



Subject Outline

FIN231 Technical Analysis



Section 1 — General information

1.1 Administrative details

Duration	Credit points	Level
One study period (12 weeks)	6	AQF8

1.2 Core or elective subject

This is an elective subject for the Graduate Certificate in Applied Finance, Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance and Master of Applied Finance.

1.3 Delivery mode

This subject is delivered online.

1.4 Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this subject. However please review the 'Assumed knowledge' section below to understand the prior knowledge Kaplan advises you should hold before enrolling in this subject.

1.5 Assumed knowledge

Whilst there are no prerequisites for this subject, Kaplan assumes that students have completed FIN201 Quantitative Applications in Finance or understand the content covered in this subject, prior to undertaking FIN231 Technical Analysis.

1.6 Course transition subject equivalence

Students may not be required to complete this subject if they have transitioned from a SIA/Finsia/Kaplan course and have completed the following subject:

- E114 Technical Analysis

1.7 Work integrated learning

There are no placements, internships or work experience requirements associated with undertaking this subject.

1.8 Other resource requirements

Students do not require access to specialist facilities and/or equipment to undertake this subject.



Section 2 — Academic details

2.1 Subject overview

This subject introduces the key concepts in technical analysis and explores techniques for the construction, interpretation and application of charts to a variety of markets. This includes firstly, a discussion of theories relevant to technical analysis, then moves into long and short term bar-chart analysis, non-price data analysis, chart patterns, and finishing with an exploration of types and uses of indicators. Practical examples of each concept and approach are given, which students then later apply via conducting an analysis of a series of real-world company share charts, and then provision of a recommendation based on this analysis.

2.2 Subject learning outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Examine the discipline of technical analysis.
2. Explain the key principles of Dow Theory.
3. Apply the important tools and concepts of technical analysis within price trends and turning points.
4. Examine non-price data indicators of investor participation and attitude to trend strength and price movements.
5. Apply chart patterns, trading volumes and price objectives within price trends.
6. Apply the common indicators used in technical analysis to add value to basic chart analysis.
7. Formulate trading strategies.

2.3 Topic learning outcomes

Topic 1: Introduction to technical analysis and trading, and Dow Theory

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- define a number of terms relevant to technical analysis and differentiate technical analysis from fundamental analysis
- discuss how the sharemarket and derivative markets operate in the context of technical analysis
- outline essential elements of a technical trading strategy
- outline the three assumptions about Dow Theory
- differentiate the three movements of the market averages
- differentiate the three phases of a bull or bear market, as characterised by market behaviours
- determine the price trend of a market
- establish when market behaviour moves from a bull to a bear trend based on the Dow principle that the market averages must confirm each other.

Topic 2: Short-term bar chart analysis

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- construct a line or bar chart and explain each component
- interpret the beginning and end of a short-term trend
- examine the closing price and its influence on market price action and control
- interpret the health of a trend
- identify reversal signals in the short-term trend
- discuss strategies for trading in the short term.

Topic 3: Long-term bar chart analysis

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- distinguish between the peaks and troughs within price trends
- identify trends in several time frames and within trading ranges
- identify tentative and valid trendlines on a bar chart
- construct a trend channel line
- explain the implications of a break of a trend channel line
- describe the concepts of support and resistance
- distinguish between strong and weak support and resistance
- distinguish between the types of gaps.



Topic 4: Non-price data analysis

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- outline how volume and open interest confirm price, the health of trends and the validity of patterns and trading range breakouts
- explain how the volume indicators measure investor commitment to driving a trend
- explain how the breadth and sentiment indicators measure investor participation and attitude to price movements.

Topic 5: Chart patterns

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- differentiate between reversal and continuation patterns
- identify reversal and continuation patterns
- determine whether trading volume has confirmed the price
- determine a price objective from a pattern
- discuss trading strategies.

Topic 6: Introduction to indicators

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain the role of trend following indicators in chart analysis
- explain the role of momentum indicators in chart analysis
- apply the simple moving average to chart analysis
- apply the momentum oscillator to chart analysis
- determine overbought and oversold levels in chart analysis
- determine divergence patterns in chart analysis.

Topic 7: Trend following indicators

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain the trading rules of the trend following indicators
- apply filters on the trend following indicators
- explain how trading signals are generated for trend following indicators
- apply trading signals — long, short, square — to chart analysis
- apply trading positions — open, close, take profit — to chart analysis.

Topic 8: Momentum indicators

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain how the momentum indicators are calculated and how they measure momentum
- examine the trading rules for the momentum oscillators
- determine the trading signals generated by the oscillators in chart analysis.

Topic 9: Other trend and momentum indicators

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- outline the purpose and method of calculation of the different indicators
- explain the trading rules for each of the different indicators
- interpret the trading signals generated by MACD indicators.

Topic 10: Formulating trading strategies

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- describe the main issues in technical analysis
- examine the concepts of top down analysis, stop orders and relative strength
- differentiate between trading models
- examine trading model testing and optimisation processes
- formulate trading strategies for different types of: investors, market conditions and time frames.

2.4 Assessment schedule

Assessment	Description	Week	Topics	Weighting	Subject learning outcomes assessed
Task	Short answer and chart analysis questions: short term and long term analysis	Week 4	1–3	20%	LO1–LO3
Assignment 1	Chart analysis, chart patterns, non-price data analysis and introduction to indicator analysis with formulation of trading strategies	Week 7	1–6	40%	LO2–LO7
Assignment 2	Chart and indicator analysis with formulation of trading strategies	Week 12	1–3, 5–10	40%	LO2, LO3, LO5–LO7

Please refer to our website <www.kaplanprofessional.edu.au> to review student policies relating to your assessment, including the *Kaplan Assessment Policy* and *Academic Integrity and Conduct Policy*.

2.5 Prescribed text

There is no prescribed text for this subject. Students are provided with key readings and access to Kaplan's online databases. Students are encouraged to research and read widely on the topic.

2.6 Study plan

Week(s)	Topic name	Study load in hours
1	Topic 1: Introduction to technical analysis and trading strategies, and Dow Theory	10
2	Topic 2: Short-term bar chart analysis	10
3	Topic 3: Long-term bar chart analysis	12
4	Topic 4: Non-price data analysis Task (Weighting: 20%)	12
5	Topic 5: Chart patterns	14
6	Topic 6: Introduction to indicators	12
7	Assignment 1 (Weighting: 40%)	5
8	Topic 7: Trend following indicators	9
9	Topic 8: Momentum indicators	9
10	Topic 9: Other trend and momentum indicators	7
11	Topic 10: Formulating trading strategies	15
12	Assignment 2 (Weighting: 40%)	5
Total minimum study load		120 hours

Additional study hours (if required), dependent on knowledge and personal commitments	60 hours
Total study load, including additional study hours	180 hours