

Introduction to Business and Rental Property Tax Returns

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1

Ground Rules!



Participate

• But don't share your institutions specific approaches or secrets!

There may be more than one correct approach

· This is more of an art than a science

We're going to be judgmental!

• Because your institution's resources are at stake

We'll use the "Roommate Test" as a guide

 Students with similar resources should get similar aid packages, without regard to non-financial, tax code, or timing artifacts

This program was prepared for the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) for the benefit of its members

 $\,{}^{\circ}\,$ Distribution to non-members is strictly prohibited

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What Can You Learn from Business Returns?



Without Reviewing Business Tax Returns	After Reviewing Business Tax Returns
Taxable income after <i>some</i> untaxed income addbacks	Estimated cash flow available to the business or property owner
Information about what happened in the base year	Estimate of what might be available in the academic year
Business value may be under-reported at book value	Estimate of business market value
Is the business owner paying him/herself fairly	Estimate of available income vs. distributed income
Has the taxpayer stored wealth in the business?	Business resources that may be available to the owner

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3

Case 1 – Tax Deductions that Don't Represent Cash Flow Reductions

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Should These EFCs be Different?

Your candidate's parent runs a machine shop. They need to replace a metal press that has become too costly to maintain and repair.

Consider the impact on the student's EFC and eligibility for financial aid based solely on the timing of this purchase:

Case 1 Purchase before the base year	Case 2 Purchase in the base year	Case 3 Purchase after the student enrolls
Parent 1 purchased a \$50,000 metal press on December 15 th , 2017 because their older machine had worn out and became too expensive to repair	Parent 2 purchased a \$50,000 metal press on January 15 th , 2018 because their older machine had worn out and became too expensive to repair	Parent 3 purchased a \$50,000 metal press on December 15th, 2019 because their older machine had worn out and became too expensive to repair. They ask you to take this cost into account on appeal

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5

Adjusted Gross Income by Year

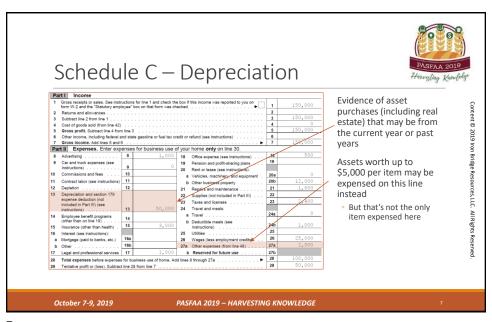


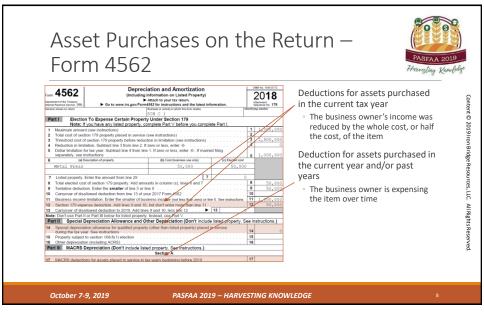
If the business generated \$100,000 of taxable profit *before* purchasing the metal press, the AGI in each year *might be*:

	Sample AGIs	Sample AGIs	Sample AGIs
	2017	2018	2019
Metal Press Purchased in 2017	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	\$75,000	\$92,000	\$95,200
	\$90,000	\$84,000	\$90,400
Metal Press Purchased in 2018	\$100,000	\$50,000 \$75,000 \$90,000	\$100,000 \$92,000 \$84,000
Metal Press Purchased in 2019	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000 \$75,000 \$90,000

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To eliminate the distortion caused by large depreciation expenses and the reduction in income that depreciation allows for *purchases made in the past*

You can add the depreciation back to the taxpayer's income

This treatment does not consider that these asset purchases are real business expenses and may need to occur during while your student is enrolled.

