

**DOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN ACCOUNTING
CREATED BY CPA PROFESSION
*\$15 Million to Help Fill Shortage of Accounting Professors***

NEW YORK (July 30, 2008) – The CPA profession has created an Accounting Doctoral Scholars program to help reverse a shortage of PhD accounting faculty in U.S. colleges and universities. The new program is being spearheaded by the largest accounting firms and will be administered by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Foundation.

To date, more than 70 of the country's biggest firms, along with several state CPA societies, have committed a total of \$15 million to the program. The firms will recruit top employees for the program and encourage them to become accounting professors in the audit and tax disciplines.

"There has been a significant decline over the past 10 years in the number of accounting doctorates," said Doyle Williams, executive director of the Accounting Doctoral Scholars program. "The average age of current accounting professors is around 55, which indicates that a real crisis is coming in the next decade. By contrast, the demand for professionals with undergraduate and masters accounting degrees is at an all-time high. There are many talented practicing professionals who can make a significant contribution as faculty members preparing the next generation of CPAs and this program will help make that happen."

Building a robust supply of accounting faculty was a recommendation in a March 2008 report by the Subcommittee on Human Capital of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession. The subcommittee endorsed increasing the number of accounting faculty members through public and private funding.

The Accounting Doctoral Scholars program will provide funding for up to 30 new candidates each year for 4 years for a total of 120 newly trained PhDs in audit and tax. Applicants must have recent and proven performance in audit or tax in a public accounting firm. Potential program candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents committed to a career as an accounting faculty member at a U.S. university accredited in business by AACSB International (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

Applications will be accepted beginning September 9. Applicants determined to be eligible will receive an invitation to a day-long conference to learn more about Accounting Doctoral Scholars, receive guidance on preparing for and applying to a university PhD program, and gain insight into the life and career of an accounting faculty member.

Once they enroll in a doctoral program at a participating university, each Accounting Doctoral Scholar will receive an annual stipend of \$30,000 for a maximum of 4 years.

For further information about the Accounting Doctoral Scholars program contact ADSprogram@aicpa.org or 919-402-4524. The dedicated website is www.adsphd.org. The program address is: Accounting Doctoral Scholars Program, American Institute of CPAs Foundation, 220 Leigh Farm Road, Durham, North Carolina 2770



Accounting Doctoral Scholars: Program Overview

In response to the growing shortage of academically qualified university accounting faculty members, especially those with recent experience in the practice of auditing and tax, concerned practitioners, leaders from the 80 largest CPA firms and other organizations initiated the Accounting Doctoral Scholars (ADS) program. The program is administered by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Foundation under the oversight of an Advisory Council. The initiating sponsors have pledged financial support of \$15 million for the program.

The ADS program will provide funding for a small number of individuals, with recent experience in public accounting in auditing and tax, to help them make a permanent transition to teaching and research at the university level. The funding will support application to doctoral programs in accounting and also provide a stipend of \$30,000 for up to four years of enrollment to individuals committed to teaching and research in auditing and tax—the areas of greatest need—upon completion of their doctorates. The program will support its first class of Accounting Doctoral Scholars for the fall 2009 entering class.

Who is Eligible to Participate in the Program?

To be eligible to be considered as an Accounting Doctoral Scholar, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Have recent significant and meaningful work experience of at least three years in public accounting in auditing or tax;
- Provide a written statement of a commitment to a career transition to teaching and research in auditing or tax at an AACSB International business accredited university in the United States upon completion of a doctoral program in accounting with an emphasis in auditing or tax;
- Fulfill application requirements, e.g., have an academic record demonstrating potential for success in advanced graduate work; have a Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) score or equivalent Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score no more than five years old that is competitive for admission to major doctoral programs in accounting, e.g., 650 or higher; and supply appropriate letters of recommendation;

- Be a U. S. citizen or permanent resident; and
- Commit, if selected as an ADS program Scholar, to applying for admission to one or more doctoral programs in accounting at an ADS program participating university to pursue auditing or tax as a teaching and research focus.

What will the program provide to individuals selected as ADS Program Scholars?

