



Accounting Department

Annual Newsletter
2024-2025

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends:

It is with great pride and excitement that I share a significant milestone for the Accounting Department at Cal Poly Pomona. We have officially earned the AACSB Supplemental Accounting Accreditation—a distinction held by fewer than 200 accounting programs worldwide and only seven in California. This achievement affirms the outstanding quality of our curriculum, faculty, students, and strategic direction, and reflects our deep commitment to excellence in accounting education. The accreditation process is rigorous and comprehensive, requiring programs to demonstrate excellence in strategic management and innovation, learning and teaching, academic and professional engagement, and impactful outcomes. Earning this accreditation is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and advisory council, all of whom continuously strive to uphold the highest standards in accounting education. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and hard work that made this possible.

This accomplishment not only affirms the strength of our program but also positions our students for even greater success in a competitive and evolving profession. Employers recognize AACSB-accredited programs for producing graduates with strong technical skills, ethical grounding, and leadership potential. Our students can be confident that they are receiving a top-tier education that is both current and relevant to today's accounting landscape.

Looking ahead, this accreditation motivates us to innovate further and expand opportunities for our students. We are investing in data analytics, emerging technologies, and experiential learning, ensuring our graduates are prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly changing industry. We are also deepening our ties with the professional community to provide mentorship, internships, and career placement support.

Whether you are a student exploring your future, an alumnus reflecting on your Cal Poly Pomona experience, or a valued friend of the department, your support is integral to our continued success. Together, we are building a legacy of excellence and integrity in accounting education.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to what lies ahead, and we invite you to celebrate this remarkable achievement with us.

*Sincerely,
Magdy Farag, Ph.D., CPA
Professor and Chair
Accounting Department*

AACSB Accounting Accreditation

Tampa, Fla., USA (May 6, 2025)—[AACSB International \(AACSB\)](#) announces that [California State Polytechnic University, Pomona](#) has earned supplemental accounting accreditation. Founded in 1916, AACSB is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools, and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide.

“AACSB accreditation recognizes institutions that have demonstrated a focus on excellence in all areas, including teaching, research, curriculum development, and student learning,” said Stephanie M. Bryant, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB. “We congratulate California State University, Pomona and Dean Dr. Sandeep Krishnamurthy on earning supplemental accounting accreditation and applaud the entire team—including the administration, faculty, staff, and students—for their roles in earning this respected honor.”

Synonymous with the highest standards of quality, AACSB accounting accreditation inspires new ways of thinking within business education globally. As a result, less than 6 percent of the world's schools offering business degree programs hold AACSB business accreditation. Through today's ratification, a total [of 1,052 institutions across 68 countries and territories](#) have earned AACSB accreditation in business. Furthermore, 197 [institutions](#) maintain supplemental AACSB accreditation for their accounting programs.

AACSB accreditation ensures continuous improvement and provides focus for schools to deliver on their mission, innovate, and drive impact.

AACSB-accredited schools have successfully undergone a rigorous review process conducted by their peers in the business education community, ensuring that they have the resources, credentials, and commitment needed to provide students with a first-rate, future-focused business education.

“California State Polytechnic University, Pomona’s commitment to earning accounting accreditation is a true reflection of their dedication—not only to their students, alumni network, and greater business community, but to the higher education industry as a whole,” said Bryant. “Today’s students are tomorrow’s business leaders, and the addition of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona to the network of supplemental accounting AACSB-accredited business schools will have a lasting positive impact for their institution, both locally and globally.”

About AACSB International

Established in 1916, AACSB International (AACSB) is the world’s largest business education association, connecting educators, learners, and businesses to create the next generation of great leaders. With members in over 100 countries and territories, AACSB elevates the quality and impact of business schools globally. Learn how AACSB and business schools from around the world are leading boldly in business education at aacsbedu.



Accounting Advisory Board

The Accounting Advisory Board convenes twice a year to offer guidance and recommendations to Cal Poly Pomona's Accounting Department regarding its curriculum and program development. We are deeply grateful to the Advisory Board members for their continued commitment, thoughtful insights, and generous support of our academic community.



Accounting Board Members

- Nancy Corrigan with the California Board of Accountancy (CBA)
- Ana Rodriguez, Karen Lo, and Baudelia Serrano with Clifton Larson Allen (CLA)
- Alex Serafin and Cheryl Cottel with Deloitte
- Matthew Tutor and Med Hudson with RSM US LLP
- Teresa Velarde and Wilson Ramos with IIA Inland Empire Chapter
- Steve Chhuor with KROST CPAs & Consultants
- Greg Hellmold with LA County Auditor
- Dennis Lee and Scott Nelsen with Eide Bailly
- Justin Lui with Urth Caffé
- Kyle Caruso with Lucas-Horsfall
- Garrett Shakstad and Jesse Nunez with Baker Tilly
- Delphinus Schoster with POPA Federal Credit Union
- Brian Reitz with American Homes for Rent
- John Allen with Yos & Allen, CPA
- Steven Gomez with Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
- Elvia Lima Ortiz with SoCal Gas

EVENTS



ROAD TO SUCCESS IN ACCOUNTING WORKSHOP

The "Road to Success" workshop offers accounting students valuable insights through faculty presentations and a panel of distinguished alumni to guide their professional journeys.

