

**Information Technology – Accounting Option
OIT Assessment Report
2007-2008**

I. Program History

History

This degree began as an option under the Management Information System degree in 1997. The degree was restructured in 2006. Today the Information Technology degree allows students to choose from four specialty areas including accounting. This degree is designed to give students a background in information technology as well as a background in financial, tax, and managerial accounting. It provides students with the accounting coursework necessary to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam and for the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) exam. This degree option is offered at the Klamath Falls campus.

Enrollment

In 2002, 17 students were enrolled in the Information Technology - Accounting degree. Since 2002, enrollment has declined. As of 2006, 11 students were enrolled representing a decline of 35%. Enrollment ranged from 19 students in 2003 to 5 students in 2005.

Retention

In the fall 2006 cohort of first-time freshmen, one student declared Information Technology – Accounting as their major in their first term of enrollment. That student changed their major to Applied Psychology in fall 2007. For full-time new transfers (fall 2002 through fall 2005 cohorts), three students declared Information Technology – Accounting as their major in their first term of enrollment, two students continued in the major after one year, and one student stopped out after one year.

Graduates

No degrees were awarded in the Information Technology – Accounting degree in 2006-2007.

Employment

Of two students receiving the Graduate Survey in 2006, one student reported full-time employment in a degree-related field, the second student did not report. Reported salary was \$32,000.

II. Program Purpose

The Management Department was awarded accreditation by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) at its 2008 national conference. IACBE requires accredited institutions to annually assess nine

core student learning outcomes. Throughout the 2007-2008 academic year, the Management Department has revisited and revised its student learning outcomes to meet IACBE requirements.

The Department also reviewed its department mission statement and developed program specific mission statements as required by the NWCCU accreditation guidelines. In addition, the Department developed educational objectives for each degree program and reviewed and revised its program-specific student learning outcomes.

Information Technology – Accounting Option Mission Statement:

The Information Technology – Accounting Option provides students with accounting knowledge sufficient to enable students to be successful professionals, to pursue graduate education, and to attain professional certification if they so choose. In addition, students will be educated in the business fundamentals related to Information Technology and in the design or redesign of information technology processes.

Educational Objectives:

- (1) The Information Technology – Accounting degree program prepares students to sit for professional exams in accounting, i.e. Certified Public Accountant and Certified Management Accountant exams.
- (2) The Information Technology – Accounting degree program prepares students to continue into graduate education.
- (3) The Information Technology – Accounting degree program prepares students to enter into accounting positions in private, public or governmental organizations.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Management graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the functional areas of accounting, marketing, finance, management, and economics.
- Management graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the legal and social environment of business.
- Management graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the global environment of business.
- Management graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the ethical obligations and responsibilities of business.
- Management graduates will demonstrate the ability to use business tools.
- Management graduates will demonstrate information literacy.
- Management graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.
- Management graduates will demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of business concepts and functions in an integrated manner.

- Management graduates will demonstrate the ability to work effectively in teams and/or groups.
- Information Technology – Accounting graduates will demonstrate the analysis and design of an information technology system.
- Information Technology – Accounting graduates will demonstrate knowledge of current accepted accounting practices.

III. Assessment Cycle

Assessment schedule

IACBE requires all accredited institutions to complete a full assessment cycle for all IACBE core student learning outcomes on an annual basis. The Management Department's Outcomes Assessment Plan outlines annual assessment activities. The plan includes:

- Evidence of student learning goals
- Evidence of operational goals
- Student learning outcome measures (both direct and indirect)
- Assessment of basic skills development
- Assessment of personal development

The Department finalized its IACBE core student learning outcomes as well as its program-specific outcomes during the 2007-2008 academic year. The Department will assess all outcomes during the 2008-2009 academic year.

IV. 2007-2008 Assessment Activities

During the 2007-2008 academic year the Information Technology – Accounting program assessed two student learning outcomes.

Fall 2007 Assessment Activities

The Information Technology – Accounting Option assessed two student learning outcomes: (1) Knowledge of the Internal Revenue Code and (2) Team Project Skills.

Fall 2007 Assessment Results:

Knowledge of the Internal Revenue Code

Students demonstrate the desired outcome by preparing a comprehensive individual income tax return. They take positions on the tax return based on their knowledge of the tax law and the use of the Internal Revenue Service tax forms for a given set of transactions for the year 2006. The return is prepared using Turbo Tax, a common tax preparation software.

Findings:

- Comprehension of schedule A (itemized deductions) is lacking.

- Students were able to compute the deduction for section 179 expense and the MACRS deduction for cost recovery, but need more attention regarding form 4562 reporting.
- Capital gain loss structure seems to confuse students – which gains and losses are long term and which are short term particularly non business bad debts and the limitation on deductibility of net capital loss.

Action Plans:

- More class time spent on discussion of which expenses qualify as itemized deductions and how to report them on schedule A.
- Demonstrate calculation of cost recovery (depreciation) on form 4562 in Turbo Tax.
- Spend class time on the classification of long and short term capital gains and loss and the netting of gains and loss and the limitation on net capital losses.

Team Project Skills

Students complete a comprehensive team systems analysis project that includes a project proposal, current system description, user requirements document, final system study, and a team project presentation. Student teams present their findings in a written report as well as in an oral presentation. Students then do an individual peer evaluation of the performance against expectations of the other members of their team. The peer evaluations were used as the indication of achievement for this skill.

Findings:

- Students consistently score well for this skill.
- Student participation is the criteria that students most often falter on. Students are usually able to address this issue within their teams without instructor interference.

Spring 2008 Assessment Activities

- Management faculty met to discuss the student learning outcomes identified for the Information Technology - Accounting degree. In accordance with IACBE guidelines the Department reviewed its current student learning outcomes, ensuring that IACBE-specific outcomes are included. In addition, the Department reviewed program-specific outcomes for relevancy.
- Faculty need to identify an entry-, mid-, and exit-point in the curriculum for assessment of each student learning outcome.
- Faculty members in each program area developed performance criteria for each student learning outcome.

V. Student Learning Improvement Plan

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Information Technology – Accounting program assessed two student learning outcomes.

Knowledge of the Internal Revenue Code

Strengths: Students correctly identified taxpayer information and exemptions. Students' ability to identify profits or losses, capital gains and losses, and perform tax formula reconciliation was acceptable.

Weaknesses: Students were unable to correctly calculate itemized deductions and depreciation. In addition, some students were unable to differentiate between long-term and short-term capital gains and losses.

Plans for improvement: Program faculty will place greater emphasis on schedule A reporting, and on the classification of long and short term capital gains and losses. Faculty will demonstrate cost recovery calculations in Turbo Tax.

Team Project Skills

Strengths: Students demonstrated proficiency for all performance criteria: project schedule, current system description, user requirements document, final system study, and team project presentation.

Plans for improvement: None at this time.