



Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act

Date posted: September 11, 2014
Institution: Ashford University
Current status: Authorized to advertise and recruit for specific degree programs offered exclusively via distance learning
Nature of request: Authorization to advertise and recruit for two additional degree programs
Mode of Delivery: Distance Learning
Proposed programs: Master of Accountancy
Master of Arts in Psychology

Background:

Ashford University is based in San Diego, CA. In addition to its residential offerings at its Clinton, IA campus, it offers programs exclusively via distance learning from the San Diego campus. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Nature of the review:

Prior to granting authorization to offer new/additional degree programs in Washington State, the Washington Student Achievement Council/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

The programs to be offered by Ashford University appear to meet the requirements of the Degree-Granting Institutions Act.

Information on the additional programs can be found at the end of this notice.

Timeline:

The Council will accept comments on this application until September 25, 2014.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to:

[Degree Authorization](#).

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, they can be found at the following links: the statute is [RCW 28B.85](#) and the regulation is [WAC 250-61](#).

Program Title:

Master of Accountancy with specializations in:

- **Accounting**
- **Audit**
- **Tax**
- **Accounting Information Systems**

Program Outcomes:

“Students who successfully complete the Master of Accountancy degree program will be able to:

- Develop technical knowledge and competency in the field of accountancy.
- Evaluate how to research complex accounting issues using professional resources.
- Articulate applied concepts and principles to real world problems.
- Assess the relevancy, accuracy, and value of financial and nonfinancial information.
- Appraise ethical issues and decision alternatives by incorporating professional codes of conduct and social responsibility.”

Number of Credits: 39 semester credits, however “Students who do not have an undergraduate degree in business-related field or coursework in Financial Accounting, Cost Accounting, and Statistical Analysis must also complete prerequisites, including BUS 591, BUS 590, and MAT 540 respectively, which will constitute an additional 9 credits of required coursework (48 credits total) in order to meet graduation requirements.”

Mode of Delivery: 100% distance learning

Required Courses: (all courses are 3 credits each)

Prerequisites: (9 credits)

(for those without an UG degree in business or accounting coursework)

BUS 591 Financial Accounting & Analysis

MAT 540 Statistical Concepts for Research

BUS 590 General Cost Accounting

Core Courses: (30 credits)

BUS 600 Management Communications with Technology

ACC 640 Advanced Managerial & Cost Accounting

BUS 607 Business Law for the Accountant

ECO 610 Global Economics

ACC 610 Advanced Federal Taxation

ACC 614 Auditing & Fraud Detection

ACC 618 Professional Ethics for the Accountant

ACC 622 Accounting Information Systems

ACC 626 Accounting in a Global Environment

ACC 630 Advanced Government & Non-Profit Accounting

Students must select one of the following specializations:

Accounting:

ACC 611 Advanced Tax Research

ACC 612 Advanced Financial Accounting

ACC 695 Accounting Capstone

Audit:

ACC 616	Forensic Accounting
ACC 617	Current Issues in Advanced Auditing
ACC 697	Audit Capstone

Tax:

ACC 611	Advanced Tax Research
ACC 615	Current Issues in Advanced Taxation
ACC 696	Tax Capstone

Accounting Information Systems:

ACC 623	Advanced Topics in Excel & Access
ACC 624	Current Issues in Accounting Information Systems
ACC 698	Accounting Information Systems Capstone

Program Title:

Master of Arts in Psychology

Program Outcomes:

“Students who successfully complete the Master of Arts in Psychology online degree program will be able to:

- Apply ethical principles and standards of psychology to academic and professional activities
- Explain psychological concepts using the professional standards of the discipline.
- Analyze major concepts, theories, methodologies, and historical trends in psychology.
- Evaluate the scientific merit of the professional literature in psychology.
- Integrate psychological theory and research.

Program learning outcomes for the MAPSY are aligned with the American Psychological Association (APA) recommendations for learning goals and outcomes at the graduate level. They reflect high levels of cognitive behavior (i.e., apply, explain, analyze, evaluates, and integrated); build on the Lumina Foundation’s Degree Qualifications Profile; and are informed by the Association of American Colleges and University’s Leadership Excellence Achievement Program (LEAP) Essential Learning Outcomes.”

Number of Credits: 36 semester credits

Mode of Delivery: 100% distance learning

Admission Requirements:

“Applicants seeking admission to any master’s degree program must meet the following admissions requirements prior to the start of the first course at Ashford University:

1. Have a Bachelor’s degree or post-graduate degree from a regionally accredited or approved nationally accredited college or university with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above. Applicants with a grade point average of 2.0 to 2.74 will be placed on Academic Watch
2. Have access to a computer with an Internet connection for Web-based programs and meet the minimum technology and minimum computer skills, abilities, features, system configurations, hardware, and software outlined in the Academic Catalog.
3. Have the ability to study in English indicated by one of the following:
 - Earned a Bachelor’s degree in which the primary language of instruction was English, or

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination taken within the past two (2) years. A minimum score of 550 paper-based or 79 Internet-based is required. Copies of official scores must be submitted prior to provisional enrollment, and official scores must be submitted prior to full admission.”

Required Courses: (all courses are 3 credits each)

Core Courses:

PSY 600	Introduction to Graduate Study in Psychology
PSY 605	Developmental Psychology
PSY 610	Applied Social Psychology
PSY 615	Personality Theories
PSY 620	Learning and Cognition
PSY 625	Biological Bases of Behavior
PSY 630	Psychopharmacology
PSY 635	Research Design and Methods
PSY 640	Psychological Testing and Assessment
PSY 645	Psychopathology
PSY 650	Introduction to Clinical and Counseling Psychology
PSY 699	Master of Arts in Psychology Capstone