**Assessment report from September 2018 to January 2020**

**School of Accountancy, Shidler College of Business**

**Director: Hamid Pourjalali**

The School of Accountancy (SOA) reviewed its undergraduate and graduate curriculums by taking the following actions:

A) Identifying Missions of the SOA, undergraduate and graduate programs and assessment of learning in the programs

On **November 26, 2018**, the SOA faculty approved the following after considering the input from the SOA Advisory Board:

**SOA Mission:**

**We are an academic community whose mission is to provide students with excellence in accounting education and a sense of professional responsibility relevant to a global economy and to advance accounting knowledge through quality research.**

**Undergraduate Accounting Mission:**

**The mission of the undergraduate program in accounting is to educate students in the preparation, presentation, and evaluation of accounting information**.

Assessment of learning in the undergraduate program in accounting: Students can demonstrate an understanding of financial, managerial, and tax accounting concepts. (200, 401, 323, 321), C- or above

Students can demonstrate the usage of financial, managerial, and tax accounting information. (460, b, c, e), research projects

Students can evaluate accounting information systems' reliability and design an effective audit program (409, 418). Project...

**MAcc Mission:**

**The mission of the Master's of Accounting Program is to further advance students' accounting knowledge and to develop analytical, research, and communication skills in becoming professional accountants.**

Students can demonstrate knowledge of advanced accounting and tax subjects (415, 407) Passing grades (B- or above)

Students can utilize analytical and research skills for problem-solving (625- research project and 648-financial statement analysis case/project)

Students demonstrate written and oral communication skills in a professional setting (625-written, 616 oral)

Students can integrate their knowledge and skills to address contemporary accounting issues (660). (B- or above)

**Ph.D. Program Mission:**

**The mission of the Ph.D. Program is to train students to become scholars in accounting and to place them in institutions where research and teaching are encouraged and rewarded.**

Ph.D. students are equipped with the capability to discover critical accounting research questions coupled with the ability to address them effectively.

Ph.D. students are capable of high-quality instruction of undergraduate level accounting courses.

B) Assessment of learning in the programs

Based on the learning objectives for undergraduate and master of accounting programs, [the assessment of learning for the Spring of 2019 took place](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KeU-093eE7ZAlBbVv1tRgswSyKUxDgGxDqPWZ8szpqk/edit#gid=0). An evaluation of the assessment results indicated that the SOA met learning objectives in the Spring of 2019. The SOA postponed the Spring-of-2020 Assessment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

C) Identifying necessary changes in accounting programs:

C-1) Mentorship program:

Because of COVID-19 pandemics, SOA undergraduate and graduate accounting students were not able to meet in person. So, they could not improve their interactive skills (such as verbal communications, leadership skills, professional interactions). Consequently, the SOA initiated the [Mentorship Program](https://shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/mcp-program-for-soa-webpage.docx) in the Fall of 2020 and matched over 120 students with professional volunteer mentors. [The program's feedback](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rrTAG8mK5UWQDQxghYDKIwBzsLtqiHY3/view?usp=sharing) indicated a successful program. Based on comments collected, [actions to improve the program](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12oRYFMLecMIT4ijrGQ3X-oRtGYbYc9IH5vfoBDQpSXk/edit?usp=sharing) were identified and implemented in November and December 2020.

C-2) Ph.D. program with accounting concentration:

To improve the quality of the Ph.D. program, the SOA took the following steps

* [Identified deficiencies and improved the Ph.D. program handbook](https://shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/accountingphdstudenthandbook-08262020.pdf)
* [Improved the quality and the number of accounting Shidler Speakers](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/soa/speakers)
* The SOA offered the [Hawaii Accounting Research Conference](https://manoa.hawaii.edu/harc/)
* The SOA planned the [Hawaii Accounting Research Doctoral Institutes (HARDI)](https://manoa.hawaii.edu/harc/hardi/). HARDI will be offered in June of 2021
* Improved the assessment of Research Assistantship
* Changed its plans on offering accounting Ph.D. seminars from two a semester to one a semester

C-3) Undergraduate accounting program:

In the Fall of 2020, the faculty of the School of Accountancy reviewed the [undergraduate programs of the top 22 accounting schools](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SlX0ZOQpMgsbktveFDphR8usobTfywKa/view) in the U.S. The faculty extended the study further by including undergraduate programs of schools identified in Shidler College AACSB reports as [peer and aspirant schools](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/undergrad-courses-for-aspirant-institutions.xlsx). The results of these meetings are reported as follows:

