



ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

ECONOMICS FACULTY

ANDALAS UNIVERSITY

THESIS

**“EXPECTATIONS VS REALITY ON SOFT SKILLS OF
ANDALAS UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE ACCOUNTING
STUDENTS”**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines expectations and reality on soft skill of Andalas University's undergraduate accounting students. This study adopts the qualitative research approach and interview as the research methodology. The expectation perspective was obtained from the literature review which also confirmed by accounting professionals informants within interview. Meanwhile, the reality perspective obtained from interview with student informants. Literature review with similar topic has compiled six types of soft skill for professionals in accounting, namely communication, problem solving, analytical thinking, teamwork, leadership, ethics and moral values. This study aims to compare those soft skills with the reality in Andalas University's undergraduate accounting students. This study found that students have perceived the importance of soft skills by their efforts to develop them in or outside the classroom. Although some obstacles were encountered, students believed that each of soft skills had been practiced for their future career as professionals. However, the result of interview with professional informants implied a real gap, not only in those soft skills, but the emphasis on accounting technological competencies, which can be an evaluation for accounting academics. This study has several limitations, as this study only covers limited type of soft skills within limited numbers of informants. There are still some other important skills that researcher might not include, as researcher hopes future research with similar concern can be conducted with more skills and more numbers of informants or respondents involved.

Key words: Accounting Education, Soft Skills, Technical Skills, Business Changes, Accounting Technology.

