

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

Graduate Programs—PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST

UGPC APPROVAL _____
 UFS APPROVAL _____
 CATALOG _____

DEPARTMENT:
 SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

COLLEGE:
 BUSINESS

PROGRAM NAME: MASTER OF ACCOUNTING

EFFECTIVE DATE
 (PROVIDE TERM/YEAR)

FALL 2013

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REQUESTED CHANGE(S) AND OFFER RATIONALE BELOW AND/OR ATTACHED:

MASTER OF ACCOUNTING (TAX). PLEASE SEE MEMO ATTACHED.

Faculty contact, email and complete phone number:

Dr. Karen Hooks, khooks@fau.edu,
 (561) 297-3932

Consult and list departments that might be affected by the change and attach comments.

Approved by:

Department Chair: 

College Curriculum Chair: 

College Dean: 

UGPC Chair: _____

Graduate College Dean: _____

UFS President: _____

Provost: _____

Date:

3/1/13

3/11/13

3.12.13

Email this form and syllabus to UGPC@fau.edu one week before the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.



College of Business
School of Accounting
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March 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: COB Graduate Council

FROM: Mary Walsh, Instructor
School of Accounting

THROUGH: Karen Hooks, Professor
Chair, SOA Curriculum Committee
School of Accounting

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Tax Concentration in the SOA Master of Accounting Program

Rationale for Requesting the Addition of a Concentration in Tax

The School of Accounting proposes to offer a Tax concentration to our Master of Accounting (MAC) students, the "MAC (Tax)."

The concentration would require no changes to the current MAC curriculum. Students wishing to earn the Tax concentration would take designated TAX courses as electives.

The MAC (Tax) will be implemented using current resources. We are already offering the courses necessary for the concentration. No new courses would be required and no additional faculty would be required.

Because students may take the courses necessary for the Tax concentration now and meet existing MAC degree requirements, we do not believe that this concentration represents a "significant change" to the MAC degree. The formalization of this concentration seeks to provide MAC students who wish to develop tax expertise with a degree designation reflecting their efforts. This degree designation also alerts potential employers to the tax expertise developed by the student.

JUSTIFICATION

Most of our MAC students either hold undergraduate degrees in Accounting or hold undergraduate Business degrees but have taken a fair amount of accounting courses. Typically, undergraduate curricula offer a handful of tax courses (for example, here at FAU, we offer three undergraduate tax courses). Thus, the focus in undergraduate accounting is on areas other than tax (mainly, financial accounting).

Several of our MAC students are interested in developing more tax expertise and already take tax courses for their electives. Graduate tax courses may be used to qualify for CPA licensure.

Additionally, prospective employers of our MAC students (CPA firms, mainly) have expressed a desire for their new hires to have more exposure to tax.

Both the MAC students and prospective employers would benefit from the development of a tax-specific degree designation within the MAC degree itself. We believe that, if given a degree designation for their efforts, several MAC students will take the tax track courses – particularly those who have undergraduate degrees in accounting and who may wish to deepen their tax expertise.

The designation will indicate to potential employers that a candidate holding the MAC (Tax) degree has significant exposure to tax.

Currently, the School of Accounting offers 8 – 9 different graduate tax courses over 4 terms. Given that overall MTX enrollment hovers at around 25 students, and most of our classes have a 35 student cap, there is capacity in the tax classes to take on additional students. Further, given there are over 200 MAC students, there is ample population available to take advantage of the track.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

Given that the development of this concentration is designed to take advantage of existing resources that have capacity, we do not anticipate that there will be any need for additional resources to implement the concentration.

Admission: No special admission criteria or resources are required. We propose that any student who has been accepted into the FAU MAC program may earn the Tax concentration upon completion of the required courses.

- Students seeking the concentration must make a request to the School of Accounting no later than the beginning of the semester before graduation so that degree review and completion may be accomplished in an orderly fashion.
- If the concentration is approved, the School of Accounting will contact all existing MAC students to inform them of concentration availability. Also, upon admission, the School of Accounting will contact all new MAC students to inform them of concentration availability.

Grade Requirements: Because these courses represent MAC Core and Elective courses, existing grade requirements apply. Specifically, students must earn at least a “C” or better in each course while maintaining at least a “B” (3.0) GPA.