

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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PROPOSAL FOR A GRADUATE CONCENTRATION IN TAXATION

OFFICE OF THE SENATE

Title of the proposed concentration: Concentration in Taxation

Name of Existing Graduate Degree: Master of Accounting Science

Sponsoring unit: Department of Accountancy

Proposed Effective Date: August, 2007

Brief description:

The Department proposes to create a concentration in taxation within its existing Master of Accounting Science (MAS) program. The concentration will consist of the following 32 hours of graduate courses, which represents a mixture of MAS and concentration requirements:

1. ACCY 451 (Advanced Income Tax Problems), 4 graduate hours.
2. ACCY 511 (Concepts and Principles), 4 graduate hours.
3. ACCY 512 (Management Accounting, I), 4 graduate hours.
4. ACCY 553 (Selected Topics in Federal Taxation), 4 graduate hours.
5. ACCY 556 (Tax Research), 4 graduate hours.
6. Three graduate electives approved by an academic advisor, 12 hours.

The proposed concentration in taxation will provide significant flexibility to students studying accounting and taxation. Conversations with the major employers of taxation professionals in Chicago revealed a need for taxation professionals to have a broader graduate education that is not limited to details of taxation codes and rules. Employers cited a need for students to have a better understanding of the role of accounting and taxation in society. The graduate concentration would provide sufficient knowledge of taxation for a student entering the taxation profession and at the same time provide the student with a broader, more rounded graduate education.

Prerequisite for admission to the concentration:

The prerequisite for admission to the concentration is admission to the Department's Master of Accountancy Science program.

Expected enrollment in the concentration:

The Department intends, at least for the short-run, to limit enrollment in the concentration to one section of approximately 40 to 45 students. The Department will manage enrollment through an admissions process that focuses on academic merit.

In subsequent years, the Department will evaluate any excess demand for the concentration in relation to the Department's ability to offer a second section of the necessary taxation courses.

Admission to the concentration:

The Department will develop an application form for the Graduate Concentration in Taxation, which students will be required to submit by February 15 for fall semester admission. Application to the concentration should occur at the same time as application to the MAS program. The concentration application form will include approval from the student's academic advisor and the director of the MAS program.

The Department's Director of Professional Programs will be responsible for overseeing the graduate concentration admission process.

Concentration advisor:

The Department currently has two academic advisors for its BS/MS in Accountancy program, one full time and one 25% time. These advisors also will advise students in the proposed graduate concentration in taxation.

Certification of successful completion:

Department administrative staff currently certifies successful completion of its graduate programs and Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accountancy program. The Department will use the same administrative processes to certify successful completion of the concentration.

Budgetary and staff implications:

The Department plans to suspend admission to its on-campus Master of Science in Accountancy with specialization in taxation (MSA-tax). In its place the Department will substitute the graduate concentration in taxation as an option for students in the campus BS/MS in Accountancy program (i.e., campus students would enroll in the MAS program and those desiring graduate taxation could apply for the taxation concentration as part of their MAS program). The Department will continue to offer the MSA-tax program in Chicago (the Chicago program is a self-supporting program).

Budgetary and staff considerations fall within two categories: program costs and program revenues. The Department expects little effect of the proposed concentration on program revenues as all of the students enrolling in the concentration will be students in the Department's MAS program who otherwise would have been in the Department's MSA-tax program. The tuition for these programs is the same and the Department expects that the number of master's students, in total, will remain the same as it is currently.

The Department estimates that the proposed graduate concentration will have the following cost effects:

- No effect in terms of the number of taxation sections per year required by the proposed concentration (3 sections) compared with the number of taxation sections per year that would have been required by the campus MSA-tax program (3 sections).

- A savings of one taxation section per year from no longer offering on campus a MSA-tax program elective (a course in multi-jurisdictional taxation).
- Savings of administrative infrastructure currently supporting the campus MSA-tax program. Such savings include one less program director, as well as more efficient course scheduling and student advising. Existing resources will be able to administer the admission and certification of students in the graduate taxation concentration.
- While the taxation concentration students in the MAS program would also take ACCY 511 and ACCY 512 under the proposed changes, an increase in the number of sections of these two courses likely would not occur for several years. Current department plans call for an additional section of these two courses to serve the needs of another program (the international MSA); these additional sections will provide sufficient excess space to accommodate students who might take the graduate taxation concentration.

Statement for the catalog:

Graduate Concentration in Taxation:

The Department offers a graduate concentration in taxation designed to provide students with sufficient knowledge and skills to begin a career in taxation. The prerequisite for admission is admission to the Master of Accounting Science program. Admission is limited and acceptance is on a competitive basis. Admission to the concentration requires application to the Department no later than February 15 for fall admission. Application to the concentration should occur at the same time as application to the MAS program. The concentration requires twelve graduate hours of taxation, eight graduate hours of accountancy (the courses required by the MAS program), and 12 graduate hours of electives approved by the student's accountancy advisor (at least four hours must be a non-accountancy coursework).

CLEARANCES:

Fra Sofman 3-18-06
Head of the Department of Accountancy Date

Rachel Schwartz 3/19/06
Chair of the College of Business Ed. Policy Committee Date

G. L. ~ 3-18-06
Dean of the College of Business Date

Kyle Jappens Oct. 30, 2006
Dean of the Graduate College Date

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee Date