Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Proposal to terminate the Graduate Minor in Accountancy and add the Graduate Concentration in Accountancy

SPONSOR: Jon S. Davis, Head, Department of Accountancy; jondavis@illinois.edu; 333-2451

COLLEGE CONTACT: Dean Larry DeBrock, College of Business, via Rebecca Goben (265-5162; rgoben@illinois.edu) and Mary K. Lowry, Director, Academic Programs & Policy in the Graduate College (333-9391; lowry@illinois.edu)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Department of Accountancy currently offers a graduate minor that is intended for students enrolled in graduate business programs. These include programs within the Department of Business Administration and the Department of Finance. Due to the changes in Graduate College rules regarding minors and concentrations, the Department would like to eliminate the minor and add a concentration instead. The Graduate Concentration in Accountancy would consist of 12 graduate hours, including the following courses:

- ACCY 501, Accounting Analysis I
- ACCY 502, Accounting Analysis II
- Choice of ACCY 503, Managerial Accounting, or ACCY 517, Financial Statement Analysis
- Or, substitute graduate accountancy courses approved by an Accountancy MSA program advisor.

The prerequisite for the Concentration is ACCY 500; or ACCY 201 and 202; or equivalent; or the consent of the Department of Accountancy.

The Concentration will be available to the following degree programs:

- Master of Science in Finance (MSF)
- Master of Science in Technology Management (MSTM)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Business Administration in International Management (MSBA)

The Department will house the Graduate Concentration in its existing Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) program. Applicants will complete a Graduate Concentration in
Accountancy application, signed by their graduate advisor and/or graduate program director. The Director of the MSA program will monitor the admission process. Like the previous minor, student enrollment will be limited to the residual, if any, between MSA program capacity and MSA student course demand. Given current and expected future MSA course demand, the Department envisions admitting approximately three to twelve students per year in the concentration.

The Director of the MSA program, together with existing accountancy advisors, will be responsible for advising students accepted to the concentration. The Department will coordinate with students’ home departments to ensure proper certification of the concentration.

**JUSTIFICATION:** The primary justification for this proposal is to be in compliance with Graduate College rules. For the aforementioned programs, the concentration courses need to count towards both the concentration and the graduate degree. Therefore, the program needs to be classified as a concentration rather than a minor.

In general, a Graduate Accountancy Concentration creates an educational synergy with related non-accountancy graduate programs. This synergy increases the quality of these programs, allowing them to compete better in the marketplace, both attracting better students and penetrating markets in which the programs currently are less competitive.

The change also moves the curriculum from a “pick three of ten courses” structure in the minor to a more focused list of courses in the concentration. By reducing the variety of courses required, the concentration focuses on the foundational fields within accountancy. Only a few students pursued the minor previously; it is hoped that the streamlining will attract more students to the concentration.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:** There are no budgetary and staff implications for this proposal. As mentioned above, the Department will administratively house the concentration in its existing MSA program. Admission to the concentration will be limited to any excess teaching capacity after meeting MSA student demand. Consequently, the Department’s existing resources, both academic and administrative, are sufficient and the concentration will require no additional resources. Further, the Department will not need to reallocate existing resources and the concentration will not affect course enrollments in other departments. There is no impact on the University Library or computer lab use.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2014
STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Graduate Concentration - Accountancy

The concentration in Accountancy seeks to develop business leaders who understand the role of accountancy and accounting in the conduct of business and the allocation of resources within society.

This concentration requires twelve graduate hours of coursework. Admission to the concentration requires an application to the Department and admission to one of the following graduate programs:

- Master of Science in Finance (MSFA)
- Master of Science in Technology Management
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Business Administration in International Management (MSBA)

Admission is limited and acceptance is on a competitive basis.

Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Required Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose three from the following list: ACCY 501, ACCY 502,</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and choose from ACCY 503 or 517, or substitute graduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accountancy courses approved by a program advisor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLEARANCES:

Signatures:

Unit Representative: ____________________________  
Date: 12/13/13

College Representative: ____________________________  
Date: 11/28/13

Graduate College Representative: ____________________________  
Date: 2/11/2014

Council on Teacher Education Representative: ____________________________  
Date:
## Appendix A:
(Proposed Curriculum Revisions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Requirements:</th>
<th>Current Hours</th>
<th>Revised Requirements:</th>
<th>Revised Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountancy Minor</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Accountancy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Concentration</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose three from the</td>
<td></td>
<td>ACCY 501</td>
<td>4 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>following list: ACCY</td>
<td></td>
<td>ACCY 502</td>
<td>4 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501, ACCY 502, ACCY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select from:</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503, ACCY 504, ACCY</td>
<td></td>
<td>ACCY 503</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505, ACCY 510, ACCY</td>
<td></td>
<td>ACCY 517</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>511, ACCY 512, ACCY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Or substitute graduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>515, ACCY 517, or</td>
<td></td>
<td>accountancy courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>substitute graduate</td>
<td></td>
<td>approved by a program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accountancy courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>advisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>approved by a program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advisor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>12 Hours</td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>12 Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October 16, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter represents support from the Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program for a graduate concentration in Accountancy as proposed by the Department of Accountancy.

- This letter shall serve as confirmation that MSF students will be allowed to enroll in the Accountancy concentration.
- This letter shall serve as confirmation that all 12 of the concentration hours will also be counted toward both the MSF and Accountancy concentration.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Martin Widdicks
Director, MSF Program
October 24, 2013

Mary Lowry  
Director, Academic Programs and Policy  
Graduate College  
University of Illinois  
222 Coble Hall  
Champaign, IL 61820

Mary,

The MS Technology Management Program (MSTM) supports the introduction of the Graduate Concentration in Accountancy. We will allow qualified MSTM students who meet the MSTM Program requirements to enroll in the classes comprising the concentration and all credit hours earned by each student in those courses will be counted toward the MS Technology Management degree for that student.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Kurtz  
Interim Director  
MS Technology Management Program  
College of Business  
University of Illinois  
217-244-0694  
jmkurtz@illinois.edu
Hi Susan,

Yes, you have our support for sure. I don’t know that the demand for the concentration would necessarily be huge from the MBA, but there definitely would be some demand. So, I’m all for the availability of the concentration.

And, to confirm: Yes, the 12 concentration hours would count as progress toward the MBA degree.

Sincerely,

Nick

---

Kelly,

My name is Sue Thomas and I work in the Accountancy department. We are putting a proposal through to the University to offer a graduate Accountancy concentration. The Concentration consists of 12 hours and if MBA students wanted to take the concentration, the hours would need to double count towards both the MBA degree and the Concentration.

If MBA would like to be a part of this, do you know who I would contact to get a support email or letter confirming the following for the graduate ACCY Concentration proposal? The letter would need to contain the following:

- Confirmation that MSBA and/or MSTM students will be allowed to enroll in the ACCY concentration.
- Confirmation that all 12 of the concentration hours will also be counted toward both the MBA and ACCY Concentration.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Thank you,

Sue Thomas
Lecturer/Academic Advisor
Department of Accountancy
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
October 28, 2013

Mary Lowry  
Director, Academic Programs and Policy  
Graduate College  
University of Illinois  
222 Coble Hall  
Champaign, IL 61820

Mary,

The MS Business Administration Program (MSBA) supports the introduction of a concentration in Accountancy. We will allow qualified MSBA students who meet the MSBA Program requirements to enroll in the classes comprising the concentration and all credit hours earned by each student in those courses will be counted toward the MS Business Administration degree for that student.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

William Qualls  
Academic Director  
MSBA Program
February 21, 2014

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Business and the Graduate College to establish a graduate concentration in Accountancy and eliminate the graduate minor in Accountancy.

