

University of Utah
David Eccles School of Business – School of Accounting
Undergraduate Certificate in Accounting
July, 2011

Need: The demand for accounting graduates continues to grow even in these tough economic times. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics 2010-2011 Occupational Outlook Handbook:

Employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow by 22 percent between 2008 and 2018, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. This occupation will have a very large number of new jobs arise, about 279,400 over the projections decade. An increase in the number of businesses, changing financial laws and corporate governance regulations, and increased accountability for protecting an organization's stakeholders will drive job growth.

We currently have approximately 75 students who either already have a degree or who are currently pursuing another degree and are interested in taking the accounting core set of classes. We propose offering a Certificate in Accounting which would be available to both matriculated and non-matriculated students to help serve this student population. This certificate provide students with documentation on their course of study, would allow the School of Accounting to develop clear and appropriate admission guidelines, would provide a designation that would allow students to enroll in a timely fashion, and would assist in advising these students.

The certificate would provide value to the student who wants a background in accounting to pursue a career with a bachelor's degree equivalent. This student could find employment within a company, in a non-profit, or with a governmental institution. Other students are very interested in obtaining a Masters Degree in Accounting. Currently a masters or equivalent is necessary to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination in Utah and all but four other states. The Undergraduate Certificate in Accounting would provide the necessary background for admission into the Masters of Accounting Program at the University of Utah and at most other institutions.

The Undergraduate Accounting Certificate will be offered to students who have already completed a degree and also to students currently pursuing a degree in an area outside of business. Current business students can double major in another area of business so we do not see any of them desiring the certificate. Admission to the Undergraduate Accounting Certificate will be competitive and will be similar to the admission standards for students entering the undergraduate accounting major.

Educational Objectives: The certificate would provide students with the background to either pursue a career in accounting directly or to enter a master program in accounting. There are many career opportunities for a student with an undergraduate certificate in accounting. The certificate will provide the students with essentially the same undergraduate curriculum as a current undergraduate accounting major. For other students, the certificate will provide the needed background for entry into a master's program. A master's degree (or equivalent) is required to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination in the state of Utah and in most other states.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Accounting will also allow us to better advise and educate this student group. We are currently working with these students to get them into classes on a space available basis, but this has led to a number of issues. First, we cannot guarantee them access which makes it difficult for them to make appropriate plans. Second, we are not able to adequately evaluate their backgrounds which mean that students may be taking classes without the required background knowledge or with a GPA that would not predict well for their success in the undergraduate classes or admission to masters of accounting program. Third, dealing with students on such an individual basis puts a great strain on our advising resources. Fourth, businesses and accounting firms seeking to hire students for accounting

positions want an indication of the quality of their education. Providing these students with a certificate in accounting will enable them to be more successful as they pursue their careers.

Impact on Existing Programs: We will enroll the certificate students into our existing classes. The certificate would actually have a beneficial impact on our existing programs. Currently, undergraduate majors in accounting are screened for appropriate background classes and GPA. We do not have a mechanism for screening the students who are currently interested in taking accounting classes outside the degree. The proposed certificate would allow us to put such screening in place and would improve the educational experience for all students. We would monitor the enrollments and do not intend to add any additional sections of courses for the certificate. The screening also assures students who enter the certificate program that they are qualified to take the classes and will improve the likelihood that they will be admitted to our Masters of Accounting program. Thus this new certificate will help us better serve our accounting majors and those students interested in adding accounting to their knowledge base.

Courses: A listing of the course requirements is presented below. The accounting course descriptions are included in Appendix A. We will not be developing any new courses for the certificate. At this time, we also do not anticipate offering any of these courses through distance learning.

Courses for certificate

ACCTG 3600	3 hours
FINAN 3040	3 hours
IS 4410	3 hours
ACCTG 5110	3 hours
ACCTG 5120	3 hours
ACCTG 5210	3 hours
ACCTG 5310	3 hours
ACCTG 5410	3 hours
<i>Your choice of one of the following:</i>	
ACCTG 5130	3 hours
ACCTG 5510	3 hours
<hr/>	
Total hours	27 hours

Prerequisites:

Math 1090 or higher/Statistics	3-4 hours
WRTG 2010 or WR2 equivalent	3 hours
IS 2010	3 hours
ECON 2010	3 hours
ACCTG 2600	3 hours

- In order to apply to the certificate, students must have completed all prerequisites with the appropriate grade and have maintained a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. Acceptance is competitive.
- Students with a previous bachelor or master degree in business would satisfy all the prerequisites.
- Students must pass each course with a minimum of a C- (unless higher grade is required as noted) or better and have an average GPA of 3.0 in their courses used for the certificate.
- Equivalent courses can be used to satisfy prerequisites and 3000 and 4000 level classes in the certificate. Courses that are not articulated by agreements will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis. The student must provide a course description, a syllabus, and information on the university where the course was taken.

