University Training for Accountancy in 1908-1909

American Association of Public Accountants
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The Journal of Accountancy has secured statements from the authorities of each of the American universities, in which considerable instruction in accounting is given, with regard to the courses and enrollment this year. The statements are briefly summarized below:

Harvard.

Three graded one-year courses (each three hours per week) are offered. The elementary course, which is practically the philosophy of accounting, though announced as "Principles of Accounting," has an enrollment of about one hundred and seventy-five men, among whom are all the members of the new Graduate School of Business Administration, except a few who have already had the course, a few students in the Law School and other graduate departments, and over one hundred and thirty college seniors. This course has been given for eight years with a steadily growing interest and attendance. It is open only to seniors and graduates.

In the second course, "Practical Accounting," there are five students, all of whom intend to become professional accountants. This course is given this year for the first time and was not announced until midsummer. Many men now enrolled in the elementary course are preparing to enter "Practical Accounting" next year.

The third and most advanced course, "Accounting Problems," is announced, but not given, this year, inasmuch as no students are yet prepared for work of this grade.

University of Vermont.

Two courses in accounting, one elementary and one advanced, are offered. The number of students enrolled this year is somewhat smaller than in some previous years, but the interest manifested by those who are taking the work is quite satisfactory. Although the courses are regarded as technical, they draw a number of students whose studies are chiefly classical and literary.

Dartmouth.

Two courses, one elementary and one advanced, are offered in the Tuck School. As the courses are restricted to senior or graduate students the enrollment is small. The interest in such work, however, is satisfactory and growing.
Editorial.

New York University.

The work in accounting proper consists of one first-year course through the year in "Principles of Accounting"; one second-year course through the year in “Accounting Practice” and four second-year courses, each running through a half-year, in “Cost Accounts,” Executors’ Accounts,” “Railroad Accounts” and “Investment Accounts”; two third-year courses through the year in “Advanced Problems” and in “Auditing” and two third-year courses, each running through a half-year, in “Corporation Accounts” and in “Philosophy of Accounts.” Each course meets two hours per week.

The number enrolled in the first-year course is 358. The average number in each of the second-year courses is 124; in each of the third-year courses, 83.

University of Pennsylvania.

The Wharton School of Finance has an enrollment this fall of 470 men, against 430 last year. The increase has taken place in spite of an elevation of the entrance requirements for special and partial students. Four accounting courses, in addition to courses in allied subjects, such as business law, corporation finance, banking and credit, industrial management, and the like, are offered. The director writes:

"While I am unable to give the number of the men who are preparing for the profession of Accountancy I notice a very material increase in the number of inquiries for our courses in this line, which leads me to believe that the profession under the new educational conditions represented by the State Board examinations in various states, is attracting a much larger number of well qualified men, and that the prestige of the profession should profit thereby."

Additional courses in accountancy are offered in the university’s evening school of accounts and finance. In this school the total enrollment is about 500.

George Washington University.

The course in “General Accounting” (intended for beginners) has an enrollment of twenty students, which is larger than in previous years. A new course in “Economics of Transportation”, in which about two months are devoted to railroad accounting under Prof. H. C. Adams, has fifteen students.

Ohio State University.

Two courses are offered: an elementary course, entitled “Accounting and Statistics,” which is a two hour course for three terms; and a course in “Advanced Accounting and Auditing,” which is a three hour course for three terms. Another course offered is “American Industries,”
The Journal of Accountancy.

which is closely related to the subject of accountancy. In the "Elements of Accounting," ten students are registered, and in advanced accounting there are four students. This is the third year the "Elements of Accounting" has been offered; and the second year for the course in advanced accounting. There seems to be a great deal of interest in this line of work, and it promises to develop rapidly.

Cincinnati College of Finance, Commerce and Accounts.

The college offers this year two one-year courses, one in "Theory and Practice of Accounting" and one in "Advanced Accounting". The first-named class numbers about thirty-five; the second, about fifteen.