Guest Speakers Included:

- Hannah Rodriguez: Assurance Associate at EY
- Ana Rodriguez, CPA, CFE: Manager, Forensic Accounting Services at CLA
- Tyler Watson, CPA: Senior Associate - Internal Audit & Enterprise Risk at KPMG
- Dennis Lee, CPA: Senior Audit Manager at Eide Bailly
- Alex Serafin, CPA: Managing Director at Deloitte
- Irina Grigorian, CPA: Audit & Assurance Staff at Moss Adams LLP
- Nancy Corrigan, CPA: Pacific Regional Director at NASBA
- Sedrik Newbern: Chief Ethics Officer at NASBA



CPA Path Workshop



The CPA Path Workshop, hosted by the accounting clubs during the spring semester, was an inspiring and informative event that featured Cal Poly Pomona alumni currently working at some of the nation's top accounting firms. These accomplished professionals generously shared their career journeys, offering students valuable insights and practical advice about entering the accounting industry. Their stories helped clarify the CPA path and encouraged students to stay motivated and focused on their educational goals. Attendees gained a clearer understanding of what it takes to succeed in public accounting, the CPA exam process, and how to make the most of internships and networking opportunities.



Accounting Banquet

The annual Accounting Banquet was a major highlight of the semester. The event embraced a colorful spring floral theme, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere to mark the conclusion of a successful academic year. Students, faculty, alumni, and firm representatives gathered to reflect on the year's achievements and foster connections. One of the evening's most memorable moments was the recognition of scholarship recipients, who were honored for their academic excellence and dedication.

These scholarships were made possible through the generosity of donors, including major supporters RSM and CLA, whose continued commitment strengthens the success of Cal Poly Pomona's accounting program.

IIA Conference



From April 13–15, 2025, Dr. Farag had the privilege of joining five exceptional Cal Poly Pomona Accounting students — Brandon Gavinet, Alize Ibarra, Xavier Navarro, Aneiby Pineda, and Haley Wu — at the Institute of Internal Auditors' (IIA) Global Student Conference (GSC) in Orlando, FL. It was an inspiring experience with an outstanding group of future professionals.

Throughout the three-day conference, students and faculty from around the world participated in a variety of internal audit sessions and networking activities. This enriching experience was deeply valued by our students as they prepare to embark on their careers in Internal Audit.

Special thanks to Sal Rodriguez and Teresa Velarde, presidents of the IIA Los Angeles and Inland Empire Chapters, for their generous support in making this opportunity possible.

Scholarship Awards

***Congratulations to the
Scholarship awardees of 2025!
We are also deeply grateful
for our scholarship donors,
who made these scholarships
possible.***

Merrill Lewis Memorial Scholarship

- Thatneat Herrera \$500

Ahmed M.Abo-Hebeish Endowed Scholarship

- Hong Ngo \$1000

LaDonna D. Rhodes Accounting Scholarship

- Iman Beladi \$2000 each
- Moe Phyu Sin

R. Bruce Ray Endowed Scholarship

- Robin Yeh \$6000

Accounting Scholarship

- Kiana Lai
- Lin Lin Lett \$1500 each
- Kevin Yu

D.W.Perry Business Administration Scholarship

- Maw Simon \$500 each
- Yuhan Lee

Donald Putnam Scholarship

- Yuhan Lee
- Kiana Lai
- Kevin Yu \$1000 each
- Mae Simon
- Lin Lin Lett
- Kareena Thiara

Jacqueline Anggriani

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jacqueline Anggriani is a Spring 2024 Cal Poly Pomona graduate who, over the course of three years, earned her Bachelor's of Science from the College of Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting. She maintained a GPA of 3.97 throughout her time at CPP, allowing her to graduate with the honor of Summa Cum Laude.

Although the pandemic had made it difficult for students to interact on campus and utilize certain resources, Jacqueline was determined to make the best of her college years and build connections with peers and professors alike. During her second year at CPP, she started working at the Accounting

Department as a Student Assistant and through this position, learned a lot about the accounting profession and networking. In her third year, Jacqueline was a prominent member of Beta Alpha Psi, contributing to the club as their Treasurer and helping organize events such as Meet the Firms and the annual Accounting Banquet. Obtaining a student leadership position helped her develop both her organizational and leadership skills while also assisting other accounting students and exposing them to resources that helped them build networks and expand their knowledge about the different paths in accounting.

