



Office of Public Affairs  
Division of University Advancement

## News Release

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### **Cal Poly Pomona Introduces Graduate Program to Give Accountants a Competitive Edge Master's in Accountancy is University's 24<sup>th</sup> Graduate Degree Program**

POMONA, Calif. — Graduate programs are often in high demand during periods of recession. Joining Cal Poly Pomona's 23 graduate programs is a new advanced degree program that will address the in-demand field of accounting.

The degree, Master of Science in Accountancy, or MSA, is an important component for accountants who want to advance their careers, either as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or as an accounting professor. When classes begin in fall 2009, Cal Poly Pomona will be the fifth CSU in Southern California to offer an MSA program.

Those who work as accountants and auditors already enjoy being in one of the most in-demand career fields in the country. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projected that accountants will have the third most number of job openings from 2006 to 2016.

Accountants today, however, cannot solely rely on the information they learned 20, 10, or even five years ago.

"Accounting professionals these days are facing dynamic domestic and international accounting issues," said MSA Program Director Dr. Hong Pak. He noted that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the upcoming adoption of the International Financial Reporting Standards by the Securities and Exchange Commission as examples of dramatic changes in accounting standards.

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"These issues demand that accounting professionals acquire more advanced accounting concepts," Pak said. "We are certain that our MSA program will be an important tool in helping them adapt and satisfy their clients' needs."

Also, as the accounting landscape shifts, new opportunities arise. Internal control, corporate governance and forensic accounting are just a few examples of relatively new career tracks that have witnessed significant growth. In fact, two out of three CPA's said forensic accounting departments have been expanded at their firms in the past year, according to a 2008 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants survey. The MSA program has integrated such contemporary issues into its curriculum.

Those who complete the program will satisfy the requirement to have 150 semester hours in order to become a CPA.

Although the MSA program is geared toward working professionals, it also assists individuals who want to enter a doctoral program in accounting. Currently, there is a high demand for those with Ph.D.'s in all business disciplines and it is expected that by 2013, the shortage of business Ph.D.'s will reach 2,419, according to a report from AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Accounting professionals who enter academia can expect to command a high salary compared to faculty members of other disciplines.

CBA will accept applications through CSU Mentor ([www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)) from now until June 15, 2009. The program is designed for up to 30 students and is primarily geared toward those who have studied accounting as an undergraduate student. For more information, go to:

[http://cba.csupomona.edu/mba/programs\\_offered\\_msa.aspx](http://cba.csupomona.edu/mba/programs_offered_msa.aspx)

The College of Business Administration at Cal Poly Pomona offers two other graduate programs: a Master of Business Administration degree that allows students to specialize in eight different career tracks and a Master of Science in Information Systems Auditing. The Princeton Review selected Cal Poly Pomona for its 2009 edition of the *Best 296 Business Schools*.

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