

**NEW, REVISED, OR DELETED PROGRAM COVER SHEET
2003-2004
University Curriculum Committee
Undergraduate Programs (Majors, Minors, Sequences)**

DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL Accounting

DATE October 15, 2003

A. Proposed Action: (more than one item may be checked if a revision).

- New Major CIPS CODE _____ (obtain from Planning, Policy Studies and Info Systems)
- New Minor CIPS CODE _____ (obtain from Planning, Policy Studies and Info Systems)
- New Sequence
- Change in requirements for major
- Change in requirements for minor
- Change in requirements for sequence
- Other program revisions
- More than 50% of courses in this program are distance education.
- Program deletion

B. Summary of proposed action (see Part A), including title and exact *Undergraduate Catalog* copy for a new or altered program. (See *Catalog* and Program Checklist for format and examples.) Provide a summary of the revisions in addition to the exact current *Catalog* copy.

Note: this document proposes to subdivide existing requirements for the B.S./M.P.A. degrees and is submitted concurrently to both the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

See attached for summary of proposed action.

C. Routing and action summary:

<p>_____ Department/School Curriculum Committee Chair</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Date Approved</p>	4.	<p>_____ College Dean</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Date Approved</p>
<p>_____ Department Chair/School Director</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Date Approved</p>	5.	<p>_____ Teacher Education Council Chair if appropriate (10 copies to the Dean of the College of Education)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Date Approved</p>
<p>_____ College Committee Chair</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Date Approved</p>	6.	<p>_____ University Curriculum Committee Chair (8 copies to the Catalog Editorial Assistant)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Date Approved</p>

Submit 20 copies of **NEW** Undergraduate proposals to University Curriculum Committee
 Submit 8 copies of **REVISED** Undergraduate proposals to University Curriculum Committee c/o the Undergraduate Catalog Editorial Assistant in 109 Moulton. All new and deleted programs (majors, minors, sequences) are routed by the U.C.C. to the Academic Senate. **The Senate rules mandate electronic submission (in MS Word or HTML format) of all materials for Web site posting. 5/02**

Proposal to subdivide requirements
 for the existing Integrated B.S./M.P.A. Degrees in Accounting
 into
 an Information Systems and Accountancy sequence
 and a Professional Accountancy sequence

Department of Accounting
 Illinois State University
 October 21, 2003

Note: this proposal affects the awarding of both undergraduate and graduate degrees and is expected to be submitted concurrently to the University's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Graduate Curriculum Committee.

1. Summary of proposed changes.

This document proposes that the existing Integrated B.S./M.P.A. program be subdivided into two sequences: an Information Systems and Accountancy [ISA] sequence and a Professional Accountancy [PA] sequence.

Requirements for the newly designated ISA sequence will be identical to requirements for the existing B.S./M.P.A. program.

Requirements for the new PA sequence will be substantially the same as the existing B.S./M.P.A. program, with the principal difference being that students in the PA sequence will not be required to take three information-systems-related courses specifically required in the existing B.S./M.P.A. program [i.e., Acc 368, 468, 472]; instead, PA-sequence students will choose from a list of 300- and 400-level electives in accounting and business subjects which will permit them to study further in such areas as taxation, auditing, financial accounting, managerial accounting, financial management, and information systems.

2. Exact catalog copy for new or altered program

Current catalog copy in 2003/04 Graduate catalog – See “Catalog Copy” (Separate Document)

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF
 A SUBDIVISION* OF A DEGREE OR DEGREE PROGRAM NAME CHANGE

1. Institution: *Illinois State University*
2. Responsible Department/School or Administrative Unit: *Department of Accounting*
3. Proposed Program Title:
Sequence in Professional Accountancy as part of BS/MPA degree
Sequence in Information Systems and Accountancy as part of BS/MPA degree
4. Previous Program Title (if applicable): *Integrated B.S./M.P.A. in Accounting*

5. CIPS Classification (if applicable): Not applicable.
6. Proposed Date of Initiation: *As soon as final approval is obtained, thereby permitting students to elect to have changes applied to them as soon as practicable.*
7. Description of Proposed Program or Name Change: *See Summary of Proposed Changes (Item 1).*
8. Rationale for Proposal: *See attached.*
9. Expected Impact of Proposal on Existing Campus Programs: *See attached.*
10. Curricular Change Including New Courses: *No new courses contemplated by proposal.*
11. Anticipated Staffing Arrangements: *See attached.*
12. Anticipated Funding Needs and Source of Funds: *See attached.*

*e.g., Sequence

Item 8 - Background and Rationale

Background. The Department of Accounting has proposed two separate changes to its graduate curriculum in recent years. In 1998, and largely in response to the so-called "150-hour requirement" to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination in Illinois, the Department proposed to offer—and subsequently was authorized to offer—a new integrated 150-hour B.S./M.P.A. program, which permits students to earn a baccalaureate and master's degree in accountancy as part of an integrated five-year program of course work. In 2003, and in response to a change in University policy concerning the minimum number of hours a department could require for a graduate degree, the Department proposed to lower—and subsequently was authorized to lower—the hours required for its Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) degree from 33 to 30 hours. This change permitted students who had completed a 120-hour undergraduate accountancy degree and our 30-hour MSA degree to meet the 150-hour requirement in an efficient manner.

