Dear UA Accounting Students

We represent some of the largest businesses in Arkansas and the world, and we employ the vast majority of accounting graduates from the University of Arkansas. Our respect for and support of the accounting program at the University of Arkansas is unified and unmatched.

Pursuing an accounting degree at the University of Arkansas is an excellent launch toward a professional business career. As you pursue the academic credentials needed for a challenging and rewarding career opportunity, we offer the following comments for your consideration:

**Your Education**

Just as we operate in nationally and globally competitive marketplaces, you will also compete in national and global job markets over the course of your career. Professional certification is a critical attribute of our profession. Professionally certified individuals command greater compensation and more opportunities for advancement over the course of their careers. Early passing of the CPA exam represents one of the most important ways to boost and ensure a successful start of your career. You should also consider the role that certifications such as Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Management Accountant, among others, might play in helping you reach your career objectives.

We strongly encourage you to consider the value of a Masters degree in accounting. Many students underestimate the challenge of meeting CPA Exam eligibility requirements without a Masters degree. In addition, a Masters degree increases your ability to compete for future career opportunities. Although not all careers require graduate degrees, we strongly encourage students to pursue graduate education, such as the University of Arkansas IMAcc Program.

The accounting program at the University of Arkansas is challenging and rewarding. Don’t discount the importance of maintaining the highest level of commitment to your course work. Historically, greater performance leads to more desirable employment opportunities. Stay focused and steadfast.

**Your Activities**

Professionally-minded extracurricular activities are a great way to expand your experiences beyond the classroom and distinguish your strengths to potential employers. Your involvement in Beta Alpha Psi will help you connect with other students and employers.

Internships allow you to experience the work place and better enable you to confidently choose among potential employers. International experiences greatly develop your appreciation for the global marketplace in which we all work and live. Volunteer service activities and student membership in professional organizations can also assist you in defining your career objectives.

**Your Mind**

Keep an open mind when you evaluate the career possibilities in accounting. Take the time to explore the various employment opportunities in government, industry, and public practice. You will be pleasantly surprised at the variety of exceptionally rewarding career paths that we can offer. An accounting degree can lead to many exciting pursuits, whether you are interested in external or internal audit, corporate accounting, tax, advisory, management, or financial services.

Our fervent desire is to see you embark on a successful career. You have picked a great place to start at the University of Arkansas. We look forward to talking with you soon.

Go Hogs!