

**Table 1. Demographics**  
**Sample of Students from the same 20 FSA schools in 2000 and 2006**

	SENIORS		MASTERS' STUDENTS		
	2000	2006	2000	2006	
Number of Respondents	986	1,005	398	607	
<b>Gender (%)</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2000</b>		<b><math>\chi^2</math>/F-value</b>
Male	44.6	43.2	39.7	45.3	0.42 <sup>b</sup>
Female	55.4	56.8	60.3	54.7	3.08 <sup>b</sup> *
<b>Ethic Background (%)</b>					
Caucasian/White	86.7	75.8	74.4	74.5	43.75 <sup>c</sup> ***
African American/Black	2.9	5.2	2.5	2.5	
Native American/Indian	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.3	
Mexican American/Hispanic	3.3	5.2	1.8	2.6	
Asian American/Pacific Island	4.1	7.9	7.5	7.1	
Other American Ethnic Group	0.6	1.5	0.0	1.1	
Non-U.S. Citizen/Foreign	1.7	4.0	13.1	11.9	
<b>Age (%)</b>					
Less than 25	82.5	84.3	58.0	64.3	1.75 <sup>b</sup>
25-30	9.9	9.2	25.1	20.8	
30-40	4.8	4.5	12.1	10.6	
Over 40	2.8	2.0	4.8	4.3	2.52 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Status<sup>a</sup> (%)</b>					
Full-time	94.9	94.4	88.7	91.4	0.25 <sup>b</sup>
Part-Time	5.1	5.6	11.3	8.6	2.03 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The wording of the question was, "What has been your student status during most of your accounting program?"

<sup>b</sup> Indicates an F test statistic; <sup>c</sup> indicates a Chi-square test

\*Indicates significance at the .10 level; \*\*\* Indicates significance at the .01 level

**Table 2. Student Quality**

	SENIORS			MASTERS' STUDENTS		
	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	F-value	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	F-value
<b>High School GPA</b>			6.04 **			10.07 ***
3.6-4.0	58.8	63.7		64.7	72.0	
3.2-3.5	23.1	21.5		19.6	18.5	
2.8-3.1	14.1	11.9		10.9	7.3	
Below 2.8	4.0	2.9		4.8	2.2	
<b>Undergraduate GPA</b>			16.67 ***			3.42 *
3.6-4.0	27.7	32.9		40.7	44.8	
3.2-3.5	32.9	34.7		36.4	37.5	
2.8-3.1	26.0	24.6		19.6	15.1	
Below 2.8	13.4	7.8		3.3	2.6	
<b>Undergraduate Accounting GPA</b>			2.01			0.20
3.6-4.0	37.2	28.5		44.0	45.2	
3.2-3.5	24.9	26.5		31.7	31.6	
2.8-3.1	32.0	31.7		16.1	14.9	
Below 2.8	15.9	13.3		0.7	2.0	
No undergraduate accounting	na	na		7.5	6.3	
<b>SAT Total or ACT Composite</b>			1.55			12.39 ***
1320-1600 or 30-36	10.5	15.0		15.3	25.2	
1170-1310 or 26-29	40.6	37.4		41.9	41.5	
1020-1160 or 22-25	35.8	33.6		33.5	26.1	
Below 1010 or below 22	13.1	14.0		9.3	7.2	

(Table continued opposite)

**Table 2. Student Quality (continued)**

	SENIORS			MASTERS' STUDENTS		
	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	F-value	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	F-value
<b>GMAT</b>			1.41			25.38 ***
>650	1.3	0.7		3.3	5.0	
610-650	9.1	6.1		29.2	30.5	
560-600	8.9	6.5		27.7	18.7	
510-550	7.9	8.7		20.3	19.4	
Below 510	6.3	6.6		14.4	10.2	
Have not taken	66.5	71.4		5.1	16.2	
<b>Graduate GPA</b>						0.40
3.6-4.0	na	na		50.4	51.8	
3.2-3.5	na	na		27.7	28.2	
2.8-3.1	na	na		10.8	11.5	
Below 2.8	na	na		0.8	0.5	
In first semester	na	na		10.3	8.0	
<b>Graduate Accounting GPA</b>						1.85
3.6-4.0	na	na		50.9	50.8	
3.2-3.5	na	na		21.7	26.3	
2.8-3.1	na	na		12.1	11.7	
Below 2.8	na	na		0.7	0.7	
No graduate accounting yet	na	na		14.6	10.5	

na indicates the data is not applicable

\*, \*\*, and \*\*\* indicate significance at the .10, the .05 and the .01 level, respectively.