She also participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which helped develop her technical skills and let her apply what was learned in school to real-world situations. Her commitment to her studies and academics also awarded her both the DW Perry Scholarship and the CalCPA Inland Empire Scholarship.



Holly He

NEW FACULTY

Dr. Holly He received Bachelor of Management in accounting and Master of Management in Accounting from Renmin University of China, M.S. in Finance from University of Rochester, and a PhD in Accounting from University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine). After graduating from the Ph.D. program, she joined the faculty at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona).



Dr. He had teaching experience in a variety of classes, including undergraduate course Financial Accounting for Decision Making at Cal Poly Pomona as well as undergraduate courses Intermediate Accounting and Principles of Accounting, and graduate courses Financial Reporting and Financial Statement Analysis at UC Irvine. In addition to teaching,

Dr. He actively conducts scholarly activities that can be impactful on the academic community, practitioners, and regulators. Her research interests include financial accounting and auditing. She has presented her papers at many academic conferences. One of her working papers, Operating Lease Recognition and Credit Assessment by Banks, was covered by the FinReg Blog sponsored by the Duke Financial Economics Center.

MSA Program

The M.S. in Accountancy (MSA) program in the newly named Singelyn Graduate School of Business at Cal Poly Pomona has a solid reputation in Los Angeles County and statewide. The MSA program provides two paces to accommodate working professionals. Currently, there are 69 students in the two-year General MSA program and 27 students in the one-year Accelerated MSA program. Our MSA students were hired by international, national, regional, and local firms, including the Big Four, Eide Bailly, CliftonLarsonAllen, Franchise Tax Board, and IRS.

Contributors: Dr. Mohamed Gomaa and Dr. Meihua Koo

In response to the changes in the accounting profession, the Accounting Department redesigned the MSA program to focus on the skills that students need to excel in the current professional environment. This included developing our students' analytics skills through courses such as our Advanced Analytics in Accounting and Fraud and Forensic Accounting. In addition, students are taught about cybersecurity issues and challenges in accounting, network devices, servers, databases, and other devices used in an accounting system, as well as techniques to audit and secure these systems. The newly redesigned curriculum is taking effect this fall



For more information, please scan the QR code or visit the link :
<https://www.cpp.edu/cba/graduate-business-programs/programs/master-science-accountancy.shtml>

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Source: CSU5+ VITA Collaborative Report 2025

Cal Poly Pomona's Volunteer Income Tax assistance (VITA) program once again delivered free tax preparation services to low-income taxpayers in and around Pomona in 2025. Led by Tax Professor Sharyn M. Fisk, former Director of the IRS Office of Professional Responsibility, and current IRS revenue Agent Yan-Shu Zhao, the program provided 27 enrolled students with hands-on experience in tax preparation, client communication and professional development, and served 997 clients which is an increase from the previous year.

Cal Poly Total Earned Income Tax Credits

Total earned income tax credits



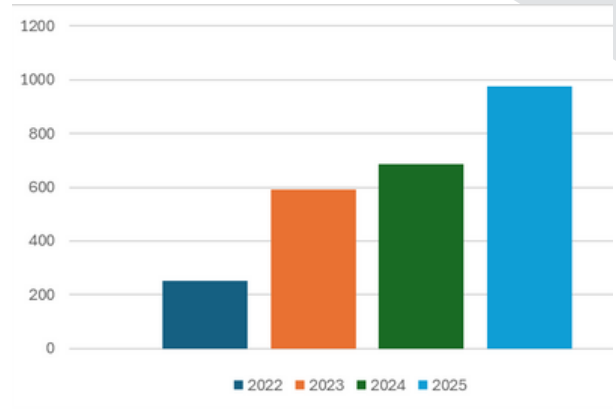
The pie charts illustrate the breakdown of Cal Poly's total tax refunds and total earned income tax credits by source: state and federal. These indicate that federal contributions make up the larger share of both tax refunds and earned income tax credits received.

For more information, please visit the link:

<https://www.cpp.edu/cba/accounting/volunteer-income-tax-assistance/annual-reports.shtml>
or scan the QR Code:



Number of Tax Payers Served



CPP partnered with International Programs to raise awareness among international students about their tax responsibilities and the importance of early filing. The program also welcomed back recent alumni who are former probationary IRS employees whose expertise further strengthened the team. As part of the CSU5+ VITA collaboration, CPP continues to serve the community while developing future tax professionals through meaningful, real-world engagement.

Cal Poly Total Tax Refund

Total earned income tax credits





Congratulations! *Class of 2025*



FACULTY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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FACULTY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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The College of Business Administration Accounting Department would like to express gratitude to all those who have contributed to the creation of this publication.