



Course deliverer's experience of the ApL course

Practical Accounting for Small and Medium Enterprises Answering the market call for accounting professionals



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In support of the Government's initiative to diversify the curriculum of senior secondary students, the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) has been offering a variety of Applied Learning (ApL) courses through its Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and Training Centres since 2003. One of these courses is "Practical Accounting for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)", which is organized by the HKIAAT and has been delivered by the VTC since 2005.

The course differs from conventional accounting courses taught at secondary schools as it adopts an interactive teaching and learning approach, encouraging students to gain accounting knowledge through applications. The course curriculum covers accounting principles as well as accounting software, giving students a portrait of real-life business operations in Hong Kong. Through using the MYOB accounting software, students can learn how to record accounting transactions and generate relevant reports easily for analysis. "Today's business operations are computerized. Recording and managing accounting transactions is mostly done electronically. Mastering software skills is now a market requirement. This course gives students the skills they need to bring them life-long benefits at work." says course leader Mr. Wilson Mok.



Wilson believes that the HKIAAT ApL course meets the market needs, allowing students to apply their knowledge after

To arouse students' interest and maximize learning effectiveness, the course is designed to be interactive and activity-based. Under the teachers' guidance, students have to research topics online and come up with their own solutions to business cases before presenting these to the class. This arrangement helps train their problem-solving and presentation skills. What's more, site visits to the HKIAAT and to CPA firms help them understand what it is like to work in the field and learn more about daily life in the accounting industry. Tutors discuss future plans for work and study with students, helping them find the right track for their career development.



ApL is not only about knowledge transfer, but also whole-person development. To this end the VTC organises a Life Skills Education Camp for ApL students, aiming to enhance their self-confidence and promote team spirit.

The VTC also organizes a Professional Development Programme (PDP) for secondary school teachers. Wilson says that the PDP enables teachers to learn more about the teaching techniques and assessment criteria of this ApL course. During the training, teachers are invited to try the MYOB software hands-on in managing accounting transactions and generating financial reports. Wilson believes that this can bring huge benefits to secondary school teachers who are interested in co-teaching the course and to the liaison officers at the partnership schools.



The interactive teaching approach makes it easier for students to learn relevant accounting knowledge and skills.



Secondary school teachers participate in a professional development programme to help them develop their teaching methods.