



August 8, 2022

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Dear Dean Mangum and Dr. Hollander:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the peer review team recommendation to extend accreditation for the degree programs in accounting offered by University of Tennessee at Knoxville is concurred with by the Accounting Accreditation Committee (AAC) and ratified by the Board of Directors. Congratulations to you, the faculty, the students, the staff, and all supporters of University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

University of Tennessee at Knoxville has achieved accounting accreditation for five additional years. The next on-site continuous improvement review occurs in the fifth year, 2026-2027. A timeline specific to the school's visit year is available online [here](#).

One purpose of peer review is to recognize initiatives that support an environment of continuous improvement of quality programs. As noted in the team report the accounting programs of University of Tennessee at Knoxville is to be commended on the best practices found on **Attachment A**.

The school should begin to address the area identified by the peer review team and AAC. As part of the next continuous improvement review application due July 1, 2024, the school is asked to update the AAC on the progress made in addressing the areas listed on **Attachment B**.

Please refer to the [Continuous Improvement Review Handbook for Joint Business and Accounting](#) for the most current information regarding the processes for continuous improvement reviews. The handbook is evolving and will be updated frequently to provide the latest revisions to the CIR process.

Again, congratulations from the Accreditation Council and AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Thank you for participating in the continuous improvement review process and for providing valuable feedback that is essential to a meaningful and beneficial review.

Sincerely,

Jikyeong Kang, Chair
Board of Directors

c. peer review team

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Attachment A

This section provides a brief description of commendations and best practices of the school that demonstrate leadership and high-quality continuous improvement in management education.

1. The department leadership is viewed as being very strong with faculty appreciating the leadership and transparency of Department Head Terry Neal and Assistant Head Anita Hollander.
2. Collegiality of the Accounting and Information Management (AIM) faculty and students and the obvious level of care and concern is evident. Students and faculty alike feel that others want them to succeed and be the "best version of themselves".
3. The recruitment and retention of high-quality tenure system and non-tenure track faculty is commendable.
4. The AIM Advisory Roundtable members are well connected alumni with diverse experience who feel connected to the department and outcomes.
5. The commitment to innovation in curriculum, for example, cyber security and data analytics courses, is well received and popular innovative choices.
6. The annual evaluation and reappointment, promotion, and tenure process is transparent and informative. AIM faculty understand criteria for advancement due to regular meetings with the department head, clear research expectations, and workload expectations. There is also required periodic peer reviews of teaching by two faculty members which provide consultative feedback and are used in the annual reviews.
7. There is a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion within AIM with advances in diversity of faculty.
8. The Neel Corporate Governance Center multidisciplinary speaker series provides an opportunity for faculty and students to interact with regulators, including the SEC and PCAOB, and leaders in the profession.
9. There are multiple opportunities for students to engage with accounting and information systems professionals.
10. Students feel they are well-prepared for interviewing and interaction with professionals. A mock "Meet the Firms" event is innovative and well received by firms and students.
11. Partnership of AIM faculty and the Institute of Internal Auditors to release "Guiding Principles of Corporate Governance" and the "American Corporate Governance Index" is noteworthy.

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Attachment B

This section identifies an area that the school should address during the coming review cycle. Please be prepared to discuss progress made in addressing this concern in the Continuous Improvement Review Application.

- The department revised learning goals for both the undergraduate and the graduate programs and outlined a systematic process for assessment. However, collection of assessment data for the new learning goals has yet to be completed. Since the process of assessment and closing the loop on the new goals is incomplete, prior to the next review, the department should complete the development of the learning objective metrics and implement the assessment and closing the loop processes. (Standard A4: Accounting Curricula Content, Management, and Assurance of Learning)