

Assessment for the New Curriculum: A Guide for Professional Accounting Programs

Appendix 12 Composite Profile of Capabilities Needed by Accounting Graduates^a

1. General Knowledge
 - An understanding of the flow of ideas and events in history and the different cultures in today's world
 - Basic knowledge of psychology, economics, mathematics through calculus, and statistics
 - A sense of the breadth of ideas, issues, and contrasting economic, political and social forces in the world
 - an awareness of personal and social values and of the process of inquiry and judgment
 - An appreciation of art, literature, and science
2. Intellectual Skills
 - Capacities for inquiry, abstract logical thinking, inductive and deductive reasoning, and critical analysis
 - Ability to identify and solve unstructured problems in unfamiliar settings and to apply problem-solving skills in a consultative process
 - Ability to identify ethical issues and apply a value-based reasoning system to ethical questions
 - Ability to understand the determining forces in a given situation and to predict their effects
 - Ability to manage sources of stress by selecting and assigning priorities within restricted resources and to organize work to meet tight deadlines
3. Interpersonal Skills
 - Ability to work with others, particularly in groups, to influence them, to lead them, to organize and delegate tasks, to motivate and develop people, and to withstand and resolve conflict
 - Ability to interact with culturally and intellectually diverse people
4. Communication Skills
 - Ability to present, discuss, and defend views effectively through formal and informal, written and spoken language
 - Ability to listen effectively
 - Ability to locate, obtain, organize, report, and use information from human, print, and electronic sources
5. Organizational and Business Knowledge
 - A knowledge of the activities of business, government, and nonprofit organizations, and of the environments in which they operate, including the major economic, legal, social, and cultural forces and their influences
 - A basic knowledge of finance, including financial statement analysis, financial instruments, and capital markets, both domestic and international
 - An understanding of interpersonal and group dynamics in business
 - An understanding of the methods of creating and managing change in organizations
 - An understanding of the basic internal workings of organizations and the application of this knowledge to specific examples
6. Accounting Knowledge
 - History of the accounting profession and accounting thought
 - Content, concepts, structure, and meaning of reporting for organizational operations, both for internal and external use, including the information needs of financial decision makers and the role of accounting information in satisfying those needs
 - Policy issues, environmental factors, and the regulation of accounting
 - Ethical and professional responsibilities of an accountant
 - The process of identifying, gathering, measuring, summarizing, and analyzing financial data in business organizations, including:

- The role of information systems
 - The concepts and principles of information system design and use
 - The methods and processes of information system design and use
 - The current and future roles of computer-based information technology
 - The concepts, methods, and processes of control that provide for the accuracy and integrity of financial data and safeguarding of business assets
 - The nature of attest services and the conceptual and procedural bases for performing them
 - Taxation and its impact on financial and managerial decisions
 - In-depth knowledge in one or more specialized areas, such as financial accounting, management accounting, taxation, information systems, auditing, nonprofit, government, and international accounting
7. Accounting Skills
- Ability to apply accounting knowledge to solve real-world problems
8. Personal Capacities and Attitudes
- Creative thinking
 - Integrity
 - Energy
 - Motivation
 - Persistence
 - Empathy
 - Leadership
 - Sensibility to social responsibilities
 - A commitment of lifelong learning
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^aAECC, *Objectives*, Appendix B.