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American Institute of Accountants

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**Letters from Chairman [s.n.], American Institute of Accountants Committee on Education, Professor of Accounting, Columbia University, to Schools Re: Possibility for a Student to Select a Course of Study Which Will Meet Requirements Detailed in the Letter.**

American Institute of Accountants. Committee on Education

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# American Institute of Accountants

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13 EAST 41<sup>ST</sup> STREET, NEW YORK

*Recd April 24 1939*

The American Institute of Accountants is the national association of professional public accountants in the United States. The governing body of the Institute is termed the Council. The Institute has been much interested in educational work, the purpose of which is to provide the profession with well trained young men who look forward to a career in the accountancy field.

The Institute's committee on education has been instructed by the Council of the Institute to make a survey of the courses of collegiate instruction in accountancy now being offered to determine to what extent the Institute may rely on these courses as providing suitable training for a career in professional accountancy. While favoring a course of study similar to that of the other professions requiring a period of collegiate study of more than four years duration, as a step towards this higher level of training, the Council has suggested that at the present time a period of training comprising the usual four-year course of collegiate level should be looked upon as a minimum. For such a course of study it has laid down a fairly definite content as expressing its views of the type of training which such a person should pursue during the four-year period. The content of the suggested four-year course is to be divided equally between liberal arts and technical courses using 120-semester credit hours as the requirement for the typical four year college course. The Institute suggests that 60 semester hours should be devoted to these two general branches of study. Of the 60 technical points, 8 semester points are to be secured in finance, 8 in law, 6 in economics, and 38 in accounting.

The purpose of this inquiry is to find out if in meeting the requirements for the bachelor's degree from your school, it is possible for the student to select a course of study which will meet the above requirements. The education committee of the American Institute of Accountants will appreciate your answers to the specific questions enclosed with this letter. Any additional comments you care to make will also be much appreciated.

A statement of the three resolutions of the Council of the Institute relative to its attitude on educational matters is appended.

"Resolved, That the council of the American Institute of Accountants favors the highest practical standards for preliminary education, similar to those generally in effect in other professions such as law or medicine; and be it further

"Resolved, That the council of the American Institute of Accountants regards with favor the establishment of collegiate courses designed to train students for public-accounting practice and approves in principle the suggestions of the committee on education as to cultural and professional subjects to be covered in such courses; and be it further

"Resolved, That the committee on education is hereby instructed to develop in cooperation with educational bodies minimum standards of curricula, finances, library, faculty and equipment, by means of which said council may judge whether or not given courses in a given educational institution meet with its approval."

Very truly yours,

Chairman, American Institute  
of Accountants Committee on  
Education.  
Professor of Accounting  
Columbia University.

# American Institute of Accountants

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK

2-2-29

(July 1929)

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Columbia University.

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS

13 East 41st Street, New York

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

INQUIRY RELATIVE TO TRAINING IN ACCOUNTANCY

1. Q. On the basis of a four-year course of study of collegiate level, how many points or semester hours are required for the Bachelor of Science Degree in business, or its equivalent?

A. ....

2. Q. Of the above total, how many must comprise courses in liberal arts? (The term "liberal arts" is to be interpreted liberally. In the case of inclusion of doubtful courses, kindly state such courses by name and semester points in a footnote.)

A. ....  
.....  
.....

3. Q. Of the above total, how many must comprise technical courses in business?

A. ....

4. Q. Of the technical point requirement, state by name and point value the specific courses required for the degree. By name is meant catalogue designation in your 1938-1939 catalogue, e.g. Accounting 1 - 3 points.

A. ....  
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INQUIRY RELATIVE TO TRAINING IN ACCOUNTANCY

5. Q. How many points in accounting courses is it possible for a student to take in securing his degree?

A. ....

6. Q. Is it possible for a student at your institution to meet all the suggested requirements of the American Institute of Accountants as outlined above.

A. ....

7. Q. If not possible, to what extent can those requirements be met?

A. ....  
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8. Q. Relating it as nearly as possible, to the training suggested by the American Institute of Accountants, will you kindly formulate for each of the four years a typical course of study which can be taken at your school by an interested accounting student.

A. ....  
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