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the College of Business as well as the Graduate College Executive Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

Kristi A. Kuntz
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: J. Davis
   L. DeBrock
   V. France
   M. Lowry
Enclosed please find the proposal seeking to terminate the Graduate Minor in Accountancy and add the Graduate Concentration in Accountancy. This is a floating concentration.

The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved this proposal. I send it to you now for further review.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Lugo
Associate Dean, Graduate College

c: A. Edwards
A. Kopera
M. Lowry
TO: Andrea Golato  
Graduate College  
204 Coble Hall, MC-32  

FROM: Larry DeBrock  
Joseph and Margot Lakonishok Endowed Dean  

DATE: December 16, 2013  

RE: Approval of Department of Accountancy Proposals  

The College of Business requests approval of the enclosed proposal to change the Graduate Minor in Accountancy to a Graduate Concentration in Accountancy. Also enclosed, is a Course Revision for ACCY 415 - “Auditing Stds and Practice.”  

This proposal and course revision have been reviewed by the appropriate committees at the department and college levels and approval has been recommended. I also recommend approval.  

If you have questions, please call 333-2747.  

/rg  
Enclosure  

Cc: Virginia France, Chair, College of Business, Educational Policy Committee  
Jon Davis, Department Head, Accountancy
Senate Educational Policy Committee
Proposal Check Sheet

PROPOSAL TITLE (Same as on proposal): Proposal to terminate the Graduate Minor in Accountancy and add the Graduate Concentration in Accountancy

PROPOSAL TYPE (select all that apply below):

A. ☐ Proposal for a NEW or REVISED degree program. Please consult the Programs of Study Catalog for official titles of existing degree programs.

1. Degree program level:
   ☐ Graduate   ☐ Professional   ☐ Undergraduate

2. ☐ Proposal for a new degree (e.g. B.S., M.A. or Ph.D.):
   Degree name, “e.g. Bachelor of Arts or Master of Science”: ______

3. ☒ Proposal for a new or revised major, concentration, or minor:
   ☐ New or ☐ Revised Major in (name of existing or proposed major): ______
   ☒ New or ☐ Revised Concentration in (name of existing or proposed concentration):
     Graduate Concentration - Accountancy
   ☐ New or ☐ Revised Minor in (name of existing or proposed minor): ______

4. ☐ Proposal to rename an existing major, concentration, or minor:
   ☐ Major   ☐ Concentration   ☐ Minor
   Current name: ______
   Proposed new name: ______

5. ☒ Proposal to terminate an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor:
   ☐ Degree   ☐ Major   ☐ Concentration   ☒ Minor
   Name of existing degree, major, or concentration: Graduate Minor - Accountancy

6. ☐ Proposal involving a multi-institutional degree:
   ☐ New   ☐ Revision   ☐ Termination
Name of existing Illinois (UIUC) degree: _____

Name of non-Illinois partnering institution: _____

Location of non-Illinois partnering institution:
[ ] State of Illinois [ ] US State: _____ [ ] Foreign country: _____

B. [ ] Proposal to create a new academic unit (college, school, department, program or other academic unit):

Name of proposed new unit: _____

C. [ ] Proposal to rename an existing academic unit (college, school, department, or other academic unit):

Current name of unit: _____
Proposed new name of unit: _____

D. [ ] Proposal to reorganize existing units (colleges, schools, departments, or program):

1. [ ] Proposal to change the status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)

Name of current unit including status: _____

2. [ ] Proposal to transfer an existing unit:

Current unit’s name and home: _____
Proposed new home for the unit: _____

3. [ ] Proposal to merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B):

Name and college of unit one to be merged: _____
Name and college of unit two to be merged: _____
Proposed name and college of new (merged) unit: _____

4. [ ] Proposal to terminate an existing unit:

Current unit’s name and status: _____

E. [ ] Other educational policy proposals (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Nature of the proposal: _____

Revised 10/2012