

College of Business Administration

Action Plan for Professional Initiatives

1. THE ACTION PLAN FOR PROFESSIONAL EXAM INITIATIVE

The CBA professional exam initiative Plan outlines the major directions to promote standards for **professional** knowledge and support students to further excel in their area of specialization.

Need:

World's major Business Schools are affiliated with professional bodies like ACCA, CFA etc. Some Universities of Saudi Arabia have collaboration like King Saud University, King Abdul Aziz University and KFUPM. There is a need for our college as follow the professional exam initiative and collaborate with professional bodies. It will give an international exposure to CBA students which is lacking at this moment.

Objective of Professional Exam initiative at CBA:

Primary objectives to follow professional exam initiative are following:

- To provide more employability chances to our undergraduate and graduate students.
- To Strengthen the educational impact of international opportunities and experiences for students
- To provide students with the ability to achieve the highest level of success in their professional careers
- To have analytical tools to evaluate a constantly changing business environment

Key Professional Bodies:

Following Professional Exam initiative are recommended for CBA:

- ACCA (*Association of Chartered Certified Accountants*)
- CFA (Chartered Financial Analysts)
- CIMA
- CPA
- PMI (Project Management Institute)
- GARP (Global Association of Risk Professionals)
- BLOOMBERG

Advantages:

Following are some of the advantages of having professional affiliations:

- Exemption from some courses to CBA students

- ❑ Redesigning and aligning of specialization courses as per more strict international standards of professional bodies
- ❑ Increase the employment of CBA students
- ❑ Development and focus on analytical skills of CBA students
- ❑ Professional networking of CBA students with worldwide community

Steps/Roadmaps/Flowchart:

The exam initiative unit was established under the initiative taken by office of the vice president of IAU. The unit consist of the following members

- ❑ Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Bajwa
- ❑ Dr. Adam Konto Kyari
- ❑ Dr. Labaran Mohammad Lawal

Upon the instruction of dean and after input from the departments, professional exam initiative unit shortlisted most relevant and applicable professional exams. It is worth mentioning here that these departments were already working on some of these exams.

The operations of this unit will involve continuous contact with the professional bodies and try to have maximum advantage for CBA students.

Estimated Resources:

- At initial stage no financial resources are needed for establishing Unit of Professional Affiliations. A professional affiliation unit can be formed consisting of one faculty members and a coordinator from each department for this unit.
- Annual fees will be applicable for being a member of professional bodies.
- Some support staff may be needed for operations/execution of the unit

The way forward

Following steps and measures will be taken by the initiative team in future

Orient Students through periodic events

- The orientation day activities, start of each academic years for new students
- In class orientation about various professional exams and roadmap for achievement, to student joining particular specialization
- Coop day and other special orientation sessions and other special events

Guide & Support You through continuous advisory service

- In each department an advisory council/unit consisting of faculty and selected alumni
- These units will provide students with continuous guidance for selected professional exams
- Relevant brochures and material for guidance will be provided
- Connectivity with other institutions specialized in providing these services

Assessment you through optional demo exams

- Interested students may opt the facility of demo exams at the end of the graduation program to assess their ability required for particular professional exam

Coach you through skilled faculty

- In the long run CBA will start an evening paid coaching centre for selected (in demand) professional exams to train the students for exams
- In this regard a plan for ACCA coaching is given below

Focus area: ACCA Accreditation

Goal: Exemption from ACCA's professional qualifications for our BSc Accounting graduates

| Objective | Strategies | Activities | Resources & Support | Responsible employee | Time line | Measure of success | Result |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure exemption from ACCA's knowledge and skills fundamental levels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on alignment with some CBA modules, the following papers were put forward for exemption: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> F5, Performance Management; F6, Taxation; F7, Financial Reporting; F8, Audit and Assurance; and F9, Financial Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and submission of the following mandatory documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed programme structure, stating which modules are core and optional Syllabus details for all modules relevant to our application One copy of the most recent examination paper for all modules relevant to our application Articulation agreement One copy of mid-term examinations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this stage, no financial resources are needed provided there are competent and adequate faculty members in accounting and finance. | <p>All faculty members are responsible but Professor Bashir Tijjani is the lead.</p> | <p>Started first semester, 2017/18 academic session, and it is still ongoing.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured the following exemptions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> F7, Financial Reporting; and F8, Audit and Assurance. | <p>Achieved more than 50% accreditation of our BSc Accounting programme</p> |

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|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------|
| | | <p>relevant to our application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of programme regulations | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure exemption from ACCA's knowledge and skills fundamental levels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following papers are to be put forward for exemption: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 F5, Performance Management; 2 F6, Taxation; and 3. F9, Financial Management • Review and alignment of our modules to ACCA's syllabus. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above, the ACCA team is working hard to submit the above mandatory documentation for these papers for their exemptions. However, there is fundamental problem with F6, Taxation. The ACCA syllabus for this paper and supposedly our equivalent module, Accounting for Zakat and Tax, do not align. The Department and the College are working on this problem. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There might be a requirement for additional resources needed in order to secure these exemptions, especially for Taxation paper. | Professor Bashir Tijjani and some faculty members | Second Semester, 2018/19 session to First Semester, 2019/20 session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full exemption | Full accreditation |

Focus area: ACCA Tuition**Goal: The College of Business Administration to serve as ACCA Tuition Centre**

| Objective | Strategies | Activities | Resources & Support | Responsible employee | Time line | Measure of success | Result (how did you go?) |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide tuition for our graduates and others in the community to acquire ACCA's professional qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of evening coaching programme of prospective students.• Creation of a training unit within the CBA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sanctioning of the proposed programme by top management of the University and CBA.• Faculty members support and understanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget, manpower, facilities, etc will be needed for this programme. | TBC | TBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More employability to our graduates.• Provide students with the opportunity to achieve their professional certifications. | At planning stage. |