

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY – GLOBAL CAMPUS

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval for Colorado State University – Global Campus (CSU-Global) to offer a Master of Professional Accounting (M.P.Acc.).

II. BACKGROUND

COMMISSION AUTHORITY

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education’s role and responsibility in the review and approval of new academic programs at institutions operating under a performance contract is defined in §23-5-129(6)(b), which states that new and modified program proposals shall be reviewed and approved only on the basis of fit with the institution’s statutory role and mission.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROGRAM

The following is summarized from CSU-Global’s proposal:

CSU-Global proposes a Master of Professional Accounting program. The M.P.Acc. graduate degree program is designed to meet the educational requirements of the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination. Through an emphasis on leadership, teamwork, planning, and communication skills, the M.P.Acc. program prepares students for leadership roles in public accounting, corporations, government agencies, and other career fields. This 30 credit hour program includes 24 credits of required coursework and 6 credits of elective coursework to help students design a program that meets their specific needs.

Additional information on this proposed degree, unrelated to fit with statutory role and mission, is in Appendix A.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports CSU-Global Campus's statutory role and mission, which states:

(1)(a) There is hereby established an on-line university to be known as Colorado state university - global campus, referred to in this article as "CSU global campus". CSU global campus is a baccalaureate and graduate on-line university with the mission in Colorado of offering upper division baccalaureate degree completion programs for nontraditional students in partnership with the Colorado community college system and selected master-level graduate programs. For baccalaureate degree students, residing in Colorado, CSU global campus shall have moderately selective admission standards. CSU global campus shall not admit first-time freshman baccalaureate students who reside in Colorado and who are under twenty-three years of age. CSU global campus shall comply with all applicable statutes and rules.

(b) CSU global campus shall not offer associate of arts, associate of science, or associate of applied science degrees, bachelor of applied science degrees, or career and technical certificate programs. Additionally, CSU-global campus will not offer concurrent enrollment programs, state-funded supplemental academic instruction, or state-funded basic skill courses. (23-31.3-101, C.R.S.)

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that CSU-Global's proposed Master of Professional Accounting degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. CSU-Global's Board of Trustees approved the program at its May 9, 2014 meeting.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado State University – Global Campus's proposal to offer a Master of Professional Accounting.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129 Governing boards - performance contract - authorization – operations

(6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher

education to create, modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

APPENDIX:

Appendix A: Supplemental Information

APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

This supplemental information is unrelated to the proposed degree's fit with the institution's statutory role and mission. The following is summarized from the institution's proposal:

EVIDENCE OF NEED

Industry demand for the Master of Professional Accounting program has been evaluated through CSU-Global's contracted market research and through industry career growth projections. Demand projections and market research are listed below:

- There will be an estimated 166,700 more accounting and auditing jobs in 2022 than there were in 2012 with overall growth at 13% (BLS, 2014); and
- Average pay for accountants and auditors is \$63,550.

Student demand for the Master of Professional Accounting degree is demonstrated through the over 750 students currently enrolled in the B.S. in Accounting at CSU-Global, of which 11 have graduated since the program opened for enrollment in Fall 2012. It is anticipated that a graduate program will provide students who would like to become CPAs with the opportunity to further their study at CSU-Global.

DUPLICATION

There are currently no other online master's level accounting programs offered by Colorado public institutions. Additionally, the Master of Professional Accounting program addresses an area currently being fulfilled by proprietary online institutions at a substantially higher cost.