

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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*Shane N. White*  
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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative to the Regents  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

October 11, 2017

**MICHAEL T. BROWN  
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Approval of Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc) degree at UC San Diego**

Dear Michael:

In accordance with the *Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the “Compendium”), and on the recommendation of CCGA, the Academic Council has approved UC San Diego’s proposal to establish a self-supporting graduate program leading to a Master of Professional Accountancy (MAPc) degree.

Because this is a new degree title, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA’s approval, Council must approve the program per Senate Bylaw 125.B.7.

I am enclosing CCGA’s report on its review of the new program, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President’s approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane N. White".

Shane N. White, Chair  
Academic Council

Encl

Cc: Academic Council  
Senate Director Baxter  
Senate Executive Directors

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## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Kwai Ng, Chair  
[kwng@mail.ucsd.edu](mailto:kwng@mail.ucsd.edu)

ACADEMIC SENATE  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

July 19, 2017

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR JIM CHALFANT

Dear Jim:

At its July 5, 2017 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted unanimously to approve UC San Diego's proposal for a new self-supporting MS Program of Professional Accountancy.

The Rady School of Management's (Rady School) proposed Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc) is a one-year self-supporting program that emphasizes a broad and intensive curriculum designed to prepare graduates to pursue a wide range of accounting career opportunities providing financial reporting and analysis, auditing, tax, and consulting tasks for corporations, small businesses, non-profit organizations, governments, and individuals. Graduates of the MPAc will understand corebusiness functions (i.e., marketing, finance, management and operations) and be able to both evaluate business opportunities and identify and understand their associated risks. They will have experience analyzing and reporting financial information, objectively considering issues, and recommending solutions.

The MPAc requires successful completion of 50 units of credit, which includes a passing grade for the capstone course. The MAPc program will prepare students to better use and interpret financial information in making marketing, financial, management, and operational decisions. The MPAc curriculum lays a solid foundation for each of the four areas of the Uniform Certified Public Accounting examination: Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Business Environment and Concepts (BEC), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), and Regulation (REG). Upon completion of the program, students are expected to have met the accounting study and ethics study portions of the educational requirement for CPA licensure. It is anticipated that additional courses may be added over time to accommodate changing regulations, student needs and student interests.

The School anticipates that three types of student profiles will be admitted into the MPAc program. First are UC San Diego undergraduates who have completed Rady's accounting minor and wish to further their education with an advanced degree in accounting. The second group are students with an undergraduate major in accounting from another university. These individuals will use the professional MPAc degree to build upon their significant foundation in accounting to further enhance their career opportunities. The third group, students with an undergraduate degree in another discipline (from UCSD or another university), will have completed at minimum 24 quarter (16 semester) units in accounting though they did not complete Rady's accounting minor. The MPAc will also allow individuals from all three groups to become accounting professionals whether or not they pursue CPA certification. The School expects that the MPAc will be made up of approximately 67 percent domestic, 33 percent international students.

Four reviewers returned their evaluations of the proposal. The most salient issue that was raised by all reviewers was the high rate of in-state tuition (\$55K) that was charged and the ambitious planned incoming class size of 72. In response, the proposers have since revised the proposal with a reduction in tuition (~\$50K) to keep in UC standards (Davis, Irvine and Riverside). It has also reduced the estimated first year class size. It is now envisaged that there will be 60 students in year one, 66 in year two, 72 in year three and thereafter.

A shared concern among reviewers is the lack of adequate accounting faculty members in the existing Rady School. The proposers have a plan to recruit four full-time, ladder ranked faculty to staff the MPAc program before the program launch. In fact, in its latest response to CCGA, the program has already secured the employment of the four accounting faculty.

CCGA believes the proposed UC San Diego MPAc Program has been rendered stronger by the review process. The expert reviewers have confirmed that it meets the criteria for quality and rigor. Other aspects of the proposal also seem to more than satisfy the expectations of reviewers and CCGA members.

As you know, CCGA's approval is usually the last stop of the Academic Senate side of the systemwide review and approval process except when the new degree title must be approved by the President, under delegated authority from the Board of Regents. Given its status as a new graduate program title on the UC San Diego campus, CCGA submits its approval of the Master of Professional Accountancy degree program for formal approval by the Assembly of the Academic Senate. For your information, I have included our Lead Reviewer's final report as an enclosure.

Respectfully submitted,



Kwai Ng  
Chair, CCGA

cc: Shane White, Academic Council Vice Chair  
CCGA Members  
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director  
Kimberly Peterson, Academic Planning Analysis Manager  
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst  
Ray Rodriguez, UCSD Senate Executive Director  
Lori Hullings, UCSD Senate Associate Director

Enclosures (1)



July 3, 2017

To: CCGA  
From: Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Lead Reviewer

**M.S Program proposal for a self-supporting program of graduate studies Professional Accountancy at UC San Diego**

In this report, I summarize my reading of the proposal. This was written after consultation with four external reviewers whose comments were shared with the proposers who were given an opportunity to respond to the concerns raised. The reviewer comments were largely positive, if not laudatory.

