



Executive Summary
2021 Academic Program Review
College of Business

Accounting and Tax [CIP: 520301 and 521601]

Review Team

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Degree Programs by Level

Undergraduate Programs:

Accounting (B.B.A. and B.S.)

Graduate Programs:

Master of Accounting (M.AC.)

Master of Taxation (M.TX.)

Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration with Accounting concentration (Ph.D.)

Mission and Purpose

The Mission of the School of Accounting at Florida Atlantic University is to provide a comprehensive accounting education to a diverse student body; publish relevant accounting research; and actively engage students and faculty in leadership, professional, and service activities.

To support the mission, the School of Accounting subscribes to the following strategies:

Provide a comprehensive accounting education to a diverse student body

- Provide undergraduate and graduate curricula that give students the knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and applied research skills necessary to be successful in the accounting profession
- Prepare accounting students for career-oriented and professional accounting positions
- Place PhD graduates at academic institutions where research is valued
- Staff the accounting courses with qualified faculty

Publish relevant accounting research

- Publish research in leading academic and professional journals
- Provide an environment that encourages the production of high-quality research

Actively engage students and faculty in leadership, professional, and service activities

- Provide editorial and reviewer services for respected academic journals and academic meetings
- Participate in national academic organizations and professional accounting organizations
- Provide leadership at Florida Atlantic University and in the College of Business
- Support co-curricular activities that foster student leadership and civic engagement

Strategic Goals and Action Plans

Goal 1. Improve the undergraduate and graduate accounting curriculum.

The School of Accounting will reassess its curriculum and implement changes it believes are necessary to improve the curriculum. This assessment will be informed by a joint effort, known as CPA Evolution, of the AICPA and the National State Boards of Accountancy which recently created a new model for licensure and made changes to its model curriculum. The desire of the School is to provide our students with the best possible education so that they are ready to enter the workforce.

Goal 2. Review the Accounting Scholars Program (ASP) and make improvements to the Program.

The School of Accounting faculty will look for ways to improve the educational experience of students in the Accounting Scholars Program (ASP). One path that will be considered is converting the ASP, which is an undergraduate program, to a 3+2 program, which would allow high-performing students the opportunity to earn a master's degree in accounting or tax in an efficient manner. An additional avenue that will be explored is offering honors sections of accounting principles courses; this path could result in better preparation of students for honors study in upper-division accounting classes.

Goal 3. Recruit and retain high-quality students into the undergraduate accounting program.

The School of Accounting will examine ways to attract high performing students at earlier stages in their educational experience. The faculty will explore the efficacy of direct admission of high school students into the College of Business as accounting majors and ways to attract and retain the interest of these students.

Goal 4. Review and, if desirable, move towards separate AACSB accreditation.

The College of Business is an accredited AACSB institution. However, AACSB also provides separate accreditation for accounting programs. At FAU, the School of Accounting (SOA) participates in AACSB accreditation when the College of Business is under review; however, the

SOA is not separately accredited. The faculty will explore the desirability of separate AACSB accreditation and, if determined desirable, work with the Dean to achieve this accreditation.

Goal 5. Improve connections with accounting students and alumni.

The School of Accounting wishes to create and maintain better connections with accounting graduates of the program. Various ways to improve connections, such as encouraging students to connect to an Alumni FAU Accounting LinkedIn account, will be explored.

Goal 6. Incorporate coverage of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a meaningful way within the accounting curriculum.

The School of Accounting is committed to creating an awareness of the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace and make students aware of the benefits that different perspectives add to the business environment. To this end, the School will determine the best way to incorporate this coverage.

Goal 7. Provide valuable and viable concentrations in the Master of Accounting degree programs and certificate programs in the SOAEP.

The School of Accounting will examine opportunities to offer new concentrations in the Master of Accounting degree program and certificates administered by the School of Accounting Executive Programs.