- If you determine that the business needed to make a large purchase during the aid year and/or if the business took a large deduction for the purchase, you can Add back the actual depreciation deduction taken for the item and
 - Allow a fraction of the purchase against any addbacks for each year the student will be enrolled
 - Review a depreciation schedule to determine the average spending on non-durable goods that wear out, and reduce the addback by this average

Case 3 Purchase after the student enrolls

Parent 3 purchased a \$50,000 metal press on

December 15th, 2019

because their older machine had worn out and became too expensive to repair. They ask you to take this cost into account on appeal

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9

Adjusting for Asset Spending



12/31/2018

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Basic Approach

Summary of Unadjusted Basis of Depreciable Property (4562)

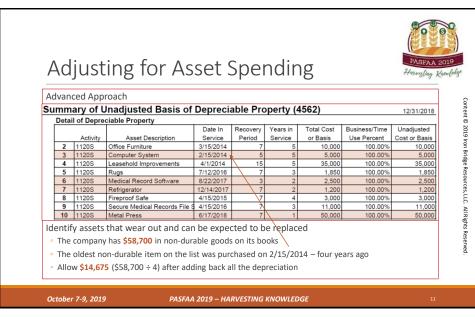
| Data | Of Depreciable Property | Period | Service | Period | Service

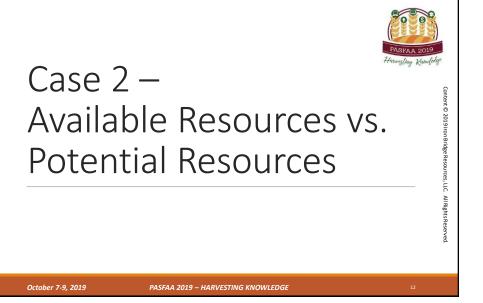
Since the IRS has set a recovery period for this asset of 7 years, allow 1/7th of the cost each year $^{\circ}$ In 2018, add back \$50,000, but allow \$7,143 (\$50,000 \div 7) each year because the \$50,000 is a real cost to the business that is likely to be repeated

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10







Reviewing Schedule E Part I

Your student's parent owns a rental property

You reviewed the income and expenses on the Schedule E

- All expenses seemed reasonable and directly related to rental activities: maintenance, tenant acquisition, utilities
- There did not appear to be any one-time large expenses to push the property into a one-time loss, and you have determined that the property consistently shows a tax loss

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13

13

Example 2 – Less than Market Rate Income



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You looked the property up on an on-line real estate website, and learned that the estimated rental income for the property is \$1,500 per month (\$18,000 per year)

Which of these parents should have the highest EFC?
Which of these parents will have the highest EFC?

Parent 1 received \$18,000 in rents in 2018. After expenses, the property produced a rental tax loss of \$3,123 for the year Parent 2 received \$9,000 in rents in 2018. After expenses, the property produced a rental loss of \$12,123 for the year. When you asked, the parents told you they rent to the student's uncle, who is down-on-his-luck so they give him a break on rents

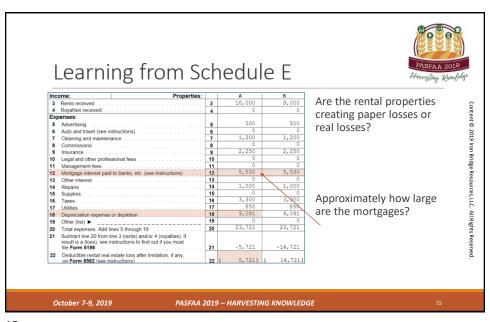
Parent 3 received \$18,000 in rents in 2018. After expenses, the property produced a rental tax loss of \$3,123 for the year.

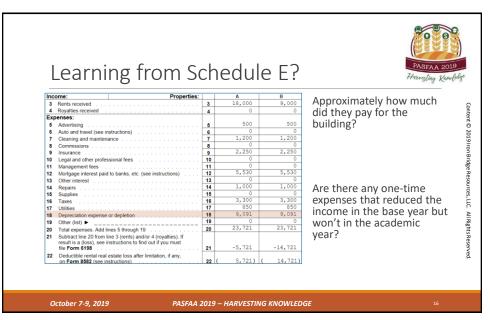
They submitted an appeal telling you that they pay \$9,000 in rents to another landlord to cover the costs of the student's uncle, who is down-on-his-luck

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Case 3 — Business Structures

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17

Different Business Structures



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There are four business four business structures

- Sole Proprietorships
- Partnerships
- S Corporations
- C Corporations

Depending on the business structure, the owners may be able to divide the business profits into different kinds of income

- $\circ\,$ Earned income to the owners (wages or guaranteed payments to partners)
- Dividends or distributions
- Retained earnings (for business reinvestment or future distributions or dividends to owners)

You have four students whose parents produce exactly the same income in exactly the same manner but – they have selected different tax structures for their businesses

Should the parents have different EFCs?

