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| For Academic Affairs and Research Use Only | |
| Proposal Number |  |
| CIP Code: |  |
| Degree Code: |  |

**Program Modification Form**

**[ ] Undergraduate Curriculum Council**

**[X] Graduate Council**

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| **Modification Type: [ ]Admissions, [XX]Curricular Sequence, or [ ]Other** |

Signed paper copies of proposals submitted for consideration are no longer required. Please type approver name and enter date of approval.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | JOHN F. ROBERTSON | 1/23/2020 |   **Department Curriculum Committee Chair** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **COPE Chair (if applicable)** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | James Doering | 1/24/2020 |   **Department Chair** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **Head of Unit (if applicable)** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Karen R. McDaniel | 2/18/2020 |   **College Curriculum Committee Chair** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **Undergraduate Curriculum Council Chair** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Jim Washam | 3/16/2020 |   **College Dean** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **General Education Committee Chair (if applicable)** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs** |

1. **Contact Person** (Name, Email Address, Phone Number)

John F. Robertson, [jfrobert@astate.edu](mailto:jfrobert@astate.edu), P.O. Box 550, State University, AR 72467, (870) 972-3739.

1. **Proposed Change** (for undergraduate curricular changes please provide an 8-semester plan (appendix A), if applicable)

Change #1 – Changes to the admission requirements/prerequisites. Eliminate Intermediate III, add Government and Not-for-profit accounting, change wording describing general requirements for prerequisites.

Change #2 - The number of elective hours is reduced from nine to six, the elective hours must be accounting hours, the maximum number of 5000-level hours is updated to reflect the change required with the adoption of the accelerated graduate program, and language is removed about two elective courses because these classes are now required.

Change #3 – Two of the classes in the accelerated program are replaced with two different classes. The policy regarding when a student may begin taking graduate classes is updated to match the University policy.

Change #4 – The program is revised. Under the existing curriculum, two of the accelerated MAcc classes are electives. Under the revised curriculum, all the courses allowed in the accelerated program are now required. Language is added to clarify that students may not receive credit at both the 4000-level and the 5000-level for the same class. Data Mining, a class that was allowed as an elective, is now required. The capstone class is being renamed. Tax Planning and Research and Ethics and Professional Responsibility are now electives. Advanced Cost Accounting will be eliminated.

1. **Effective Date**

8/1/2020

1. **Justification –** *Please provide details as to why this change is necessary.*

Change #1 – Intermediate III was eliminated from the undergraduate program. Government and Not-for-profit Accounting is required to sit for the CPA exam in Arkansas, but will no longer be offered at the graduate level. Accordingly, it is added to the list of specific accounting prerequisites. Language is deleted regarding the MBA foundation courses. These courses are generally required as prerequisites for the accounting prerequisites, so separate testing for them adds an unnecessary administrative burden. Accounting is rules and compliance driven. The rules vary by jurisdiction, and our program focuses on US rules. For example, US financial accounting, auditing, taxation, and governmental accounting all differ from their international counterparts. Language is added to formalize a policy implemented by the preceding director of graduate programs that the accounting prerequisite courses must have been earned at a US college or university.

Change #2 – The Accounting Department undertook a comprehensive review of the graduate curriculum. Changes are required to the required and elective classes to revise the program. We are reducing the number of elective hours because we want to require specific courses, and want all elective hours to be accounting hours to maintain at least 24 hours of accounting hours in the program. The accelerated program has always allowed four courses at the 5000-level, but the bulletin has not been updated to reflect that change before now. Language mandating that students take two particular electives at either the 4000 or 5000-level is no longer necessary as those two classes are now required.

Change #3 – The accounting department concluded that the graduate program should have a clear career path for the graduates of the program, and that this path is auditing. Auditing today relies on data analytics. The course changes made to the accelerated program are designed to improve students’ skills in data analytics. The language regarding when a student may begin taking graduate classes is updated to match the University policy that students may begin in their junior year.

Change #4 –Big data has transformed nearly every industry, and accounting is no exception. The paperless office means that auditors must conduct all or nearly all their activity using a computer. We need to update the program to allow our students to compete in the current business environment. As noted above, the plan is to add data analytics skills to the student’s tool kit. Three courses are being removed from the list of required courses to make room for data analytics classes. Two of the courses that are now required were previously electives. One, Tax Accounting II, had to be taken at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Data Mining, was an elective. The two new required courses are dedicated data analytics classes. The capstone class is being renamed to better reflect the material currently covered.

**Bulletin Changes**

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| **Instructions** |
| **Please visit** [**http://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/bulletins/index.dot**](http://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/bulletins/index.dot) **and select the most recent version of the bulletin. Copy and paste all bulletin pages this proposal affects below. Please include a before (with changed areas highlighted) and after of all affected sections.**  **\*Please note: Courses are often listed in multiple sections of the bulletin. To ensure that all affected sections have been located, please search the bulletin (ctrl+F) for the appropriate courses before submission of this form.** |

**BEFORE**

Program of Study for the Master of Accountancy Degree

The Master of Accountancy Program will provide those with undergraduate training in accounting with knowledge and skills needed to advance beyond the entry-level stage in the accounting profession, provide students who have undergraduate training in accounting with the in-depth understanding

of accounting issues needed for success on licensure and certification examinations, and serve as

foundation work for those who may choose to pursue advanced graduate work.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Those admitted to the program must possess an undergraduate degree, meet the same GPA

and Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) formula

as required in the current MBA program, plus have a C or better in the following key undergraduate

accounting courses:

* Intermediate Accounting I (or equivalent content)
* Intermediate Accounting II (or equivalent content)
* Intermediate Accounting III (or equivalent content)
* Cost or Managerial Accounting at junior level or above
* Tax I
* Auditing
* Accounting Information Systems

All applicants who enter the program without the necessary foundation courses must complete

the foundation courses or their undergraduate equivalent at an IAME accredited institution with a grade

of “B” or better. When a student has completed the foundation course(s) in a specific area, she/he may

take the core course in that area.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Nine hours of electives may be selected in business or accounting. Students may take two

courses at the 5000 level; otherwise elective courses must be taken at the 6000 level. Students who did

not take Tax Accounting II (ACCT 4113/5113) and Government and Not-For-Profit Accounting (ACCT

4123/5123) as part of their undergraduate program must include these courses in the course of study

for the MAcc.