- Students must complete at least five of the 5000 level courses in the certificate the University of Utah.
- Prerequisites are observed for this coursework. Only professors can waive prerequisites for a course.

Student Advisement: The David Eccles School of Business has an advising office that will coordinate and advise the certificate program. Since we will be able to administer the certificate as a program, rather than on a one by one basis, this would actually reduce the load on our advising staff and allow them to more efficiently and effectively work with this group of students. Admission to the certificate will be competitive and will be similar the standards for admission to the accounting major.

Budget: There will be no budget implications from the certificate program. We already have the classes and advising in place. This will allow us to more effectively serve a student group that we are already attempting to serve.

Library Resources: The current library resources are sufficient to meet the needs of the certificate program.

Appendix A: Accounting Course Descriptions

2600 Survey of Accounting (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in IS 2010

This course provides a broad view of accounting, focusing on a user's perspective. It introduces students to the role of accounting and the various individuals who rely on accounting within a business. Students learn the fundamentals of accounting, with a focus on understanding and using information provided within financial statements and how these statements are used by various stakeholders, including investors, managers, and tax authorities.

3600 Principles of Accounting (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in ACCTG 2620

This course builds on the broad perspective provided by ACCTG 2620, focusing on a more detailed understanding of the links between business transactions and the information produced by an accounting system. It provides students with a deeper understanding of the role of accounting from the perspective of the various individuals who rely on accounting within a business. Students learn how transactions are recorded and how the accounting cycle generates financial reports and obtain a deeper understanding of and ability to use information provided within financial statements.

5110 Financial Accounting I (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in (ACCTG 3600) AND Full major status in the School of Business. Upper Division Status. First of a three-course sequence, the focus of which is preparation and analysis of corporate financial reports. Begins with a study of the inherent conflicts among managers, shareholders, creditors, employees, and other interested parties and introduces the role of financial reporting in providing relevant reliable information to these divergent users. Studies the measurement and reporting of revenue and expenses and the preparation and analysis of financial statements (including income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow).

5120 Financial Accounting II (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in ACCTG 5110 AND FINAN 3040 AND Full major status in the School of Business. Upper Division Status. Continuation of coverage from ACCTG 5110. Focus is on preparation and analysis of corporate financial reports. Studies the measurement and reporting of assets, liabilities, and equities.

5130 Financial Accounting III (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in ACCTG 5120 AND Full major status in the School of Business. Upper Division Status. Corporation acquisitions, mergers and the formation of other strategic alliances are staples of today's business environment. The objective of the first two-thirds of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the nature and financial reporting aspects of these complex business transactions. Specific topics include accounting for business combinations and consolidations, joint ventures and foreign currency translation and segment reporting. The final third of the course is intended to provide students with a general understanding of the unique accounting and financial reporting issues facing not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities.

5210 Management Accounting I (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in (ACCTG 3600) AND Full major status in the School of Business. Upper Division Status. Identification and development of relevant cost information for both manufacturing and non-manufacturing situations. Emphasis given to the regulatory, analytical, and behavioral use of accounting information.

5310 Taxation I (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in (ACCTG 3600) AND Full major status in the School of Business. Upper Division Status. Basic analysis of the federal tax system examining the role of taxation in society, sources of tax authority, and critical areas in individual and business income taxation, including: gross income; deductions; basis determination; business losses; depreciation; nontaxable exchanges; sale of capital and business assets; and a survey of taxation of corporations, "S" corporations, and partnerships.

5410 Accounting Information Systems (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in (ACCTG 3600) AND (IS 4410 OR ACCTG 4410) AND Full major status in the School of Business

Upper Division Status. Introduces students to the flow of information through the various accounting cycles and the corresponding internal controls. Examines the flow using the traditional accounting model with an emphasis on the procedures of accounting and the use of current database technology, including data modeling.

5510 Accounting Auditing (3) Prerequisites: "C-" or better in ACCTG 5110 AND ACCTG 5410 AND Full major status in the School of Business. Upper Division Status. Overview of the basic theory and concepts associated with the attest function, including the various types of audits; objectives of audit engagements; political, legal, social, and ethical environment in which auditors work; and procedures used by auditors in meeting their objectives.