ADS program Scholars will receive assistance with identifying and applying to accounting doctoral programs. Once they enroll in a doctoral program in accounting at a participating university, they will receive a stipend of \$30,000 per year for a maximum of four years. The stipend is paid by the AICPA Foundation on behalf of the sponsoring firms and organizations to the university for distribution to the student under the university's policies and procedures for distribution of graduate assistantship stipends. Host universities may supplement the stipend from funding from other sources provided the number of slots for doctoral program enrollees is not diminished. ADS program sponsors expect ADS Scholars will also receive other support from their universities or other sources. If the required program of study extends beyond four years, the student's host university is expected to provide financial support for an additional year equivalent to that available to other fifth year students.

ADS Scholars will have the opportunity to serve as graduate research assistants during the majority of their program, thereby developing their research skills under the guidance of a research faculty member in auditing or tax. In addition, ADS Scholars will be provided the opportunity to gain some classroom teaching experience before completion of their program of studies.

What do accounting doctoral programs look for in prospective students?

Doctoral programs in accounting seek to prepare individuals to excel both at teaching and research. Consequently, candidates for doctoral study are screened for evidence of both their aptitude and potential ability to succeed in the classroom and in published research. Most programs do not require a masters degree, although the absence of a Masters degree may extend the program of study by one or two semesters for many doctoral programs. Most programs require a Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) score within the last five years of at least 650 with many programs looking for a score of at least 700. Some schools accept the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test in lieu of the GMAT. University application deadlines range from mid-December to early spring.

Registration for the GMAT is at <http://www.gmac.com>

Registration for the GRE is at <http://www.ets.org>

How are ADS Scholars chosen?

The selection of ADS Scholars is a two step process. First, interested candidates are invited to file a completed application by completing the on-line application that will be available September 9, 2008 and submitting an Application Packet that contains letters of

reference, college and university transcripts, test scores, current resume, and a completed eligibility statement. Based upon a review of applications, selected applicants are invited to a one-day Orientation Conference where information is provided about the nature, structure, and expectations of a doctoral program of study; guidance on applying to a doctoral program; and the life and career of an accounting faculty member.

Representatives from the participating universities will also be invited to the Orientation Conference to meet with ADS applicants. Following the Orientation Conference, applicants are invited to confirm their continuing interest in becoming an ADS Scholar, and if selected as an ADS Scholar, commit to applying for admission to one or more doctoral program(s) in accounting at a participating university.

Who are the Participating Universities?

All participating universities have AACSB International business accreditation whose doctoral accounting programs are for full-time, residential students. They are committed to offering admission to one or more ADS Scholars who meet the school's admission standards for the fall of 2009 with the opportunity for admitted ADS Scholars to pursue auditing or tax as a focus in their program of study.

A list of participating universities with contact information and application deadlines for each school will be available after September 9, 2008 at (website address). Applicants are encouraged to periodically consult the list of participating schools as schools may be added to the list. Because of limited enrollments in doctoral programs, candidates are encouraged to apply at several participating schools.

When will all of this happen?

The initial application process will be open September 9, 2008. The deadline for submitting a completed application is October 1, 2008. Based upon a review of all applications, selected applicants will be extended an invitation to attend a one-day Orientation Conference, scheduled for November 3, 2008 in Chicago. Following the conference, applicants are requested to confirm their continuing commitment to applying for doctoral study at one or more participating universities. Final selection of ADS Scholars is expected to be made by November 21, 2008.

Requests for applications and additional information may be obtained online from the AICPA Foundation at ADSprogram@AICPA.org or by calling 919-402-4524.

Interested individuals are encouraged to begin considering the option of an academic career and to begin securing letters of reference, transcripts, and official test scores as early as possible.

Are there additional sources of information?

Additional information on doctoral programs in accounting and teaching at the university level may be found by consulting resources such as the following:

- American Accounting Association website at <http://aaahq.org/temp/phd/index.cfm>
- Specific schools of business doctoral program websites
- AACSB International website at www.aacsb.edu
- Professors from undergraduate or graduate accounting programs

For further information, please contact:

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