New grad programs

Accounting, Public Policy programs begin this fall

Bloomsburg will offer two new graduate degrees beginning in the fall of 2011; a Master of Accountancy degree and a Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs.

The Master of Accounting curriculum is designed to provide students with a program that satisfies the American Institute of CPAs 150 credit hour education requirement while enhancing the skills and knowledge necessary for successful entry into the Public Accounting profession. In addition, the curriculum will prepare students to pass the CPA Exam. Upon successful completion of the program, a student will be in the enviable position of having an earned Bachelor's Degree, a Master's degree, a minimum of 150 credit hours of education, and having sat for the CPA examination. The program coordinator is Richard Baker.

The Master of Accounting is a one year program of study is designed to enable a student to sit for the Financial Accounting & Reporting and Auditing & Attestation portions of the CPA exam upon completion of the fall semester's coursework and to sit for the Business Environment & Concepts (BEC) and Regulation portions of the CPA exam upon completion of the Spring semester. While it is envisioned that most students would begin the curriculum during the fall semester, the program is designed to allow a student the flexibility to begin during any semester. Regardless of when a student enters the program, they should be able to successfully complete all four parts of the CPA exam by the time they receive their Master's degree.

The Public Policy and International Affairs curriculum is designed to prepare students for advanced degrees and professional careers in the areas of global and domestic policy. Successful graduates of this program of study will be prepared to assess and evaluate policy processes and outcomes, have a working knowledge of research methods, needs assessment and policy evaluation as well as understand cultural diversity, cultural tensions and cooperative efforts in contemporary society. Having completed the program the graduate will have comprehensive knowledge and expertise in the public policy process as well as a fundamental understanding of the theories, concepts and models of public policy making. The program coordinator is Diana G. Zoelle.

The Public Policy and International Affairs curriculum will prepare graduates for employment as Public Policy Analysts or Public Policy Expert Consultant. The graduates will be able to work in areas such as local, state and federal government, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. This curriculum also prepares students to continue their education to obtain either a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and International Affairs or Political Science and International Affairs.

Research grant opportunities online

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs offers two online ways to search for grant opportunities. Each one of them is available to you at anytime and you can search them from your desktop. You should contact Jerrold Harris to get a logon ID.

With InfoReady's “In4Grants,” you can search and find grant opportunities, share and collaborate those opportunities with your peers and track and report on all of your activities throughout the pre-award process. Spend more time working on a winning proposal and less time getting bogged down in the administrative tasks.

With Infoed's SPIN and Genius you can search for grant opportunities from many sources and sign up to have grant information sent to you every day. When you have specific areas of interest you can have Genius send you daily emails according to the keywords you choose.

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State System, BU offer faculty grants

The PASSHE system and the BU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs are offering four grant competitions for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. These include the Faculty Professional Development Grant and the Professional Development in Support of Collaborative Academic Grants from the system. The Research and Scholarship Grant and the Margin of Excellence grant from the university. Each of these grants supports different aspect of research or scholarly development.

The Faculty Professional Development Grants support faculty scholarship and development. Grants are available in six separate categories: 1) Joint Faculty Student Basic or Applied Research, 2) Scholarly Research: Basic or Applied, 3) Joint Faculty Student Public Service, 4) Creative and Performing Arts, 5) Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and 6) Individual Career Enhancement in Off-Site Settings.

Grants have a maximum amount of $8,000 this year and BU can send up to 12 proposals to the System committee for consideration. The deadline for submission to the BU committee is Jan. 21. The Faculty Development Committee will choose the top 12 proposals to send to Harrisburg for the competition. Once chosen, the proposals will be sent back to the authors for revisions. These revised proposals will be sent forward for consideration. The awards will be announced sometime in April 2011.

The Research and Scholarship Grant is an internal grant supported by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The purpose of these grants is to fund research or scholarship projects. These projects may be in any discipline and where possible include undergraduate or graduate students in the grant as participants. There are two categories to apply to. The first one is the “Mini Grants.” There is $10,000 available for this grants and the maximum that can be requested is $1,500. These grants can be used to cover supplies, some travel and the start-up of smaller projects.

The second category is the “Full Grant.” There is approximately $65,000 available this year and up to $10,000 may be requested. These grants can be used to fund to projects such as research projects, creative arts projects, and community projects. These projects should be used to give BU students experience in research and scholarly projects so projects should include undergraduate and graduate students where possible. The deadline for submitting a proposal for this grant is Friday, March 18.

The Margin of Excellence Grant is supported by the Bloomsburg University Foundation and the Office of Academic Affairs. The purpose of these grants is to support extraordinary, innovative work in programs and research areas that will lead to scholarly excellence, external funding and/or enhanced recognition for the university. The types of projects that will be funded include cutting edge research which addresses the needs of the Commonwealth or nation; highly creative and innovative visual and performing arts and innovative entrepreneurial projects developed and led by university faculty. The project must be compatible with the mission and strategic plan of the University.

There is approximately $37,000 available to fund grants this year. Grants have a maximum amount of $10,000 this year. The deadline for submission is April 18. The Proposals are reviewed by Quality Enhancement Committee. The awards will be announced sometime in May.

PROFILE

Simpson connects BU with NRC

Four years ago David Simpson, associate professor of physics and engineering technology, applied for a small grant from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fund scholarships for students concentrating in nuclear physics. This was the first time the grant was offered and Simpson was awarded the grant to fund students with the understanding that the student would work for the NRC or similar agency once graduated. Since the first grant award, Simpson has been awarded the grant two more times each time receiving additional funds.

Simpson was also instrumental in helping the NRC revise the requirements for the grants.

One of Simpson's first students, Ed Stutzcage, graduated in 2009 and has been working for the NRC in Washington, DC for about a year. Stutzcage in enjoying his job immensely, the only problem he is having is with the DC traffic.

"I would recommend the program to anyone, if they get the chance,” said Stuczvage, adding “I get loads of training, in all sorts of areas including reactors/reactor technologies, policies, briefings, writing, etc. I also contribute to the work we do in our branch. I just want to let you know that it has been a great experience so far.”