

# Accounting Masters of Science in Accounting (MSA)

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## *Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose*

### **Institutional Mission Reference**

The M.S. in Accounting offers graduate students a high quality degree program in accounting that meets national standards of excellence and prepares graduates for professional accounting careers in a changing global business world. The Accounting faculty are committed to quality teaching and the discovery of new knowledge, in addition to serving the students, the University, the accounting profession, and the community as a means of student and faculty development. The faculty support the institutional mission to serve a diverse student population and provide opportunities for lifelong learning by offering a full nighttime program in advancement of professional education to the Hampton Roads area and to the Commonwealth.

### **Institutional Goal(s) Supported**

The M.S. in Accounting supports the University goals of 1) quality graduate academic programs, 2) quality teaching, 3) discovery of new knowledge, 4) lifelong learning, and 5) community service. (Old Dominion University Catalog 2000-2002 pp. 3-4, Strategic Plan 2000-2005 pp. 8-9)

## *Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results*

### **Intended Outcome 1**

Students will receive more in-depth knowledge of accounting and related business subjects, including professional ethics, tax, and legal environment.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed by reviewing the accounting and business core curriculum on a regular basis to the recommended curriculum of the American Institute of CPAs, the Institute of Management of Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, and the American Accounting Association. All Accounting faculty are involved in this process biannually, and adjustments to course content are instituted in the next full semester.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1:** Assessment was done during the 2001-2002 Academic Year and resulted in the creation of five tracks (CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems) within the MSA program.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through contact with accounting employers in the Hampton Roads area at practitioner sponsored events and through a survey every three years of these employers regarding the skills needed in the workplace. A goal of 80% high satisfaction with the current program is expected.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 1:** Contact with accounting employers is being done. Nearly all faculty are members of and actively participate in local chapters of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Management Accountants or Association of Government Accountants. An employer survey was completed during the Summer 2002 with a satisfaction rating greater than 80%.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through a survey of alumni every three years as to their work and educational experiences following graduation. The goal of 80% placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and 80% exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 1:** Alumni survey was completed during 2002-2003 academic year and placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree exceeded 80%.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program:** MSA program was revised to include five tracks: CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems.

**Intended Outcome 2**

Students will develop a more comprehensive knowledge of management dimensions of accounting.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed by reviewing the accounting and business core curriculum on a regular basis to the recommended curriculum of the American Institute of CPAs, the Institute of Management of Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, and the American Accounting Association. All Accounting faculty are involved in this process biannually, and adjustments to course content are instituted in the next full semester.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2:** Assessment was done during the 2001-2002 Academic Year and resulted in the creation of five tracks (CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems) within the MSA program.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through contact with accounting employers in the Hampton Roads area at practitioner sponsored events and through a survey every three years of these employers regarding the skills needed in the workplace. A goal of 80% high satisfaction with the current program is expected.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2:** Contact with accounting employers is being done. Nearly all faculty are members of and actively participate in local chapters of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Management Accountants or Association of Government Accountants. An employer survey was completed during the Summer 2002 with a satisfaction rating greater than 80%.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through a survey of alumni every three years as to their work and educational experiences following graduation. The goal of 80% placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and 80% exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2:** Alumni survey was completed during 2002-2003 academic year and placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree exceeded 80%.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 2 to Improve Academic Program:** MSA program was revised to include five tracks: CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems.

**Intended Outcome 3**

Students will develop oral and written communication and information technology skills.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed by reviewing the accounting and business core curriculum on a regular basis to the recommended curriculum of the American Institute of CPAs, the Institute of Management of Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, and the American Accounting Association. All Accounting faculty are involved in this process biannually, and adjustments to course content are instituted in the next full semester.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3:** Assessment was done during the 2001-2002 Academic Year and resulted in the creation of five tracks (CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems) within the MSA program.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through contact with accounting employers in the Hampton Roads area at practitioner sponsored events and through a survey every three years of these employers regarding the skills needed in the workplace. A goal of 80% high satisfaction with the current program is expected.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3:** Contact with accounting employers is being done. Nearly all faculty are members of and actively participate in local chapters of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Management Accountants or Association of Government Accountants. An employer survey was completed during the Summer 2002 with a satisfaction rating greater than 80%.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through a survey of alumni every three years as to their work and educational experiences following graduation. The goal of 80% placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and 80% exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3:** Alumni survey was completed during 2002-2003 academic year and placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree exceeded 80%.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program:** MSA program was revised to include five tracks: CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems.

**Intended Outcome 4:** Students will receive more enhanced career opportunities in public accounting, business, non-profit organizations, government, and higher education.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through contact with accounting employers in the Hampton Roads area at practitioner sponsored events and through a survey every three years of these employers regarding the skills needed in the workplace. A goal of 80% high satisfaction with the current program is expected.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4:** Contact with accounting employers is being done. Nearly all faculty are members of and actively participate in local chapters of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Management Accountants or Association of Government Accountants. An employer survey was completed during the Summer 2002 with a satisfaction rating greater than 80%.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through a survey of alumni every three years as to their work and educational experiences following graduation. The goal of 80% placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and 80% exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 4:** Alumni survey was completed during 2002-2003 academic year and placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree exceeded 80%.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome will be assessed for students participating in an internship by receiving a satisfactory evaluation on accounting knowledge from their site supervisor as well as their faculty supervisor. The goal is 100% of students will receive this rating, and 85% will receive a good or excellent evaluation.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 4:** Of the nearly 15 internships that graduate students have completed during the 2001,2002, and 2003 academic years, only one student failed to receive a good or excellent evaluation at the internship's conclusion.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 4 to Improve Academic Program:** MSA program was revised to include five tracks: CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems.

#### **Intended Outcome 5**

Students will obtain the technical competency to take professional certification examinations in Accounting.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed by reviewing the accounting and business core curriculum on a regular basis to the recommended curriculum of the American Institute of CPAs, the Institute of Management of Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, and the American Accounting Association. All Accounting faculty are involved in this process biannually, and adjustments to course content are instituted in the next full semester.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 5:** Assessment was done during the 2001-2002 Academic Year and resulted in the creation of five tracks (CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems) within the MSA program.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through contact with accounting employers in the Hampton Roads area at practitioner sponsored events and through a survey every three years of these employers regarding the skills needed in the workplace. A goal of 80% high satisfaction with the current program is expected.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 5:** Contact with accounting employers is being done. Nearly all faculty are members of and actively participate in local chapters of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Management Accountants or Association of Government Accountants. An employer survey was completed during the Summer 2002 with a satisfaction rating greater than 80%.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** Outcome is assessed through a survey of alumni every three years as to their work and educational experiences following graduation. The goal of 80% placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and 80% exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 5:** Alumni survey was completed during 2002-2003 academic year and placement of alumni in positions highly related to their major and exhibiting high satisfaction with their degree exceeded 80%.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 5 to Improve Academic Program:** MSA program was revised to include five tracks: CPA, Business Assurance, Management Accounting, Taxation, and Systems.