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18



Different Business Structures

Your student's mother runs a jewelry shop which posted a taxable profit of about \$72,000 in 2018. She would like to buy the building that houses her business, so she paid herself \$50,000 and left the remaining profit in a business savings account (where she is building the down payment)

She has asked you to evaluate her child's eligibility for financial aid as though she'd only earned \$50,000

Based on this information, would you exclude the \$22,000 that she saved from her income when you calculate the Parent Contribution?

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19

19

Business Structures and the AGI



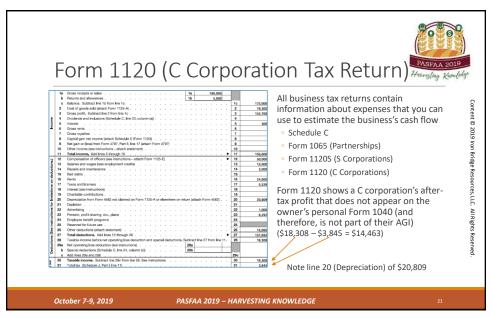
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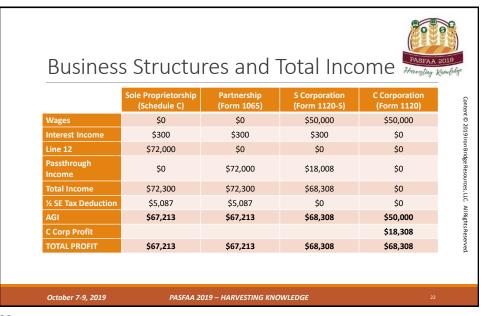
	Sole Proprietorship (Schedule C)	Partnership (Form 1065)	S Corporation (Form 1120-S)	C Corporation (Form 1120)
Wages	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Interest Income	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$0
Line 12 (Schedule C)	\$72,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Passthrough Income*	\$0	\$72,000	\$18,009	\$0
Total Income	\$72,300	\$72,300	\$68,309	\$0
1/2 Self Employment Tax Deduction	\$5,087	\$5,087	\$0	\$0
AGI	\$67,213	\$67,213	\$68,309	\$50,000

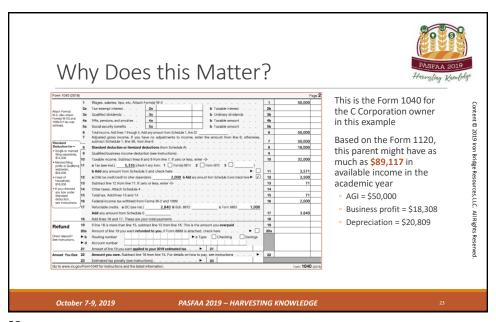
*Partnerships and S corporations calculate their taxable income, losses, deductions, and credits on an informational tax return each year.
They then report each owner's share of these tax items and the owners report them on their personal return as they would if they had earned them directly.

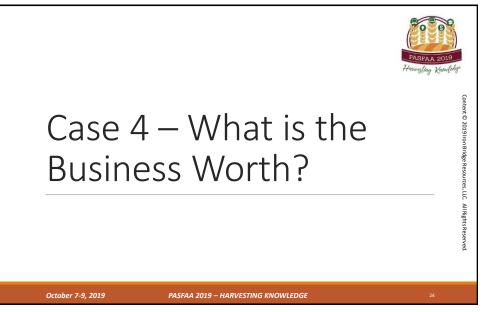
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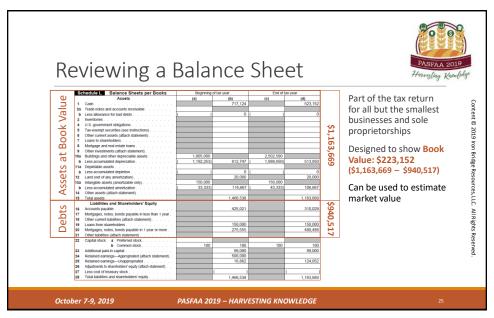
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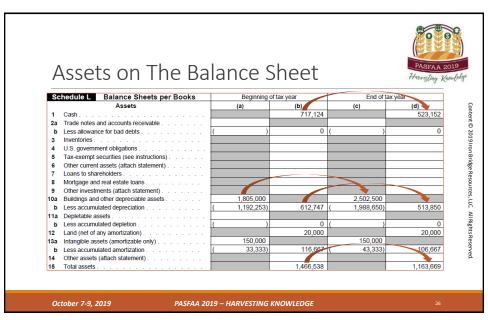