* [Minutes of Introductory Accounting (200/210) meeting on 10/5/2020](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/introductory-accounting-curriculum-committee.docx)
  + [Changes and Reasons for Changes](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/acc-201_202-curriculum-change-4_2_18.docx)
* [Minutes of Audit, Managerial, AIS, and Skills meeting on10/19/2020](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/october-19-2020-audit-mgrl-ais-skills-meeting-notes.docx)
* [Minutes of Financial Accounting meeting on 10/12/2020](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/soa-financial-accounting-committee-meeting-on-10-12-2020.docx)
* [Minutes of Tax Accounting meeting on 11/2, 2020](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/minutes-of-tax-committee.docx)
* [Minutes of Curriculum Faculty meeting 10/26/2020](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/10-26-2020-soa-faculty-meeting-minutes.docx)

Overall, the faculty recommended that the Data Analytics course be offered for all Business undergraduate majors, without any other significant changes to the undergraduate curriculum.

C-4) 3/2 and MAcc programs:

In the Fall of 2020, the School of Accountancy faculty reviewed the [Masters](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15XoC8kCP6GajhoP8LjEyfLKLzyFqRgxgxltxlRwrpPY/edit?usp=sharing)and [3/2 Masters programs of the top 22 accounting schools](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TBOtaMS-3Z9SW0pB1mu8_dm2pUDvaTmzQCeJCnJq9Hc/edit#gid=1213527111) in the U.S. The faculty extended the study further by including graduate programs of schools identified in Shidler College AACSB reports as [peer and aspirant schools](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/graduate-courses-for-aspirant-institutions_0.xlsx). The results of these meetings are reported as follows:

* [Minutes of faculty meeting on MAcc Curriculum on 11/09/2020](https://shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/11-09-2020-soa-faculty-meeting-minutes.docx)
* [Minutes of faculty Subcommittee meeting on Auditing, AIS, Skills, and Tax on 11/23/2020](https://shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/11-23-2020-auditing-tax-ais-skills-subcommittee-minutes.docx)
* [Minutes of Tax Subcommittee on 12/2/2020](https://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/sites/shidler.hawaii.edu/files/soa/Curriculum-Review-2020/12-2-20-minutes-of-tax-subcommitte.docx)

In the meeting of November 23, 2020, the Subcommittee reaffirmed the changes to the number of credits (from 1 to variable 1 to 3 credits) for Acc 649- Data Analytics for Accountants. Given the small number of MAcc candidates and the lack of large manufacturing companies in Hawaii, the Committee recommended that no additional managerial accounting course was necessary for the MAcc curriculum. On the meetings of November 23 and December 2, 2020, the subcommittees recommended the following items to the faculty of the SOA, which was consequently reviewed in the SOA faculty meeting held on December 7, 2020:

* Change Acc 619 coverage: AIS contents include automated aspects, I.T. governance, risk assessment, I.T. operations, and controls, security, business continuity, and change management. **Approved**
* Improve Data Analytics ACC649 coverage: the newly created course with a broader concept of “analytics” emphasizing accounting and business, such as audit, managerial, financial statement, and tax issues. **Approved.**
* Add the term “ethics” in “law for accountants” and relevant topic but keep the credit hours to three (make it variable course). **Tabled.**
* Shorten Corporate Governance to less credit (one credit), enough time to cover US Corporate Governance. **Tabled**
* Make fraud examination and forensic accounting to two credits may attract MAcc students and match it with one credit (such as Analytics). **Tabled until we have better information on the demand and the effects of one and two credit courses**
* Consider creating a tax center. With the goals of creating a tax assistantship program with and a long-term view of more involvement in tax research and policies in the State of Hawaii. **Tabled until the issue is discussed with accounting students.**

D) Coordination with the Law School

The first joined meeting took place on December 2, 2020 with the following objectives in mind:

* Update the tax Subcommittee membership by including Professor Mirkay of the Law School (Dell, Kawafuchi, Love, Pearson, and Woollen). Request that the Tax Subcommittee will continue to work on these objectives.
* Clarify any problems relating to accepting courses in other Schools (Law and Business) towards students' degree requirements.
* Offering classes as a topic course in different units (for example, ACC 690).
* Begin by coordinating on one or two classes. For example, verify if MAcc students can take Law School’s State and Local Taxation offered in the Spring of 2021 semester and use that course towards their degree requirement.

E) Conclusion of the report:

The SOA faculty believe that our undergraduate and Ph.D. program with an accounting concentration curriculums are well designed. Since the faculty have continuously updated the curriculums, we do not need to take any additional actions. Furthermore, the SOA's mentorship program and future tax assistantship program (currently under consideration) will enhance our undergraduate students' educational experience.

While the faculty believe that the courses in the Master's of Accounting program are well designed and offered, the SOA can enhance its offering by improving coordination within the Shidler College (e.g., with the ITM department) and outside the Shidler College (e.g., the Law School).