I am satisfied with the way the program has addressed the concerns raised by the reviewers and responded to the reviewers. My recommendation is to approve the regular offering of the proposal.

### **Introduction**

The Rady School of Management's (Rady School) proposed Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc) is a 50-unit, self-supporting program that emphasizes a broad and intensive curriculum designed to prepare graduates to pursue a wide range of accounting career opportunities providing financial reporting and analysis, auditing, tax, and consulting tasks for corporations, small businesses, non-profit organizations, governments, and individuals. Graduates of the MPAc will understand core business functions (i.e., marketing, finance, management and operations) and be able to both evaluate business opportunities and identify and understand their associated risks.

### **Aims of the program**

With existing strengths in statistical modeling/predictive analytics, econometric and forecasting methods, optimization, and management science, the Rady School's Master of Professional Accountancy will prepare students to create immediate value in organizations by improving marketing, financial, management, and operational decisions through the use and interpretation of financial information. There is an established need for such a program due to issues faced by innovation-driven, high-tech companies.

The revised version of the proposal specifies that there will be 60 students in year one, 66 in year two, 72 in year three and thereafter.

### **Faculty**

One of the weaknesses of the proposal is the lack of adequate Accounting Faculty members in the existing Rady School of management. However, the proposers ensure that prior to program launch they will have a total of four full-time, ladder ranked faculty to staff the MPAc program. In the proposal they acknowledge that “In this situation, without a nucleus of accounting faculty in place, it has been difficult to recruit new accounting faculty. The same “chicken and egg” situation has also been a factor with MPAc proposal. Without accounting faculty, it has been difficult to move forward with the MPAc proposal; without the MPAc program, it has been difficult justify the hiring of the number of accounting faculty required for intellectual and research synergy. Because of the financial success of Rady’s other self-supporting professional programs (MBA, MF, and MSBA programs), we now have in place multi-year accounting faculty recruitment plan approved by UC San Diego’s Executive Vice Chancellor. In addition to Professors Hans Christensen and Eric Floyd who have joined Rady (prior to launch of the MPAc they are teaching in the MBA program), Professor Emeritus William Lanen from the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business has agreed to be the MPAc’s founding program director and will join Rady upon the program’s approval. Additionally, an adjunct faculty member with industry experience, similar to faculty teaching in the Rady School MBA Capstone sequence (Lab-to-Market), MF and the recently launched MSBA programs, will be hired to coordinate the MPAc capstone project course. Faculty salaries will be funded directly from the revenue of the MPAc program”.

## **Degree requirement**

The MPAc requires successful completion of 50 units of credit, which includes a passing grade for the capstone course, MGTP 444 Issues in Financial Reporting for Global Business: Mergers, Acquisitions and Complex Financial Structures.

The unit requirement of programs are consistent with other market offerings, as per the analysis provided by the proposing team.

## **SSP nature of the program**

The program will be fully self-funded. Based on a market assessment and the strength of anticipated student placement, the program is confident it can obtain 24 new students each year during the stabilization phase. Furthermore, projections to obtain 48 new students once a global online format is available are also well within reach. The budget meets all direct and indirect financial commitments, including assigned assessments for the division, the relevant vice chancellor, and the office of the chancellor.

The UCPB report on the SSP budget seems adequate, although they reached the same conclusion regarding the online offerings. The UCPB report was shared with the proposal team at UCSD and their response has been uploaded to the CCGA drive on UCOP’s Share point site.

## **External reviews**

I sought the opinion of four external reviewers. All four of them were in favor of approving the program pending a few changes.

The four reviewers are:

1. ROBERT J. YETMAN Associate Professor Graduate School of Management The University of California at Davis Davis, CA 95616 530 752-3571 [rjyetman@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rjyetman@ucdavis.edu)
2. Shirley Maxey, Director, Accounting Program, University of Southern California, 3670 Trousdale Pkwy, Los Angeles, CA 90089,

3. Morton Pincus, The Paul Merage School of Business E-mail: mpincus@uci.edu SD 413  
949/824-4062 (Fax: 949/725-2812) University of California, Irvine Irvine, CA 92697-  
3125
4. Jana Ready, Associate Professor of Accounting, Ernst & Young Scholar in Accounting  
and Associate Dean of the Master of Accounting Program  
McColl 4002 CB #3490 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3490

The four reviewers suggested several minor points for improving the proposal. I shared these reviews with the proposal team. They responded quite adequately with clarifications to the questions raised. It is clear to me that the coursework plan and the support they need for generating the content is already in place at UCSD. The most salient issue that was raised by all reviewers was the high rate of in-state tuition (\$55K) that was charged and the ambitious planned incoming class size of 72. The proposers have since revised the proposal with a reduction in tuition (~\$50K) to keep in UC standards (Davis, Irvine and Riverside).

### **Reviewer Summary**

Overall, I believe that this is a good proposal and I endorse moving forward with the approval process for the Master's Degree (SSP) in Professional Accountancy at UCSD.

Sincerely,



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