PPA Opportunity Fund

Would you like to give back to PPA? We have the Professional Program in Accounting Opportunity Fund to help future PPA students and their journey at UT Dallas. We’d like to raise a minimum of $5,000, which when matched by the dean will enable us to establish an endowed opportunity fund that will provide unrestricted support directly to the PPA program in perpetuity.

Should you be moved to donate, you may do so by visiting https://giving.utdallas.edu/jsom and selecting Professional Program in Accounting Opportunity Fund from the drop-down designation menu. As with all gifts made to UT Dallas, gifts to the Professional Program in Accounting Opportunity Fund may be eligible for a match by your employer. Please be sure to check with your employer on their matching policy for gifts to charitable organizations.

Do we have your updated contact information? We often send out information to our PPA alumni and want to make sure we are reaching you. If you have updated contact information, please send that to Elizabeth Pigg at elizabeth.pigg@utdallas.edu.
DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

I am so proud of the accomplishments of the Professional Program in Accounting (PPA) students during the 2016-2017 year. The students in PPA embraced the opportunities and challenges to reach both their academic and professional goals. Through challenging accounting coursework and extensive professional development, students in PPA were pushed to exceed even their own personal expectations.

Our year started by celebrating the admission of the tenth class into PPA! The juniors in PPA Class 10 started the year by enduring the application process and being admitted to the program and learning new skills in the professional development workshops. They started their first academic class in the spring and finalized the semester by competing in the fifth annual PPA Case Competition and accepting internship offers from the top public accounting firms in the world.

Our seniors in PPA Class 9 spent the spring interning in assurance and tax and returned to campus with full-time job offers in hand. They culminated the year by earning their bachelor of science in accounting. Last but definitely not least, several of our graduate students in PPA Class 8 began their year by studying abroad in beautiful Marburg, Germany, and the class finished the CPA examination before graduation with master’s degrees in May.

I am so thankful for the opportunities provided to the PPA by not only UT Dallas and the Jindal School of Management, but also our corporate friends who help in every step of the process. I look forward to continuing building the relationships to make the next decade of PPA even better than the first!

Amy Troutman, CPA
Director, Professional Program in Accounting

STUDENT PROGRAMMING

PPA Professional Development

A significant component of PPA is fostering students’ professional and career development so they are competitive candidates for internships. This year, our students participated in a variety of professional development opportunities which included:

- Résumé and networking sessions
- Dining and dress etiquette lunch sponsored by BDO
- Mock interviews with partners from public accounting firms
- What is the difference between audit, tax and consulting panel discussion with partners from public accounting firms
- How to be successful in your public accounting internship panel discussion
- Two day big data and Excel training
- How to study for and pass the CPA exam panel
- Intermediate boot camp training prior to CPA exam semester.

PPA Socials

PPA students also had the opportunity to participate in social events throughout the fall semester, including dinner at a local restaurant, annual holiday social at Professor Troutman’s home and our first ever Kickball tournament. These social events allow our PPA students the opportunity to connect outside of the classroom and recruitment process and build friendships.

Many PPA students were recognized at the Undergraduate Accounting Luncheon in May for their hard work and dedication to school.
This past spring PPA Class 9 completed their spring audit and tax public accounting internships. Our students were working on client engagements from large airline corporations, Dallas billionaires, hospitals, soda manufacturing companies to Goldman Sachs.

PPA Academics
PPA provides PPA specific core accounting classes to our students. This past year, our accounting faculty taught 30 credit hours to our PPA students. Our Intermediate II PPA course includes a case study competition where partners from the public accounting firms come and judge the competition.

Study Abroad
In the summer of 2016, PPA sent 27 graduate students to Marburg, Germany for six weeks for our first annual study abroad program. While in Marburg, our students completed nine graduate credits towards their MS-ACCT degrees, visited German businesses and attended weekend outings as a group. Many took the opportunity to travel around Europe before or after the program to explore the world. We see this as a valuable opportunity for our students to go internationally and see cultures and accounting practices abroad.

Student Placement – Internships and Full Time Positions
PPA Class 10 completed their spring 2018 audit and tax internship recruitment season in the spring, although some started in the fall. From January – May, firms had on-campus presentations, social events, interviews and office visits. All in the hopes of securing our PPA students into their internship programs. Below are the results of the PPA Class 10 internship recruitment season.

