

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair   
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: Comment: [Proposal: Accountancy Undergraduate Major \(BSAC\)](#)

Date: April 1, 2026

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The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the [Proposal: Accountancy Undergraduate Major \(BSAC\)](#). We are supportive of the creation of this new program. And while there may be some slight overlap with a few of our courses,<sup>1</sup> we feel they are different enough so there will be no appreciable impact.

That said, a few observations to consider as an fyi. First, the proposal is heavily framed around CPA eligibility; while valuable, this emphasis may narrow the academic scope and underrepresent broader career pathways. As such, it might be helpful to more clearly articulate learning outcomes that include analytical, policy, and interdisciplinary competencies. Second, although described as interdisciplinary, the program remains largely within the School of Business, with limited integration across public policy, data science, and economics; opportunities for cross-listed courses or structured electives could strengthen this. Third, and perhaps we're missing something here, but the data analytics component also appears limited to a single course, which may be insufficient given AI is rapidly reshaping and in some cases replacing entry-level accounting tasks. This suggests a need to more explicitly incorporate AI and embed analytics more systematically across the curriculum. Finally, the proposal does not specify program-level learning outcomes, an assessment plan, or an AACSB accreditation timeline, all of which are important for ensuring academic quality and continuous improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the new degree proposes an Ethics and Professional Responsibilities course (BUS 180f), which likely has at least some curricular overlap with SPP's PBPL 004 (Ethics, Professionalism, and Public Policy), the ethics of accounting is different enough from the ethics of public policy to warrant a new course. Also, we see the addition of Governmental and Not-for-Profit Accounting (BUS 180i) as a potentially valuable elective course for SPP students who may have more advanced interest in public budgeting and finance.