

Accreditation, the Accounting Profession and the Boards of Accountancy

Exploring Opportunities to Enhance the Candidate Pipeline and Improve the Evaluation of Education for the CPA Profession

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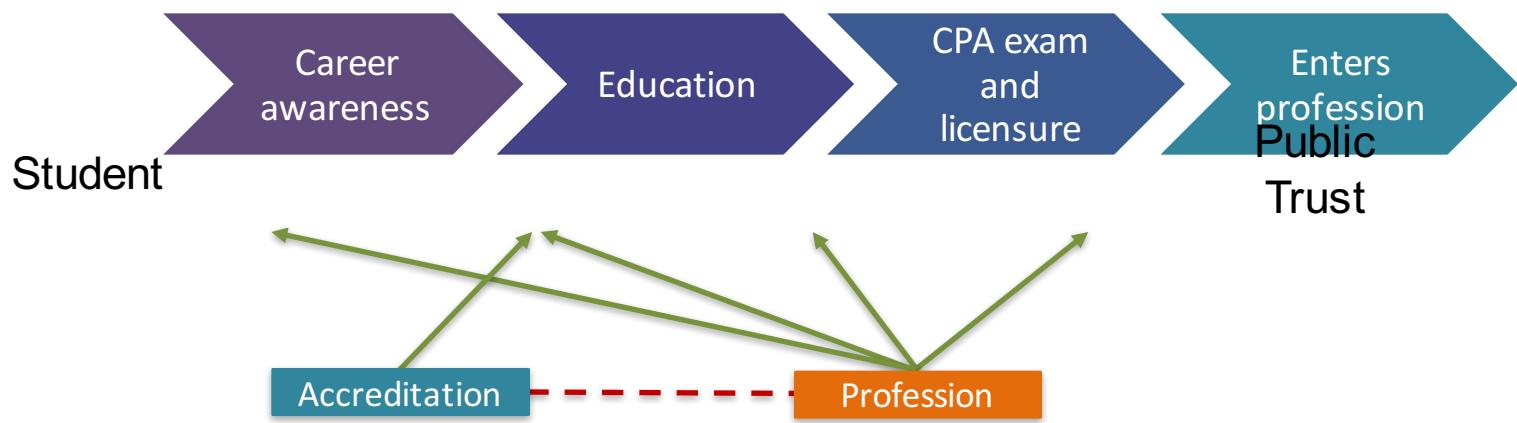
PREPARED BY THE JOINT AICPA/ NASBA ACCREDITATION TASKFORCE



AICPA – NASBA Joint Accreditation Efforts

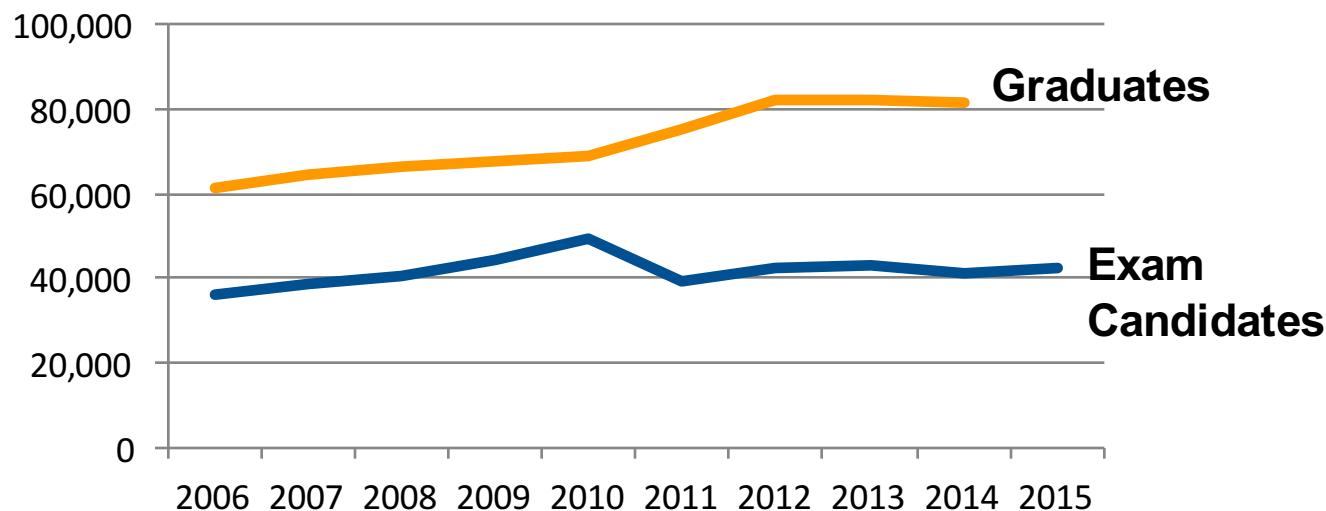
- ▶ **Dramatic changes in higher education (online courses, competency based credit, etc.) over the past two decades have created challenges for evaluating the quality of higher education by the regulators and the AICPA.**
 - These dynamic changes have created a greater need for transcript transparency.
 - Accreditation will benefit from increased involvement by the profession, including regulators, similar to other professions.

The accounting profession depends on the quality and quantity of students coming out of higher education.



Why We Should Care

The Gap Between Accounting Grads and Exam Candidates



Sources: 2015 AICPA Trends Report; AICPA examination quarterly cohort report

How to Bridge the Gap

University experiences that help drive the decision to pursue CPA:

Faculty inspire
students to study
accounting

Pro-CPA culture
on campus

Professors who are
both accounting
PhDs and CPAs

- The profession's engagement with accreditors can impact decision drivers.
- Students benefit from accreditation supported by the profession.

How the Profession Can Be Engaged in Accreditation

Committee of practitioners

- A committee that scans the environment to ensure that accreditors are aware of major changes in the profession

Include profession in accreditation process

- Peer Review Teams, advisory boards to the accreditors and any accrediting governing boards should include practitioners and regulators

Practitioner classroom engagement

- Professional experience, credentials or accomplishments should be required for a significant proportion of participating faculty in accounting programs

Empower accounting PRT

- Ensure that the accounting members on the team evaluating the program are charged with the authority to make the recommendation to grant or extend accounting accreditation

Implementation Strategy - Ensure that accreditation is the primary responsibility of a CPA executive who has relationships with practitioners and regulators.