Under special circumstances, a student may substitute a directed individual study for an elective. All directed individual studies must be taken after a student has completed 24 hours of coursework

with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Directed individual studies should be targeted toward a publication and/or

paper/presentation as an outlet for the research. Students are also expected to make a presentation on

their research to a group of Graduate Faculty.

ACCELERATED MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

The Accelerated Master of Accountancy degree option allows outstanding Arkansas State University undergraduate accounting majors to begin taking Master of Accountancy courses during their

senior year. Eligible students are allowed to apply up to 12 hours of graduate credits toward both the

undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Only courses with a B or better will be eligible to

count for graduate credit. After completing the B.S. degree, this dual counting enables a student to

earn Master of Accountancy degree with only six additional courses (18 credits).

Eligible students receive undergraduate and graduate credit for the following courses:

ACCT 5023 – Advanced Accounting and International Issues

ACCT 5113 – Tax Accounting II

ACCT 5123 – Government and Not-for-Profit Accounting

ACCT 5173 – Advanced Cost Accounting

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Accounting

Master of Accountancy

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| University Requirements: |  |
| See Graduate Degree Policies for additional information (p. 39) |  |
| Program Requirements: | Sem. Hrs. |
| ACCT 5023, Advanced Accounting and International Issues | 3 |
| ACCT 5173, Advanced Cost Accounting | 3 |
| ACCT 6043, Tax Planning and Research | 3 |
| ACCT 6063, Contemporary Auditing Issues | 3 |
| ACCT 6073, Seminar in Financial Accounting Theory | 3 |
| ACCT 6083 Ethics and Professional Responsibility | 3 |
| MIS 6543, Business Analytics | 3 |
| Sub-total | 21 |
| Electives:  Students who did not take Tax Accounting II (ACCT 4113/5113) and Government and Not-For-Profit  Accounting (ACCT 4123/5123) as part of their undergraduate program must include these  courses in the course of study for the MAcc. | Sem. Hrs. |
| 6000-level Business or Accounting elective | 3 |
| Business or Accounting electives | 6 |
| Sub-total | 9 |
| Total Required Hours: | 30 |

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The bulletin can be accessed at <https://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/bulletins>

**AFTER**

Program of Study for the Master of Accountancy Degree

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of accounting issues needed for success on licensure and certification examinations, and serve as

foundation work for those who may choose to pursue advanced graduate work.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Those admitted to the program must possess an undergraduate degree, meet the same GPA

and Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) formula

as required in the current MBA program, plus have a C or better in the following key undergraduate

accounting courses:

* Intermediate Accounting I (or equivalent content)
* Intermediate Accounting II (or equivalent content)
* Cost or Managerial Accounting at junior level or above
* Tax I
* Auditing
* Accounting Information Systems
* Government and Not-for-Profit Accounting

The accounting prerequisite courses must have been completed at a US College or University accredited by one of the regional accrediting organizations recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. For example, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Those admitted to the program do not need to meet the general business, or foundation, prerequisites that apply to MBA students.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Six hours of electives may be selected in accounting. Students may take up to a total of four

courses at the 5000 level; otherwise elective courses must be taken at the 6000 level.

Under special circumstances, a student may substitute a directed individual study for an elective. All directed individual studies must be taken after a student has completed 24 hours of coursework

with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Directed individual studies should be targeted toward a publication and/or

paper/presentation as an outlet for the research. Students are also expected to make a presentation on

their research to a group of Graduate Faculty.

ACCELERATED MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

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Junior year. Eligible students are allowed to apply up to 12 hours of graduate credits toward both the

undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Only courses with a B or better will be eligible to

count for graduate credit. After completing the B.S. degree, this dual counting enables a student to

earn Master of Accountancy degree with only six additional courses (18 credits).

Eligible students receive undergraduate and graduate credit for the following courses:

ACCT 5023 – Advanced Accounting and International Issues

ACCT 5113 – Tax Accounting II

ACCT 5133 – Accounting Statistics

ACCT 5183 – Accounting Analytics

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Accounting

Master of Accountancy

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| University Requirements: |  |
| See Graduate Degree Policies for additional information (p. 39) |  |
| Program Requirements: | Sem. Hrs. |
| ACCT 5023, Advanced Accounting and International Issues | 3 |
| ACCT 5113, Tax Accounting II | 3 |
| ACCT 5133, Accounting Statistics | 3 |
| ACCT 5183, Accounting Analytics | 3 |
| ACCT 6063, Contemporary Auditing Issues | 3 |
| ACCT 6073, Applied Professional Research | 3 |
| MIS 6473, Data Mining | 3 |
| MIS 6543, Business Analytics | 3 |
| Sub-total | 24 |
| Electives:  Students who received credit at the undergraduate level for ACCT 4023, ACCT 4113, ACCT 4133, or ACCT 4183, or a course with equivalent content, may not receive graduate credit for the same course. Instead, those students must take additional accounting electives at the 5000-level (subject to the four course maximum) or 6000-level. | Sem. Hrs. |
| 6000-level Accounting electives | 6 |
| Sub-total | 6 |
| Total Required Hours: | 30 |

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