The "150-hour requirement," which has been adopted by most states, has induced accounting units at many universities to make substantive changes to their graduate curricular programs. Illinois State's Accounting Department is no exception. With this document, the Accounting Department proposes to make what it expects to be the last substantive change to its graduate programs in direct response to the 150-hour requirement. Specifically, the Accounting Department proposes

- (1) to subdivide the B.S./M.P.A. program into two sequences (an Information Systems and Accountancy [ISA] sequence and a Professional Accountancy [PA] sequence),
- (2) to designate the requirements for the existing B.S./M.P.A. degree as requirements for the ISA sequence, and
- (3) to make requirements for the PA sequence substantially the same as the existing B.S./M.P.A. program, with the principal difference being that students in the PA sequence will not be required to take three information-systems-related courses which are specifically required in existing B.S./M.P.A. program [Acc 368, 468, 472]; instead, PA-sequence students will choose from a list of 300- and 400-level electives in accounting and business subjects which will permit them to study further in such areas as taxation, auditing,

financial accounting, managerial accounting, financial management, and information systems.

Rationale. Department of Accounting faculty traditionally have conceived of the undergraduate Accountancy degree as being offered in two basic sequences: an accountancy sequence and an information systems sequence.^[1] This "dual sequence" approach has served the interests of the Department's students and faculty well over the years. After review of its experience with the B.S./M.P.A. program (including feedback from students) and after consideration of important environmental changes and other factors affecting the appropriate content and emphasis of an accounting curriculum (including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002^[2]), a clear majority of the Accounting Department faculty have concluded that the Department should extend the "dual sequence" philosophy that exists for its undergraduate programs to the B.S./M.P.A. program. To implement this philosophy, the Department essentially proposes that a new PA sequence be created, which differs from the existing degree program principally by dropping 9 hours of required information-systems-related coursework from the existing B.S./M.P.A. program and instead requiring 9 hours of accountancy or other business electives at the 300-and 400-level. Just as is the case for the undergraduate Financial Accounting sequence, students may choose electives consistent with their academic interests and career goals, which frequently include in-depth study of topics covered on the Uniform CPA Examination.^[3]

Items 9, 11, and 12

Item 9 - Expected Impact of Proposal on Existing Campus Programs

Item 11 - Anticipated Staffing Arrangements

Item 12 - Anticipated Funding Needs and Source of Funds

The Accountancy Department does not expect this proposal to result in an increase in student enrollments in its 300- and 400-level courses, and hence does not expect the proposal to exacerbate present understaffing levels of terminally qualified tenure/tenure track faculty members within the Department.

See Appendix A for a letter of concurrence from Dr. Charles McGuire, Chairperson of Finance, Insurance and Law, in regards to FIL's support for adding FIL 440 as a recommended required elective in the PA sequence.

Other

"Fallback" baccalaureate degree when plans change. Because this proposal relates to an integrated baccalaureate/master's program, it is reasonable for reviewers to inquire whether students who withdraw from the program will be able to meet requirements for a B.S. degree in Accounting in an efficient manner. The answer to this question is "yes."

As background, please note that this issue was addressed to the satisfaction of various curriculum committees when the B.S./M.P.A. degree program was originally proposed, and that there is nothing in the present proposal which makes it more difficult for students to earn a B.S. degree in Accounting if their plans change in their fifth year. Advisors will continue to stress to students the importance of completing all undergraduate requirements in the integrated program before taking courses associated with the fifth year of study. Recommended plans of study similarly reflect a philosophy of completing B.S. degree requirements first.

Results of nonbinding advisory poll conducted of faculty. Consistent with the Department's formal curriculum guidelines, this proposal was circulated for review among the Department's entire tenure/tenure track faculty member, the merits and effects of the proposal were discussed in a faculty meeting, and a nonbinding poll of faculty members was taken as to the advisability of the proposal. The results of that poll were: For, 14; Against, 2; Abstain, 0.

Appendix A

Text of letter from Professor Charles McGuire, Chairperson of FIL, dated October 14, 2003,
in connection with PA sequence

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the Accounting Department proposes to offer a Professional Accountancy sequence for its existing BS/MPA program, and also that FIL 440, Financial Management, is enumerated as a possible elective students may take within that sequence to complete a requirement for a A400-level elective outside of the accounting discipline.

The Finance, Insurance and Law Department supports listing FIL 440 as a A400-level elective outside of the accounting discipline for the proposed Professional Accountancy sequence.

[1] Presently, the accountancy sequence is offered under the name Financial Accounting; information-systems sequences are offered under the names (1) Accounting Information Systems and (2) Business Information Systems.

[2] Among other effects, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 is expected to decrease demand by international accounting firms for accounting graduates having specialized skills in information system technologies, at least vis-à-vis the strong demand that existed for these graduates when the B.S./M.P.A. degree was conceived in the later 1990s.

[3] Students in the PA sequence will be adequately exposed to information system concepts and technologies since they will be required to take 15 hours of coursework in the area of information systems (*viz.*, Acc 260, 261, 263, 270, and 482).