**Table 3. Academic Major Decision**

	SENIORS			MASTERS' STUDENTS		
	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	$\chi^2$	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	$\chi^2$
<b>Do you personally know someone who is an accountant?</b>			1.76			0.40
No	17.1	15.0		13.6	12.2	
Yes	82.9	85.0		86.4	87.8	
<b>When did you first seriously consider accounting as an academic major?</b>			17.22 ***			6.28
During high school	40.2	31.3		31.7	27.6	
Freshman in college	19.6	22.3		11.8	15.7	
Sophomore in college	30.6	34.1		22.7	25.1	
Junior in college	8.5	11.0		7.6	8.6	
Senior in college	1.1	1.3		3.5	2.5	
Later	na	na		22.7	20.5	
<b>At what point did you make the decision to major in accounting?</b>			16.26 ***			6.18
During high school	27.8	20.4		23.4	19.7	
Freshman in college	20.4	20.6		14.6	16.2	
Sophomore in college	35.9	39.9		21.7	27.2	
Junior in college	14.1	16.8		12.1	12.4	
Senior in college	1.8	2.3		4.0	3.3	
Later	na	na		24.2	21.2	
<b>What effect did the first year accounting courses have on your attitude toward the accounting profession?</b>			2.40			2.86
Very positive	32.5	33.5		38.4	38.0	
Positive	37.0	38.5		33.4	37.5	
Neutral	22.3	20.9		21.1	17.7	
Negative	7.1	5.8		6.3	5.8	
Very Negative	1.1	1.3		0.8	1.0	
<b>Before you decided on an accounting major, what was your major?</b>			29.61 ***			8.51 **
Undecided	13.5	13.3		10.1	8.1	
Business	27.7	37.4		34.6	43.7	
Non-business	27.2	26.7		29.6	25.3	
Always planned on an accounting major	31.6	22.6		25.7	22.9	
<b>What single factor most influenced your decision to pursue accounting as a major?</b>			30.10 ***			7.25
Availability of jobs	22.5	33.3		30.2	33.4	
Money/good salaries	22.8	18.4		15.1	15.7	
Lifestyle/prestige	4.1	4.0		3.5	3.3	
Interesting/exciting profession	19.2	17.8		19.8	18.7	
Intellectual challenge	13.6	11.8		11.8	14.9	
Other (none of the above)	17.8	14.7		19.6	14.0	

\*\*Indicates significance at the .05 level; \*\*\* Indicates significance at the .01 level

**Table 4. Extra-curricular Involvement, Internship Experience, and Certification Requirement**

	SENIORS			MASTERS' STUDENTS		
	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	F-value	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	F-value
<b>I am an active member of:</b>						
Beta Alpha Psi			0.21			17.23 ***
Yes	24.2	25.1		38.8	26.4	
No	75.8	74.9		61.2	73.6	
Any student organization <sup>a</sup>			1.34			0.29
Yes	70.2	72.6		66.5	64.8	
No	29.8	27.4		33.5	35.2	
<b>Internship Experience</b>			0.84			4.45 **
Already Completed/Currently Completing	47.2	48.6		54.7	59.6	
Accepted/Definite Plans	10.6	11.5		6.0	8.6	
Maybe	8.9	8.4		9.6	7.5	
No	33.3	31.5		29.7	24.3	
<b>How many years of college should be required to be required to become a CPA? (%)</b>			$\chi^2$ 3.86			$\chi^2$ 3.63
4 years	25.1	24.3		18.4	16.4	
5 years	56.6	56.5		58.1	55.7	
6 years	16.3	16.7		19.4	24.4	
7 years	1.2	2.1		2.8	2.5	
More than 7 years	0.8	0.4		1.3	1.0	

<sup>a</sup>“Any student organization” includes Beta Alpha Psi, other accounting and business organizations, other academic organizations, honorary societies, and social, cultural and athletic organizations

\*\*Indicates significance at the .05 level; \*\*\* Indicates significance at the .01 level

**Table 5. Education, Certification, and Career Plans**

	SENIORS			MASTERS' STUDENTS		
	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	$\chi^2$	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	$\chi^2$
<b>Panel A: Education Plans</b>						
<b>Do you plan to pursue additional education beyond the bachelor's degree?</b>			11.79	**		2.07
Bachelor's degree only	14.9	13.4		na	na	
Professional entry with only bachelor's, then evening course (on the job) to get 150 hours	19.7	17.8		na	na	
150-hour bachelor's before professional entry	7.6	11.0		na	na	
MPA/MAcc/MSAccg/MSTax	41.4	43.1		84.3	85.2	
MBA	16.1	13.9		10.8	11.7	
PhD	0.3	0.8		4.9	3.1	
<b>Panel B: Certification Plans</b>						
<b>Have you taken the CPA Exam?</b>			4.30			25.70 ***
Yes	1.2	1.1		6.8	18.1	
No, will take later	84.4	87.6		87.6	76.8	
No, do not plan to take	14.4	11.3		5.6	5.1	
<b>Have you taken the CMA Exam?</b>			2.48			3.39
Yes	0.4	0.5		0.8	1.5	
No, will take later	20.5	17.8		20.6	16.7	
No, do not plan to take	79.1	81.7		78.6	81.8	
<b>Have you taken the CIA Exam?</b>			18.18	***		2.09
Yes	0.3	0.5		0.7	1.3	
No, will take later	19.3	27.3		18.1	21.0	
No, do not plan to take	80.4	72.2		81.2	77.7	
<b>Have you taken the CISA Exam?</b>			1.65			0.43
Yes	0.3	0.7		0.8	0.7	
No, will take later	12.6	13.1		13.8	12.4	
No, do not plan to take	87.1	86.2		85.4	86.9	
<b>Panel C: Career Plans</b>						
<b>What type of accounting is your first choice to pursue as a career after graduation?</b>			15.08	***		7.30
Education	0.7	0.9		3.5	1.7	
Government	6.6	9.7		4.8	7.6	
Industry	22.1	16.7		14.1	12.1	
Public accounting	61.2	64.4		71.8	73.1	
Not planning a career in accounting	9.4	8.3		5.8	5.5	

na indicates the data is not available.

\*\*Indicates significance at the .05 level; \*\*\* Indicates significance at the .01 level