



Course Syllabus: Advanced Excel
Dillard College of Business Administration
MIS 4173 Section X10
Fall Semester 2025

Contact Information

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Instructor Response Policy

Dr. Luo will try to response all emails within 24 hours on the weekdays.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Excel 365 Bible, by Michael Alexander, Richard Kusleika, and John Walkenbach, Wiley, 2022. (ISBN-13: 978-1119835103)

A PC/laptop/tablet with webcam capability (Chromebooks won't work due to insufficient computing power)

Additional readings are posted to D2L.

Other reference books:

- Business Analytics: Data Analysis & Decision Making, 6th edition, by S. Christian Albright, Wayne Winston, Cengage Learning, 2016. (ISBN-13: 978-1-305-86647-8)
- Business Analysis: Microsoft Excel 2010, by Conrad Carlberg, Que Publishing, 2010. (ISBN-10: 0789743175)
- Microsoft Excel 2010: Data Analysis and Business Modeling, 3rd edition, by Wayne L. Winston, 2011. (ISBN-10: 0735643369)
- Excel 2010 Bible, by John Walkenbach, Wiley, 2010. (ISBN-10: 0470474874)
- Microsoft Excel 2016 (Step By Step), by Curtis Frye D., Microsoft Press, 2010. (ISBN-13: 978-0-7356-9880-2)
- Management Science: The Art of Modeling with Spreadsheets, 4th edition, by Stephen G. Powell, and Kenneth R. Baker, Wiley. (ISBN-13: 978-1118582695)

Software

- Lab use: Microsoft Excel 365 is available in the Lab Dillard 335.
- Home use: Complementary Microsoft Office 365 Online for students is available at <https://products.office.com/en-US/> .
- Excel version: The acceptable Excel versions for assignments and exams are 2016, 2013, 2010, Office 365 online, and 365 for Mac.

Course Description

Covers advanced spreadsheet decision making tools. Business problems from across the enterprise will be solved using EXCEL functions, pivot tables, scenario evaluation and others.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

I. **General Learning Goals:**

- Our students will be effective at problem solving and decision-making.
Objective: Our graduates will demonstrate problem solving and decision-making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information.
- Our students will be effective communicators.
Objective: Our graduates will be able to demonstrate a competency in speaking and writing for common business scenarios.
 - 2a: Our graduates will be able to demonstrate a competency in speaking for common business scenarios.
 - 2b: Our graduates will be able to demonstrate a competency in writing for common business scenarios.
- Our students will be technologically prepared.
Objective: Our graduates will be able to utilize available technology for business applications.
- Our students will be ethical decision makers.
Objective: Our graduates will demonstrate ethical reasoning skills within a business environment.
- Our students will be effective team members.
Objective: Our graduates will know how to use team building and collaboration to achieve group objectives.
- Our students will be multicultural and globally aware.
Objective: Our graduates will understand the influence of global and multicultural issues on business activities.

These general learning goals are among those established by the Dillard College of Business Administration. General learning goals represent the skills that graduates will carry with them into their careers. While assessing student performance in obtaining these general learning goals, the Dillard College is assessing its programs. The assessments will assist us as we improve our curriculum and curriculum delivery.

II. Course Specific Learning Goals: After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Analyzing data across different dimensions using pivot table and chart.
- Looking up and comparing records efficiently.
- Importing and cleaning data from external sources.
- Evaluating different outcomes by changing assumptions.
- Automating routines with macros.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2021-22](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading/Assessment

Student's performance will be assessed using the following elements.

- Class Participation
Class participation is an important part to evaluate a student's engagement in this online course. It is evaluated based on the online discussion activities. There are twelve discussion topics in the discussion forum on our D2L course website. Students are required to post questions related to the discussion topics and/or answer other students' questions in the online discussion. Credit will be given if a student posts at least one message for each discussion topic within the specific timelines. The timelines for online discussion can be found in the calendar on our D2L course website.
- Assignments
As this course focuses on practical tools, hands on experience is extremely important. The students will be given an assignment for each topic in this course. The assignments are not simple repetitions of the lecture video contents. Students are expected to complete the assignment by creatively using contents learned from the lecture videos. All completed assignments are to be uploaded to the D2L Dropbox for evaluation.
- Examinations
The exams will cover all course contents up to the exam date. Exam 1 will cover Course Topics 1 – 6. Exam 2 will cover all course topics, with an emphasis on the contents after Exam 1 (over 90%). In an exam, the students are instructed to complete a few Excel tasks on a computer within given time. The exams are open-book, open-notes, and open-Internet, but strictly individual work.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Class Participation	60
Assignments	240
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Total Points	500

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	450-500
B	400-449
C	350-399
D	300-349
F	< 300

Late Work

Late homework less than one week after deadline maybe accepted, certain points will be deducted.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students with excused absences may make up missed examinations, quizzes (announced and unannounced), and in-class activities, but supporting documents are required. Arrangements must be made in advance if possible. In all cases, the instructor must be contacted no later than the day of the scheduled exam or no make-up will be allowed. At the instructor's discretion, a deduction may be assessed for a late exam.

Excused absences include active military/police/firefighter assignment, jury duty, university-authorized absences (for example, athlete events or study-abroad programs), and medical emergency for yourself or your immediate family member. For more information about university authorized absences, please refer to Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog:

[http://catalog.mwsu.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=228&hl=authorized+&returnto=search#General Information](http://catalog.mwsu.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=228&hl=authorized+&returnto=search#General%20Information)

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: 08/25/2025-08/28/2025

Deadline to file for graduation: 09/22/2025

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" 11/24/2025

Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records daily. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

AI-Tool Policy

We encourage students to harness AI tools, like ChatGPT, within the following guidelines:

- **English Writing:** Use AI for grammar and syntax improvement.
- **Drafting & Structuring:** Employ AI to help generate and structure case study drafts.
- **Summarization:** Use AI tools for concise summaries of lengthy case studies.

However:

- **Original Thought:** While using AI for assistance, students must develop and present their own unique opinions on cases.
- **Academic Integrity:** Understand and support any content from AI tools. Avoid over-reliance and ensure originality. Misrepresentation will face academic consequences.

Leverage AI benefits responsibly and prioritize genuine understanding and original thinking.

Course Schedule:

Please keep this syllabus as a reference! Students are responsible for all information contained in the syllabus and for any changes to the syllabus, which will be announced in class.

Topic	Assignment	Assignment deadlines & exam dates	Class Participation	Recommended Readings (Chapters in Excel 365 Bible)
Introduction	Survey	09/01		1, 2, 3
Formula Basics	1	09/08	1	4, 20, 25, 32
Text & Date	2	09/15		11, 12
Array & Table	3	09/22	2	13, 16
Lookup	4	09/29		14
Reference	5	10/06	3	14, 17
What-If Analysis	6	10/13		36
Exam 1		10/20		
Pivot Table	7	10/27	4	34, 35
Pivot Chart	8	11/03		34, 35
Statistical Functions	9	11/10	5	38
Financial Functions	10	11/17		15
External Data	11	11/24	6	
Macro	12	12/01		39
Exam 2		12/03		