



PERSPECTIVES on EXCELLENCE

February 2004



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Reform is too often a spottily recurring mantra. It suggests that systemic problems rooted in unethical behavior can easily be distinguished and corrected through static policy changes. At Illinois, we educate our students of accountancy to continually challenge policy concepts, both old and new - to balance their detail orientation with a vision for the wide-ranging value networks that drive businesses and industries.

Recognizing that accounting and auditing ethics can only be taught through a broad lens, the College of Business created Project Discovery. This highly differentiated approach to teaching accountancy ingrains in our students a philosophy of what is right and wrong, such that new and ever-changing business models and networks do not inhibit the ability of students to discern good and bad accounting and business practices. We apply the Project Discovery philosophy to all of our undergraduate and graduate curricula.

The College takes great pride in the fact that this innovative program continues to receive the attention and highest accolades awarded by our peer institutions and the business community. Consequently, our relationships with practitioners, government and academia are very strong.

It is my belief that institutions of higher education will better prepare tomorrow's auditors and accountants for the unpredictable yet certain changes in the organizational structures of business. It is our challenge to educate students to navigate ethically the complex value networks that govern behavior in today's business climate. We shape the perspective of accounting professionals, and we can positively influence the effectiveness of the industry worldwide.

Best regards,

Avijit Ghosh
Dean

Project Discovery employs cooperative and collaborative methods for students to learn accounting knowledge within a broad-based theoretical perspective that integrates accounting with disciplines such as economics, management and systems theory, and infuses such knowledge with the development of critical professional skills such as communications, ethical reasoning, research and teamwork.

ILLINOIS TEAMS UP WITH AICPA

Because of its innovative accounting curriculum, Illinois was asked by the AICPA to assist exam developers in a landmark initiative to substantively revise the Uniform CPA exam, taking advantage of computerized testing methods. Accountancy leadership at Illinois selected faculty from Illinois and other universities to work on design and oversight committees. Illinois will lead the project through development and testing of simulation prototypes.

INTEGRATION + FLEXIBILITY = FIT

Illinois students now have the option to earn a 4-year undergraduate degree in accountancy or a fully integrated 5-year master in accountancy science degree with an option to specialize in taxation. Our model is unique because it allows students the flexibility to pursue a degree that fits their career interests. Every degree option is infused with the highly acclaimed Project Discovery curriculum.

KPMG AND ILLINOIS: TOMORROW'S DECISION YARDSTICK

The Business Measurement Research Program, a joint initiative from Illinois and KPMG, awarded nearly \$1 million in grants in 2003 to support research having the potential to improve information used for decision making by managers and outside stakeholders in the 21st century business environment. Areas of focus include risk measurement and control, business process performance, internal and external business reporting and transparency, assurance, corporate governance and enabling technologies.

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