

The Challenges of Teaching First Year Accounting with a Lecturer-Student Ratio of 1:1248

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Abstract : In South Africa, teaching large classes is a reality that lecturers face in most higher institutions. When teaching a large group, literature normally refers to groups of about 50 to 500 students. At the University of the Free State, the first-year accounting group comprises around 1300 students. Apart from extremely large classes, the problem is exacerbated by the diversity of students' previous schooling in accounting as well as their socio-economic backgrounds. The university scenario is further complicated by a lack of venues, compressed timetables, as well as lack of resources. This study aims to investigate the challenges and effectiveness of teaching a large and diverse group of first-year accounting students by drawing from personal experience, a literature study, interviews with other lecturers as well as students registered for first year accounting. The results reveal that teaching first-year accounting students in a large group is not the ideal situation but that it can be effective if it is managed correctly.

Keywords : diverse backgrounds, large groups, limited resources, first-year accounting students

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