TOP RIGHT corner of your DSA Form you've completed in Step 1.;
5. Submit the completed form and scanned supporting documentation to the School of Administrative Studies by emailing apsas@yorku.ca to request approval for deferred standing. Please ensure to keep a copy for yourself.
6. Log in to the [online system](#) to check the status of your request as well as the location, date and time of the exam.
7. 48 hours before the scheduled exam check the [School of Administrative Studies DSA system](#) to confirm the location, time and date of your deferred exam. We also encourage you to check the DSA system again on the day of your exam for any last-minute changes.