

ACCOUNTING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT  
EVIDENTIARY DATA  
August 5, 2009

The primary vehicles used in the assessment of the Accounting Program are Accounting Major Graduate Tracking and a Comprehensive Accounting Examination. The evidentiary results of an analysis of the results of those two tools follows.

Accounting Major Graduate Tracking

The major confirmation of the effectiveness of a practically-oriented program such as Accounting is the success of its graduates in finding appropriate employment upon graduation. We have defined success for assessment purposes as a position suitable for a college graduate in Accounting. These positions include such job titles as Accountant, Staff Auditor, etc. Positions not normally requiring a college degree such as Bookkeeper, Accounting Clerk, Administrative Assistant do not qualify as success under our criteria. We also tracked graduates on their first job after graduation, and not subsequently, as this is the most appropriate measure of the immediate value of a Chaminade Accounting degree.

Admission into a masters program is also considered as a success under our assessment criteria.

We have set a threshold of 50% of our Accounting graduates finding appropriate employment as the measure of the success of our program. That figure, albeit somewhat arbitrary, was derived based on anecdotal evidence from prior graduating Accounting students.

Based on these criteria, we tracked the Accounting graduates for Fall 2006, Spring 2007 and Fall 2007, 80% (8 of 10) of our Accounting graduates have found appropriate employment or have been accepted into an MBA program. Note that the two graduates designed as not successful are so labeled not because they didn't find suitable employment, but because one could not be contacted for verification and the other is a very recent graduate who is still pursuing employment.

Comprehensive Accounting Examination

A comprehensive examination was administered to graduating seniors as part of the Auditing course. Because national comprehensive exams are yet yet prevalent in Accounting, we developed our own exam. Although not a capstone course, the Auditing course is typically (but not always) taken in the final semester of a student's undergraduate degree. The exam consisted of 85 multiple-choice questions covering all

topics covered in a student's Accounting education. Students were given 2 hours to complete the exam.

Until such time as a database of test scores is established, an arbitrary score of 50% was used as the criteria for success of the program. The exam was administered starting in the Spring of 2007.

Based on the results of the results of the exam, 3 of the 7 students who took the exam did not meet the 50% threshold. Although the 50% threshold was arbitrary, the results indicate that the retention of information from the beginning of the program to the end was somewhat lacking in some cases.