

Mid-Atlantic School of Banking

Policy Statement Governing the Preparation of Home Study Assignments

1. Preparation and Submission Instructions

- a) All home study problems must be **typewritten, double-spaced, with standard margins using 12 pt. font (Times New Roman) on one side of the sheet**. This is the general rule unless otherwise indicated by the instructor – **please** read the instructors' directions as he/she may ask for a different format.
- b) Proofread your paper prior to submitting. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors will be considered in the grading of the papers.
- c) Each home study assignment needs to have a completed cover sheet and evaluation form included when submitting (both posted on your portal). Please note – A paper that is submitted without either of these documents is considered incomplete.
- d) **Save your assignment as a PDF before uploading.**
- e) **Submit** your home study problems by sending to: homestudy@vabankers.org. The file should be **saved as a PDF** and titled with: Last Name First Initial – Instructor's Last Name (ex. Dunn M – Higgins).
- f) Keep a copy of your home study for your records as a back-up.

2. Due Dates and Deadlines

- a) All home study problems must be received at the VBA's office by **11:59 p.m. on the due date**. **We must insist on strict observance of the requirement that home study problems reach the VBA by the indicated due date & assignments received after this time will be considered late and subject to point deductions.**
- b) Extensions are granted ONLY under extenuating circumstances (ex. prolonged illness) and must be requested prior to the due date. Extensions **are not** granted for heavy work schedules/workloads. Requests should be submitted in writing a **minimum of 15 days in advance of the due date** to the VBA. Please feel free to contact Marie Basil at mbasil@vabankers.org or (804) 819-4754 if you need to discuss options around or request an extension.
- c) The following steps will be taken when a home study problem is not received on the due date and no extension has been requested or approved:
 - The student will receive an e-mail and a phone call from the VBA office one day after the due date.
 - If the paper is not received prior to one week following the due date and the student has not contacted the VBA, the student's recommender and/or CEO will receive communication from the VBA office.
 - If the paper is not received within 30 days of the due date and the student has not communicated properly with the VBA, the student will be dropped from Bank School.
 - One grade point **per day (including weekends/holidays)** will be automatically deducted from unexcused, late home study problems. If a student has any unexcused late assignments, he/she will not be eligible to be recognized as Honor Grad or in the top 10% of the class.

3. Procedure on Handling and Grading of the Home Study Problems

- a) All home study problems are to be submitted online to the email above.
- b) The VBA records receipt of the home study problems and sends them as a group to the instructor for grading.
- c) Once graded, all home study problems are returned to the VBA's office where grades are recorded and home study problems returned to the students. Home study problems will be recorded numerically: 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D). **Faculty will have 60 days to grade the papers from the date they receive them from the VBA office. Note: Assignments are not sent to the instructor until the VBA has received them all.** Late, unexcused submissions hold up the process of submitting to the instructor and, thus, hold up grades being returned to the VBA by the instructor.
- d) Home study problems that are graded below 59 are returned to the student with an indication as to the nature of the deficiencies. The student is permitted to rework the solution and return it to the VBA within a stated period of time. The corrected solution is then forwarded to the instructor for grading. A full letter grade will be deducted from your final grade for having to do the problem twice. A student is not permitted to rework the assignment if a failing grade is received due to points being deducted for lateness. A passing grade on all Home Study problems is a prerequisite for returning to the next resident session.

4. Citing Sources & the Use of AI

- a) If sources are used, papers need to include a bibliography/reference sheet listing all sources and footnotes/endnotes should be used to cite sources within the paper. Please only use credible sources in your research (Wikipedia is NOT a credible source). If graphs/charts are used, reference the source thereof and locate the graph/chart next to the relevant text, making sure to discuss graph/chart/within the text.
- b) All quoted materials must cite the specific source.
- c) The MBA and VBA staff and Bank School instructors understand the prevalence of AI in the business world today. Given this, the use of AI is not prohibited, however the tools used, how they were used and which sections of each paper are supported or influenced by AI must be outlined on the coversheet. Failure to do so will result in the deduction of points if the instructor suspects undisclosed use of AI.
- d) **Contact Kristen Reid (kreid@vabankers.org) with any questions regarding the use of AI or citing sources.**

5. Mid-Atlantic School of Banking Honor Code

The Mid-Atlantic School of Banking students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of honesty and integrity in the classroom, outside of the classroom and on the home study problems. Home Study problems are individual assignments meaning you are to work on the assignment ALONE and are not to discuss the questions, potential answers, strategy, research or data resources with another Bank School student. Also, please do not send your completed paper to another student as an example. Any evidence of shared work will be considered an honor code violation.

The honor code is:

On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received assistance on this assignment and that all work is my own.*

Violations of the Honor Code include:

- **Plagiarism** - An act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author.
- **Cheating** - Receiving, giving and attempting to receive or give unauthorized assistance, such as materials, information, notes or sources, on home study problems.

You may seek assistance from a subject matter expert in your bank as part of your research BEFORE you start to write your papers. The subject matter expert **cannot** be another Bank School student.

For questions regarding your Home Study Assignments or the Bank School Honor Code, please contact Marie Bail (mbasil@vabankers.org or 804-819-4754).