

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS
ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report for the Bachelor of Arts Programs in Business, Master of Accounting Program, and Master of Business Administration Program in the College of Business Administration at the University of Northern Iowa.

Executive Summary: The programs (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The programs were accredited for the full five-year period through 2020 without the need for an interim report. This accreditation report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities for “access, affordability, and student success; educational excellence and impact; and economic development and vitality.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of Programs.** The College of Business seeks a strong intellectual life and career fulfillment for students together with enhanced well-being for the larger community. Graduates receive the essential business knowledge and contemporary professional skills necessary for success in the global marketplace.
 - ⇒ The Bachelor of Arts Programs in Business consist of a core of 39 credits common to all majors, as well as 18-21 credits of additional elective and required coursework specific to each major.
 - ⇒ The Master of Accounting Program emphasizes applied accounting research skills, communication skills, problem-solving capabilities, and other skills and knowledge required to be a successful professional accountant in public accounting, business, and government. Program completion also satisfies Iowa’s 150-hour requirement for CPA licensure.
 - ⇒ The Master of Business Administration Program is a broad-based, integrated program which emphasizes the functional areas of business to provide the graduate with a balance between theoretical knowledge and practical business operations. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of working professionals with undergraduate backgrounds in the liberal arts, sciences, engineering, and business.

- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.

- ◇ Accrediting Agency. The accrediting body is the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).
- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the undergraduate and graduate programs in business contained the responses to the appropriate standards required by the accrediting body – mission, impact, innovation; intellectual contributions, impact, and alignment with mission; financial strategies and allocation of resources; student admissions, progression, and career development; faculty sufficiency and deployment; faculty management and support; curricula management and assurance of learning; curriculum content; student-faculty interactions; degree program educational level, structure, and equivalence; teaching effectiveness; student academic and professional engagement; executive education’ and faculty qualifications and engagement.
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In January 2015, the visiting team determined that the Bachelor of Arts Programs in Business, Master of Accounting Program, and Master of Business Administration Program met the requirements for accredited status, without the need for an interim report.
- ◇ Sample Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.
 - ☑ “The College of Business has a high level of engagement, innovation and impact consistent with its mission.
 - ☑ The strategic management process is strong and involves all major stakeholders. Input is solicited from diverse groups of stakeholders, such as faculty, Dean’s Executive Advisory Board, and presidents of student groups.
 - ☑ The Professional Readiness program and its breadth of participation are unique and impactful. The Business and Community Services provided by the College involve a high level of commitment and are a strength of the College and the University. The summer study fly free offer for students has helped to significantly increase the number of students who participate in international study opportunities.
 - ☑ All staff are well qualified and facilitate and support learning and provide essential services for students and faculty.
 - ☑ UNIBusiness has a culture support of continuous improvement in regards to curricula development, teaching, and learning.
 - ☑ The school has a well-developed Assurance of Learning program that includes a high degree of involvement by the faculty.
 - ☑ There is a general high regard for the dean, the dean’s office, and College administration.”
- ◇ Opportunities for Continuous Improvement Relevant to the Accreditation Standards.
 - ☑ “To transition to the 2013 standards regarding faculty qualifications, the College classifies “Academically Qualified” faculty as “Scholarly Academics” and “Professional Qualified” faculty as “Instructional Practitioners.” Few faculty are qualified as “Practice Academics” and “Scholarly Practitioners.” The team recommended that the College consider revisiting their faculty qualification definitions to ensure that PA and SP are utilized if or when appropriate.”

- ◇ Consultative Report on Matters not related to the Accreditation Decision.
 - ☑ “The University should consider ways to increase the opportunity to reward meritorious performance by faculty that could contribute to the enhancement of the College and its national recognition.”

- ◇ Optional Peer Review Team Analysis.
 - ☑ “The accounting program provides a competitive advantage to the College and University. University opportunities to add resources and faculty to that program can contribute to the advancement of the institution. It will also provide an adjustment to the faculty deployment numbers that indicate a high degree of “other” in the report.
 - ☑ With additional resources from the University, the Professional Readiness Program could be expanded to include all College of Business Administration students. As an innovative and best practice program, with additional university resources, it could also be expanded beyond the College to a University-wide model.”

- ◇ Accreditation Status. In April 2015, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business awarded accreditation to the Bachelor of Arts Programs in Business, the Master of Accounting Program, and the Master of Business Administration Program at the University of Northern Iowa for a five-year period through 2020 without the need for an interim report. The Continuous Improvement Review Application will be due on July 1, two years prior to the next review.