St. Louis City College of Law and Finance.

Two courses are offered this year, one in "Principles and Elements of Bookkeeping and Accounting" and the other in "Advanced Accounting and Auditing". The work is just being started and has aroused much interest. About forty students are enrolled in the beginning class.

University of Illinois.

The number of students registered in course 1, which runs through the year, is 47. There are 21 in each of the two second-year courses. This makes a total of 68 registered in the accountancy courses for the year. A third year course was also elected by a considerable number of junior students, but on account of pressure in the other courses the University was compelled to ask them to defer it until next year.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of students registered in the courses in business administration, as a whole, about thirty per cent. over last year, the total being 191. This year a good many freshmen have expressed their intention of taking the four years' course in accountancy, although no subjects in accountancy are open to freshmen.

Northwestern University.

The new evening School of Commerce of the University in Chicago has opened with a total enrollment of over two hundred, which is a remarkably good showing. Two one-year courses in accounting are offered. There are about eighty students in the "Intermediate" course and about sixty in the "Advanced" course.

University of Iowa.

The one-year course in "Elements of Accounting" is attended by twenty-six students, almost all of whom are juniors or seniors in the
Editorial.

College of Liberal Arts. A course in "Advanced Accounting" is announced, but is not given in 1908-09. These courses are regarded as only the beginning of what will ultimately be offered in the field of higher commercial education.

University of Wisconsin.

About seventy students are taking the sophomore course in "Elements of Accounting"; thirty-five are taking the junior course in "Theory and Practice of Accounting"; and thirty-two are taking the senior course in "Advanced Accounting and Auditing", the senior course in "Business Organization and Management", or both courses together. The interest in the advanced accounting work is very satisfactory and in this respect, as well as in numbers, there is a marked gain over previous years.

University of Minnesota.

The systematic training in accountancy is offered through two courses. "General Accounting" in the first semester will develop the basic theory and philosophy of accounts and give practice in numerous accounting sets taken from concerns in widely varying lines of business. "Corporation Accounts" in the second semester will cover the field of general corporation accounts and will develop through class work systems of accounts for the local and general offices of banks, telegraph, express, and railroad companies, closing with an Interstate Commerce Commission report. The continued generosity of the Society of Public Accountants will enable additional special lectures to be offered frequently by experts in particular lines.

Lively interest is being shown in the accounting work both at the university and in the communities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The general course, which was announced less than a week before the opening of the university has a large enrollment. The widely expressed goodwill of accountants and business men throughout the state promises vigorous growth and wide influence for the work.

University of Denver.

The new evening School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance of the university was opened on September 15. The Dean is J. B. Geisbeek, C. P. A., and the school is primarily designed to give instruction in accounting. The enrollment in the beginning class in "Practical Accounting" is about twenty. Several advanced courses are announced, but will not be given until students have been prepared to take advanced work.

Consolidating these reports, we find that from 1,000 to 1,200 students are taking up for the first time this year a university course in elementary accounting. The number of students taking advanced work is probably
The Journal of Accountancy.

about 500. It would be interesting, but unfortunately is impracticable, to
determine how many of these young men are preparing for public
accountancy. It would perhaps not be far from correct to say that 75% of
the beginning students and 50% of the advanced students take
accounting as part of their general business training. This would still
leave over 500 men who within the next three years will go out of the
universities intent on becoming either corporation or public accountants.
Fortunately for them the demand for trained accountants—particularly for
factory and corporation accountants—seems to be growing with even
greater rapidity than the supply.

Nine years ago university work in accountancy was practically
unknown; five years ago only Harvard, Dartmouth, the University of
Pennsylvania and New York University had entered the field and the
number of students was small; even last year there were probably not
more than 600 entering students of accounting. It is evident that within
the last twelve months there has been an extraordinary development in
this line.

In most universities an accounting course is still a novel and untried
experiment. With the record of the last few years in mind, it seems
dangerous to predict how far the movement will extend.