



October 2, 2023

Julia Woislaw
Senior Manager
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Dear Julia:

Thank you for providing notification regarding the release of the RFP for universities interested in participating in the Experience, Learn & Earn (ELE program).

Please note that while your notification will be forwarded to the Council, sufficient time has not been given to gather meaningful feedback from the full AAA Council membership. This response reflects the opinions of the Council chairs, but will be shared with the full Council.

As previously stated in our April 17, 2023 letter, the ELE Program represents a fundamental shift in the pathway to completion of the education requirements for the CPA. As such, AAA Council and other AAA stakeholders have voiced serious concerns about this program which have not been addressed by the AICPA to date.

A summary of key points stated in our April 17, 2023 letter include:

- There are existing low-cost non-degree options already available to students trying to reach 150 hours.
- A master's degree provides many benefits beyond making a student CPA- eligible.
- Students and CPA firms may believe this is a preferred, AICPA- recommended approach which could harm existing accounting programs.

One of our primary concerns is that promoting an “easier” path to completing education requirements will not contribute positively to the accounting profession’s public brand. We would prefer that strategies focus on increasing the return on the graduate degree, or reducing the cost associated with the existing delivery of master’s of accounting programs. We reemphasize that many programs are offering online solutions consistent with the objectives of the ELE.

Let’s continue to work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for our stakeholders.

Sidney Askew
American Accounting Association 2023-24 Council Chair

Alisa G. Brink
American Accounting Association 2024-25 Council Chair-Elect

Randal J. Elder
American Accounting Association 2022-23 Council Chair