

## **School of Accountancy: Areas of Focus**

1. Please update your one-page focus area document that you submitted last spring, and include the faculty that participate in each of the areas of focus.

The focus of the School of Accountancy has three distinct parts that are derived from the School's mission statement adopted during the most recent AACSB reaffirmation process. The current mission statement is as follows:

*The mission of the School of Accountancy (in fulfillment of its responsibilities under the University's mission and the College's mission) is to provide a broad-based accounting education to a diverse student population in the Mid-South Region and beyond. The School prepares students at the master's, undergraduate, and PhD levels for life-long learning and professional growth throughout their careers. Accomplishing this mission requires that the School's faculty focus on productivity in three key areas: continuous intellectual contributions, keeping abreast of current developments in accounting education and practice and providing service to the community and profession.*

- A. Providing continuous intellectual contributions. Intellectual contributions are primarily defined as published research in accounting research journals and mainstream accounting textbooks. The primary **research focus** of the School's faculty is corporate governance issues. Major topics in this area of research are issues related to the quality of overall corporate governance, corporate financial reporting, internal and external audits and responsibility for managerial and financial performance. Corporate governance research accounts for the greatest number of published research articles and some of the faculty's highest quality publications in top accounting research journals. Obviously, not all faculty in the School of Accountancy have chosen this area as their own area of research. Faculty members doing their primary research on corporate governance issues include professors Zabi Rezaee, Larry Abbott, Denton Collins, Allen Hunt, and Jerry Turner. Also, David Spiceland's Intermediate Accounting textbook emphasizes a decision-makers' perspective that stresses corporate governance issues.
- B. Keeping abreast of current developments in accounting education and practice. The goal here is to remain on the cutting edge of accounting education and to maintain currency with developing practice standards. Under the continuous improvement model the faculty must continually focus on improving and updating the curriculum for all degree programs. In addition, the School is focused on improving student recruiting and placement. All faculty members participate in this part of the School's focus.
- C. Providing service to the community and profession. All faculty members are expected to provide meaningful service activities in the local community, the university and/or the accounting profession. These activities may include service activities on campus, participation in continuing professional education activities, contacts with local business, presentations for professional organizations, as well as service in professional organizations at the state, regional and national levels.

2. Identify those areas that fit within the University's areas of focus and within your College's areas of focus.

The mission of The University specifically references the delivery of high quality undergraduate and graduate programs, the pursuit and dissemination of new knowledge through research, the transfer of knowledge and collaboration with business and government institutions, providing leadership and services to address societal challenges enabling a diverse student population to participate meaningfully in a global society, and securing recognition for The U of M as a leading metropolitan university. Through these activities, The U of M will be viewed among the great metropolitan research universities in the U.S.

The mission of the Fogelman College is to offer a diverse student population a rigorous and relevant business curriculum to the Mid-South Region and beyond, supported and strengthened by research and community outreach. Our undergraduate and master's programs emphasize preparation of students for successful careers and leadership roles in a technology-driven and globally competitive marketplace. The doctoral program prepares students for teaching, research, and professional careers and acts as a research catalyst to stimulate faculty scholarly endeavors. We believe that our College mission is clearly supportive of the goals and emphasis areas of the University.

In addition, the College is developing partnerships with alumni and friends which will enable it to develop programs that can achieve national recognition. These focus areas are marketing and supply chain management, accounting for service industries and hospitality and resort management.

Within the College, the academic offerings of the School of Accountancy provide an essential component of the undergraduate and master's degree programs. All undergraduate and master's students must develop competence in a coordinated set of courses in all departments that, taken together, establish the foundation knowledge and skills in business and economics. In addition, the School offers courses to support the majors and concentrations for those students seeking specializations in accounting. Furthermore, the School of Accountancy works with various corporate and community organizations to establish productive relationships that provide learning opportunities for our students and avenues for service and research for our faculty. The School mission statement is consistent with College and University mission statements in the areas of emphasis relative to quality education, development of knowledge and service outreach.