

Proposed Accounting Program Accreditation Principles

Approved by the Board of Commissioners May 2017

A1.1: Commitment to Integrity, Responsibility, and Ethical Behavior

Excellence in accounting education requires the academic accounting unit to act ethically, responsibly, and with integrity in all interactions with its stakeholders. Furthermore, the academic accounting unit must have established systems for encouraging and upholding ethical and responsible behavior.

A1.2: Summary Reflection on the Commitment to Integrity, Responsibility, and Ethical Behavior

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and its educational processes and activities in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate (i) the extent to which it acts ethically and responsibly in its interactions with its stakeholders and (ii) the effectiveness of its commitment to integrity and responsibility in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A2.1: Assessment Planning

Excellence in accounting education requires the development of a comprehensive plan for assessing the extent of student learning in the institution's accounting programs and the operational effectiveness of the academic accounting unit. Furthermore, the plan must be driven by the mission of the academic accounting unit, must be linked to the strategic planning processes of the institution and the academic accounting unit, and must involve accounting faculty in all aspects of its development.

A2.2: Assessment of Student Learning and Operational Effectiveness

Excellence in accounting education is evaluated through the assessment of the academic accounting unit's mission and broad-based goals, intended student learning outcomes, and intended operational outcomes. This requires the academic accounting unit to have fully implemented its outcomes assessment plan.

A2.3: Continuous Quality Improvement

Excellence in accounting education requires the academic accounting unit to be engaged in a process of continuous improvement in its programs and operations. This process includes the identification of necessary changes and improvements as a result of the implementation of the academic accounting unit's outcomes assessment plan, the development of action plans for making those changes and improvements, and the documentation of the realized outcomes from the execution of the action plans.

A2.4: Summary Reflection on Quality Assessment and Advancement

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its processes for quality assessment and advancement in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A3.1 Strategic Planning

Excellence in accounting education requires an effective strategic planning process that focuses the academic accounting unit's decision making toward defined goals, is linked to the unit's outcomes assessment process, and provides an overall strategic direction for guiding the unit into the future. The strategic planning process is also informed by the input of the various stakeholders of the academic accounting unit. Furthermore, the academic accounting unit must have used the process for continuous improvement in its overall performance and its accounting programs.

A3.2 Summary Reflection on Strategic Planning

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the accounting unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its strategic planning process in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A4.1 Accounting Program Development and Design

Excellence in accounting education requires the academic accounting unit to have effective curriculum management processes for developing and designing its accounting programs. Furthermore, the design of each accounting program offered by the academic accounting unit must be future-oriented and consistent with current, acceptable accounting practices and the expectations of professionals in the academic and accounting communities. In addition, the curriculum of each accounting program must cultivate critical career-appropriate core competencies in accounting and must maximize the likelihood that the intended learning outcomes for the program will be achieved.

A4.2 Curricula of Undergraduate-Level Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires the content in the curricula of undergraduate-level accounting programs to develop the body of knowledge and skills necessary in order to prepare students to be competent accounting professionals.

A4.3 Curricula of Master's-Level Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires the content in the curricula of master's-level accounting programs to build upon the foundational knowledge and skills that are developed in bachelor's-level programs and to provide learning opportunities appropriate for advanced study in accounting.

A4.4 Curricula of Doctoral-Level Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires the curricula of doctoral-level programs in accounting to prepare students to make significant scholarly contributions to the academy or professional practice.

A4.5 International Dimensions of Accounting

Excellence in accounting education requires accounting students to be prepared to function effectively in a changing global environment. Therefore, the academic accounting unit, through its curricula and co-curricular programs, must ensure that students possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to understand and deal effectively with critical issues in a dynamic global accounting and business environment.

A4.6 Information Technology Skills

Excellence in accounting education requires academic accounting units to integrate learning opportunities relating to current and emerging business information technologies into the curricula of its accounting programs.

A4.7 Curriculum Review, Renewal, and Improvement

Excellence in accounting education requires curricula that are current and relevant, and that prepare students to be competent accounting professionals. Therefore, curriculum review, renewal, and improvement must be an ongoing process that is supported by outcomes assessment, the results of which are used to ensure excellence in the accounting programs offered by the academic accounting unit.