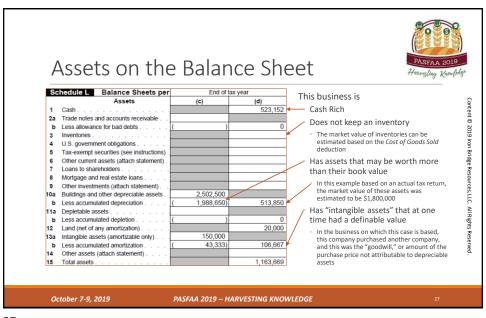


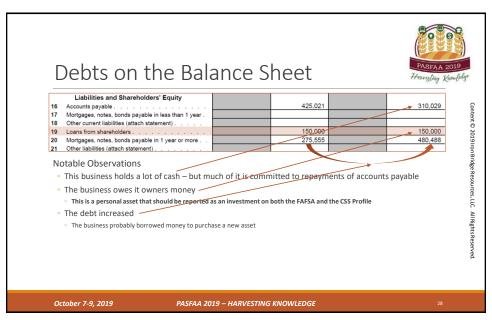


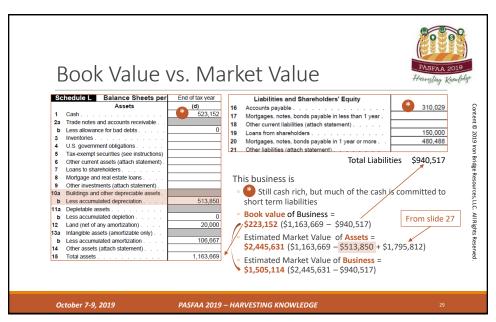
















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What Does "Business Value Mean?

Which of these businesses is worth more?
Each parent is self-employed, rents their workspace, and reliably earns \$100,000 per year.

Parent 1 owns a dry cleaner business.

He owns six industrial washers, four of which use organic solvents instead of water, four driers, four presses, eighty feet of electronic racks with movable hangers, chemicals, hangers and plastic covers, and office equipment

Parent 2 is a self-employed accountant.

She owns a laptop computer, a license to use commercial tax software, and some office furniture planning to retire and sell their business. They have asked you to use their retirement income, not the

Parent 3 had earned about \$100,000 each year as a selfemployed accountant but is planning to retire and sell their business. They have asked you to use their retirement income, not their work income, to calculate their parent contribution.

Their business assets are identical to those of Parent 2

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31

31

Summary



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Deductions like depreciation, amortization, and large one-time spending (repairs, maintenance, supplies) can make a generally profitable business or rental property look less profitable

Depending on the owner's business structure, income available to the owner may or may not appear in their AGI

Many business owners are aware of their business's book value (it's right there on their tax return), but this may not be equal to their market value

The sum-of-its-parts valuation defined in the *Application and Verification Guide* underestimates the actual value of asset-poor businesses and can be very different from the "amount you could get for the business if you sold it today" value preferred by many institutions

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OCTOBER 31, 2019, AT 10:00 AM VERIFICATION IN THE NEW TAX WORLD

NOVEMBER 13, 2019 AT 10:00 AM CONFLICTING INFORMATION IN THE NEW TAX WORLD

2020-2021 Key Concepts

Verifying Non-filers

Verifying Tax Filers

Who is Required to File a Tax Return?

The 2018 Form 1040 and the 2020-2021

Schedule 1 and the Simplified

What is the Correct Filing Status for a Person?

FAFSA

Formula/Automatic Zero EFC

Rollovers

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33

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33



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Thank You PASFAA!

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