

**PROPOSAL TO THE UIUC SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
FOR A POST-BACCALUREATE CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAM**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed Certificate in Accountancy is an integral component of the department's response to the change enacted by the Illinois Legislature requiring 150 semester hours, as well as a baccalaureate or higher degree, in order to take the CPA examination in Illinois.

The proposed Certificate in Accountancy is a non-degree, post-baccalaureate certificate designed for UIUC accountancy students who do not enroll in the department's proposed integrated bachelor/master program but who desire to prepare for a career in public accounting (the department estimates a demand of 50 to 100 students per year). The intent is to raise these students' competencies and semester hours to levels necessary to take the CPA examination in Illinois.

Minimum course work for the Certificate in Accountancy normally equates to 22-26 semester hours and includes the following required courses:

Semester Hours	
4	ACCY 310 Financial Reporting Standards
4	ACCY 312 Principles of Taxation
4	ACCY 315 Auditing Standards and Practice
6-10	ACCY 398 Practical Problems in Accounting
4	BADM 303 Principles of Business Law
22-26	Total Semester Hours

Minimum requirement for admission to the Certificate in Accountancy program is a bachelor's degree earned at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign including the accountancy courses required for a major in accountancy. Applicants must have earned at least a 2.0 (A=4.0) grade point average for all courses taken at this University, at least a 2.0 grade point average for courses taken in the major or field of concentration, at least a 2.0 grade point average for courses taken in the major or field of concentration at this University, and for students not majoring in accountancy, at least a 2.0 grade point average for courses taken in accountancy at this University. Admission to the Certificate in Accountancy is based on these undergraduate grade point averages and, at the option of the Department, on letters of reference.

Up to eight semester hours earned for courses required by the Certificate in Accountancy but taken while enrolled in a bachelor's program and which are in excess of the requirements for that bachelor's degree may be transferred and applied toward the Certificate in Accountancy. Once admitted, students have up to two semesters in which to complete the Certificate program requirements.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The legislature of the State of Illinois changed the requirements for taking the Uniform CPA Examination in Illinois, requiring first-time candidates taking the CPA examination after January 1, 2001, to have completed at least 150 semester hours of acceptable credit, including a baccalaureate or higher degree. Because of the 150-hour requirement, members of the graduating class of 2001 and all subsequent graduating classes will not be qualified to take the CPA examination in Illinois upon completion of the 124 semester hours now required for the BS in Accountancy.

PROPOSED CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAM

The UIUC Department of Accountancy proposes to meet this new, legislatively mandated requirement by offering a variety of options. These options include (1) an integrated program that will lead to the award of both a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and either a Master of Accounting Science or a Master of Science with specialization in taxation and (2) a Certificate in Accountancy that will accommodate UIUC accountancy students who do not seek a graduate degree.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed. This proposal is part of a series of revisions to the Department’s undergraduate and master’s programs that, taken as a whole, have budgetary implications. The budgetary implications arise within the proposed revisions to the master’s programs and are discussed within such proposals. The Certificate, alone, does not have significant budgetary implications.
- b. Internal reallocations. None.
- c. Effect on course enrollments in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments.

The only non-accountancy course Certificate program students will be allowed to take is BADM 303. Most undergraduate accountancy majors already take BADM 303 and thus, the certificate should not increase this course’s annual enrollment (it merely changes the timing of when students take the course in their programs of study).

- d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc. None

**GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:**

This proposal is for a post-baccalaureate, non-degree program.

**STATEMENT FOR BULLETIN:**

Certificate in Accountancy

The purpose of the Certificate in Accountancy is to provide the Department's accountancy majors who do not enter the Bachelor/Master in Accountancy program an option by which they can acquire the minimum competencies necessary to take the Uniform CPA examination in Illinois.

Minimum course work for the Certificate in Accountancy normally equates to 22-26 semester hours and includes the following required courses:

HOURS	COURSE
4	ACCY 310 – Financial Reporting Standards
4	ACCY 312 – Principles of Taxation
4	ACCY 315 – Auditing Standards and Practice
6-10	ACCY 398 – Practical Problems in Accounting
4	BADM 303 – Principles of Business Law
22-26	TOTAL

PROPOSED CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAM

Admission to the Certificate in Accountancy program requires a bachelor's degree earned at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign including the courses required for a major in accountancy. Applicants must have earned at least a 2.0 (A=4.0) grade point average for all courses taken at this University, at least a 2.0 grade point average for courses taken in the major or field of concentration, at least a 2.0 grade point average for courses taken in the major or field of concentration at this University, and for students not majoring in accountancy, at least a 2.0 grade point average for courses taken in accountancy at this University. Admission to the Certificate in Accountancy is based on these undergraduate grade point averages and, at the option of the Department, on letters of reference.

Up to eight semester hours earned for courses required by the Certificate in Accountancy but taken while enrolled in a bachelor's program and which are in excess of the requirements for that bachelor's degree may be transferred and applied toward the Certificate in Accountancy. Once admitted, students have up to two semesters in which to complete the Certificate program requirements.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

The Department proposes to fully implement the Certificate in Accountancy for all students beginning Summer Term 2001.

**CLEARANCE:**

Department of Accountancy

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eugene Willis, Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

College of Commerce and Business Administration:

Educational Policy Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Koenker, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dean of College

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick L. Neumann, Interim Dean

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dean of the Graduate College

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard P. Wheeler, Dean

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Office of Provost

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Date