PPA Class 10 Internship Placement

PPA Class 9 Full Time Placement

The PPA study abroad program was an amazing opportunity that allowed me to experience the different cultures outside of my own comfort zone, get to know my PPA peers, and, of course, earn the credit hours that are required for my degree plan. Amy and Elizabeth did a fantastic job at taking care of every little detail for us and made it possible. Overall, I’m glad to have experienced it before graduating, as it has become one of the most memorable moments at UTD for me.

Buu Nguyen
PPA Class 8

ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW: 2016–17

Student Profile
Professional Program in Accounting (PPA) students come from across the country and the world. These students are student leaders, mentors, campus leaders, volunteers, athletes, and scholars all pursuing their BS-ACCT and MS-ACCT degrees, CPA licenses and careers in public accounting.

PPA Cycle (high level overview)
Each academic year, PPA’s members consist of juniors, seniors and graduate students. Each classification has a specific cycle each year that the class goes through together.

This past spring PPA Class 9 completed their spring audit and tax public accounting internships. Our students were working on client engagements from large airline corporations, Dallas billionaires, hospitals, soda manufacturing companies to Goldman Sachs.

PPA Class 10 students participated in many firm presentations in the spring to learn about the public accounting firms who recruit out of the PPA program.

We recruit from UT Dallas’ PPA program because this program has demonstrated a consistent ability to produce students who are prepared to succeed in public accounting. UTD has everything we look for in candidates: they’re smart, they’re motivated, they have good work ethic, they’re diverse, they are optimistic about the future, and they are great leaders. I think UTD’s PPA program is great because it’s located right here in the metroplex, where many of the students are from and where many of them want to work. All these factors make UTD’s PPA program a fantastic place to find candidates for my firm.

Chris Lewis
Deloitte Audit Partner

Robert Murphy, Jake Walker, Umri Khan, Patrick Sarman & Amanda Hernandez won first place in our PPA Intermediate II Case Study Group.

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Buu Nguyen
PPA Class 8

Ehson Akbari, Sheryl Chayka and Bartise Bowden start their audit internships with KPMG in downtown Dallas.

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Did you know?

72-77%
CPA Pass Rate

Since the inception of the PPA program, our CPA pass rates have ranged from 72%-77% as reported six months post graduation. The national average pass rate is 49%.

PPA Scholarships

This last year, our PPA students were awarded $30,000 in PPA specific undergraduate scholarships! We also had a graduate student who received the $10,000 AICPA graduate scholarship! Two of our students received a full ride masters scholarship from Ernst & Young valued at $15,000 each!

Leadership Programs

Each day, some public accounting firms hold one to two day Summer Leadership Programs as a recruiting tool to pre-identify rising juniors for their internship programs. Some of these programs are held from the local office all the way to Chicago, IL. Top students from across the country fight to get into these programs as a chance to kick-off their recruitment process. In the summer of 2017, UT Dallas students held 33 spots in these programs! Often times these leadership programs will warrant an early spring internship offer.

PPA Alumni

PPA has a strong alumni chapter in the DFW area with over 300 professionals and growing. Many of our alumni come back to campus and give back to our PPA program in terms of mentorship and recruitment with their firms. Our PPA program continues to get stronger with each alumni we place in public accounting. Each fall we hold a social to bring them back together, network and celebrate their successes out in the real world.

PPA Firm Donations

With the continued growth of our program and strength in relationships with the public accounting firms, PPA was able to secure $21,000 in firm sponsorships. We want to thank the following firms for their continued investment in our students. Many other firms held giveaways in the PPA lounge or held events off-campus for our students this year. Thank you!

- BDO – PPA Class 10 Dining Etiquette Sessions
- BKD – Four TVs in the PPA Lounge
- Deloitte – PPA Class 10 Mock Interview Student Lunch
- KPMG – PPA Class 10 Kick-Off Lunches
- Saville – PPA Class 10 Backpacks

Robert Murphy
PPA Class 10

Without having attended the leadership program for RSM, I very well might have missed out on an amazing chance to find the firm and working environment that fits me best. The Professional Program in Accounting played a huge role before I had even joined the program. The connections that Elizabeth Pigg and Amy Troutman and the program offers even before joining are incredibly valuable and helped me land a spot in the leadership program as well as an early internship offer!

Ernie Lowery
PWC, Audit Senior Manager
PPA Class 1

The PPA program provided a roadmap to the career I wanted to pursue, equipped me with soft skills needed for any work environment, and provided the academic foundation to be able to progress in an accounting career. It also provided me with a small network of other accounting professionals before even starting my career. I look forward to going back and seeing each new class!

Ernie Lowery
PWC, Audit Senior Manager
PPA Class 1

PPA alumni gather for an evening of reconnecting and fun.