

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
**Request for a New Academic Program**

**Campus:** East

**Proposed Type (minor, certificate, etc.) and Title of Program:** Certificate in Accounting

**Proposed Date of Implementation:** Spring 2012

**I. Why is the program needed? (Rationale)**

The program fills a need of students who hold a bachelor's degree in areas other than accounting and wish to pursue a CPA license and/or career in accounting. The certificate is designed for students who hold a bachelor's degree. The certificate provides the required number of credit hours in accounting needed to sit for the CPA exam in Indiana and Ohio. Currently, the requirements to sit for the CPA exam in Indiana and Ohio include the following:

- 24 credit hours in Accounting (beyond the Principles level in Ohio)
- 24 credit hours in Business and Economics courses
- A total of 150 credit hours
- A Bachelor's degree

In 2012, all states will require 150 credit hours to sit for the CPA exam. This should create a greater demand for flexible programs in which students can earn the additional credit hours beyond a bachelor's degree. By offering this certificate online, IUE can most likely attract students from all states. The majority of the courses required in this certificate are already developed and offered in online delivery. The few remaining courses are scheduled to be developed for online delivery soon.

The educational requirements to take the CPA exam differ by state; however, this certificate will meet the requirements to sit for the CPA exam in states other than Indiana and Ohio.

Master's of Accountancy programs allow students to earn the additional credit hours to meet the 150-credit-hour requirement for the CPA exam; however, most require students to hold a bachelor's degree in Accounting and to earn a minimum score on the GMAT exam. A student with a bachelor's degree in another field is often required to complete courses in Accounting before admission into the Master's of Accountancy program.

This certificate allows students to meet the educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam in fewer credit hours and without having to take entrance exams such as the GMAT. The certificate also provides the opportunity for IUE graduates of the BS-BA program who did not complete an Accounting Concentration to earn the additional credit hours to meet the educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam.

## II. List major topics or curriculum of the program.

The certificate program provides the required credit hours in Accounting to meet the requirements to sit for the CPA exam in Indiana and Ohio.

1. Students with a bachelor's degree in Business will complete:

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
BUS-A 311*	Intermediate Accounting I	3
BUS-A312	Intermediate Accounting II	3
BUS-A325	Cost Accounting	3
BUS-A328	Introduction to Taxation	3
BUS-A335	Fund Accounting	3
BUS-A339	Advanced Income Tax	3
BUS-A422	Advanced Financial Accounting I	3
BUS-A424	Auditing	3
Electives to meet 150-credit-hour requirement		<u>0-6**</u>
Total credit hours		24-30

\*Students must meet the pre-requisites of BUS-A201 and BUS-A202 before taking BUS-A311.

\*\*Students wishing to sit for the CPA exam in Ohio will select a course in ethics.

(Note: Students wishing to obtain a CPA license in states other than Indiana and Ohio will receive assistance from an academic advisor in determining the academic requirements for that state. Students may need to take additional business courses to meet the educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam.)

## III. List the major student outcomes (or set of performance-based standards) for the proposed program.

Upon completion of the certificate, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in Tax, Auditing, Financial, Governmental, International, and Cost accounting.
- Improve his/her score on CPA-exam-based questions.

## IV. Explain how student outcomes will be assessed (course-embedded assessment, graduate follow-up, employer survey, standardized tests, etc.).

Outcomes will be assessed through the following:

- Quizzes, exams, and/or case studies to measure student proficiency in Tax, Auditing, Financial, Governmental, International, and Cost accounting
- Pre- and post-tests of CPA-exam-based questions to measure student improvement on CPA-exam types of questions

## **V. Describe the student population to be served.**

This certificate helps two populations of students wishing to meet the educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam:

- Students with a bachelor's degree in business
  - Students with a bachelor's degree in business will complete 24-30 credit hours in Accounting, Business, and Economics geared toward providing the accounting knowledge and credit hours needed to sit for the CPA exam in Indiana and Ohio.
- Students with a bachelor's degree in another field
  - Students with a bachelor's degree in a field other than business will complete 24-30 credit hours in accounting. Additional credit hours in Business may be required by the state to meet the educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam.

## **VI. How does the program complement the campus or department mission?**

Indiana University East School of Business and Economics' mission:

*Provide holistic education preparing graduates for professional career and leadership. Graduates are able to perform advanced business processes; to identify, use, and analyze information; to solve business problems; and, to further their personal development.*

This certificate complements the School of Business and Economics mission by preparing its graduates for a professional career in Accounting.

**VII. Describe the relationship to existing programs within Indiana University.**

This certificate provides the opportunity for graduates of the BS-BA program who did not complete an accounting concentration to obtain the additional educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam. In addition, the certificate provides the opportunity for graduates of other programs to change careers or consider dual careers.

**VIII. List and indicate the resources required to implement the proposed program. Indicate sources, e.g. reallocation or any new resources such as personnel, library holdings, equipment, etc.**

No additional resources will be required initially. CPA training materials will be provided free of charge from Gleim. Current library resources are adequate to support this program. The School of Business & Economics is currently offering all the courses in this certificate; therefore, there are sufficient faculty resources. Growth beyond this capacity is not expected in the near future.

**IX. Describe any innovative features of the program (e.g. involvement with local or regional agencies, offices, etc., cooperative efforts with other institutions, etc.).**

Gleim is providing a free site license for their online CPA review course. The materials will be available to students on campus only. Additional study materials can be purchased by students at 50% off the original cost. Gleim has also provided a set of study materials that are currently on reserve in the library.