A4.8: Summary Reflection on Accounting Curricula and Learning Opportunities

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its curricula, curricula-related processes, and program learning opportunities in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A5.1: Qualifications of Accounting Faculty

Excellence in accounting education requires highly-qualified faculty. Therefore, the faculty who teach in accounting programs must possess significant academic and professional preparation.

A5.2: Deployment of Accounting Faculty

Excellence in accounting education requires appropriate program coverage and oversight by qualified faculty.

A5.3: Scholarly and Professional Activities of Accounting Faculty

Excellence in accounting education requires accounting faculty members in the academic accounting unit to be involved in scholarly and professional activities that enhance the depth and scope of their knowledge and teaching competencies, especially as they apply to their teaching disciplines.

A5.4: Professional Development of Accounting Faculty

Excellence in accounting education requires accounting faculty to be engaged in a process of continuous improvement. Therefore, the academic accounting unit must provide opportunities for the professional development of faculty that are consistent with the expectations of the institution and its faculty, the mission and broad-based goals of the academic accounting unit, and the academic, business, and accounting communities.

A5.5: Evaluation of Accounting Faculty

Excellence in accounting education requires institutions and their academic accounting units to have effective processes for faculty evaluation. Therefore, each institution must have a formal system of faculty evaluation for use in personnel decisions.

A5.6: Summary Reflection on Accounting Faculty Characteristics, Activities, and Processes

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its faculty characteristics and activities and its faculty-related processes in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A6.1: Admissions Policies and Procedures

Excellence in accounting education requires clear, transparent, and effective admissions policies and procedures that are appropriate to the expectations of the institution's accounting programs and that are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.

A6.2: Academic Policies and Procedures

Excellence in accounting education requires clear, transparent, and effective policies and procedures pertaining to student academic performance and progression toward degree completion. These policies and procedures must be applied in a fair and consistent manner.

A6.3: Career Development and Planning Services

Excellence in accounting education requires effective support for the career development of accounting students, including career planning services, placement assistance or appropriate practices as deemed by the institution..

A6.4: Summary Reflection on Student Policies, Procedures, and Processes

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its student policies, procedures, and processes in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A7.1: Financial Resources Supporting Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires financial resources that are sufficient to support a high-quality learning environment in the academic accounting unit and to accomplish its mission and broad-based goals.

A7.2: Facilities Supporting Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires the physical facilities available to the academic accounting unit to be of sufficient quality to support a high-quality learning environment for its accounting programs.

A7.3: Learning Resources Supporting Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires a comprehensive library and other necessary learning resources to be available to accounting students and faculty.

A7.4: Technological Resources Supporting Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires sufficient instructional and technological resources and support to be provided to accounting faculty and students.

A7.5: Other Instructional Locations

Excellence in accounting education requires adequate resources to be available at all branch campuses, educational locations, and instructional sites at which accounting programs are offered.

A7.6: Summary Reflection on Resources Supporting Accounting Programs

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its various resources in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A8.1: External Linkages with the Accounting Community

Excellence in accounting education requires the academic accounting unit to have current and meaningful linkages to accounting practitioners and organizations. These linkages must be consistent with the unit's mission and broad-based goals.

A8.2: External Accountability

Excellence in accounting education requires academic accounting units to be accountable to the public for the quality of their degree programs in accounting. Therefore, the academic accounting unit must have processes for the consistent, reliable public disclosure of information pertaining to student success in its accounting programs. These processes must include the posting of student success results for each IACBE-accredited accounting program on its website in a manner that is accessible by the public.

A8.3: Summary Reflection on External Relationships

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its external relationships in supporting excellence in accounting education.

A9.1: Innovation in Accounting Education

Excellence in accounting education requires the academic accounting unit to adapt to changes in the accounting profession, business, and society. Therefore, the academic accounting unit must provide an environment that encourages and recognizes innovation and creativity in the education of accounting students.

A9.2: Summary Reflection on Innovation in Accounting Education

Excellence in accounting education requires an evaluation of the academic accounting unit's academic resources and educational processes in terms of their contributions to the unit's overall performance relative to its mission. This requires the academic accounting unit to evaluate the effectiveness of its processes for fostering educational innovation in supporting excellence in accounting education.