

Submitted by: Charles R. Bantz, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTING**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Accounting in the Department of Accounting, School of Business Administration, effective Fall Term, 2002.

### **Background**

The proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate is designed to address the demands of students who wish an undergraduate option to meet the new state requirements for Licensure as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). In 1999, the state of Michigan, along with approximately 45 other states, adopted the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts' (AICPA) recommendation of 150 credit hours of course work as a requirement for becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). The new requirements are effective for individuals requesting licensure after July 1, 2003. Under the new state requirements, individuals wishing to be licensed as CPAs must complete a total of 150 semester credit hours of college education which include specific course and content coverage as established by the State Board of Accountancy. Applicants must also pass the CPA exam and complete one year of professional accounting experience.

The Accounting faculty reviewed the new state regulations and, based on surveys of potential students, proposed development of an undergraduate and a graduate option for students who wish to meet the new requirements for licensure as a CPA. The proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) program will provide an undergraduate option for students with majors in Accounting or other business disciplines to meet the 150-hour coursework requirements for CPA licensure eligibility. A new Master of Science in Accounting has been proposed to meet the needs of students who wish to earn a graduate degree.

### **Program Description**

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Accounting is designed to prepare individuals for professional careers in accounting in public agencies, private industries, financial institutions, and government and nonprofit organizations. The primary objective of the program is to prepare students for careers rather than for entry-level jobs while meeting the 150-hour education requirement. A secondary objective is to better prepare students for professional examinations, especially the Certified Public Account Examination.

### **Admissions Requirements**

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate program shall be open only to students who hold a bachelor's degree in Business Administration or a discipline area of Business Administration or Accounting from an accredited institution with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.0.

### Curriculum Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours with a cumulative GPA of not less than 2.0. Of these 24 credit hours, students must complete a minimum of 6 credit hours selected from courses offered by the Department of Accounting. Additionally, a minimum of 12 credit hours must be from courses offered within the School of Business Administration (Accounting, Finance, Information Systems, Marketing, and Management). Each student's plan of work will be individually designed based on his or her previous college experience and professional objectives.

The typical plan of work will include business and non-business courses chosen to allow the student to accumulate (incorporating their previous course work) a total of 30 credit hours in accounting and 39 credit hours in general business with an overall total for all college work equal to 150 credit hours. The 39 total credit hours in general business must include three credits each in Business Administration and Computer Technology and coursework in at least 5 of the areas listed below, with a minimum of at least 3 credit hours but not more than 12 credit hours in any one area:

Business Law	Marketing
Economics	Taxation
Ethics	Statistics
Finance	Business Policy
Management	

### Graduation Requirements

The proposed program is in compliance with the Board of Governors' Statute on Post-Baccalaureate Certificates (WSUCA 2.43.07). For graduation, students are required to complete the prescribed curriculum, of which a minimum of 24 semester credits must be taken at Wayne State University. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 must be achieved to obtain the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting.

### Program Administration

Oversight of the program will be the responsibility of the faculty in the Department of Accounting. The Chair of the Accounting Department will serve as Director of the program. The Director, in conjunction with the Accounting Department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, will oversee the administration of the PBC program. Students admitted to the PBC program will be advised by the staff of the Office of Student Services in the School of Business Administration. Student outcomes' strategies will include traditional use of CPA pass and fail rates.

### Budget and Resource Requirements

No new costs or additional resources are necessary to implement the program since the program will utilize existing faculty, facilities, library, and other resources. Existing courses will be used in the program. No new courses will be developed for the Post-Baccalaureate program.

### Accreditation Requirements

The American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) accredits the School of Business Administration's programs. The proposed Post-Baccalaureate program complies with AACSB International standards and will be reviewed along with existing programs during the next accreditation review. There are no immediate plans to seek separate accreditation for the Accounting program.

### Approvals

The proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Accounting was approved by the Department of Accounting, the School of Business Administration Faculty Senate and Dean Harvey Kahalas.