Mission:
In support of the Kean University mission, the Department of Accounting prepares a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students for professional careers in accounting. In addition, the Department fosters understanding of fundamental accounting principles utilized in business management, public administration, and other disciplines. Specifically, the Department uses accounting, the language of business, to prepare students to think critically, to adapt skills to an ever-changing economic and technological environment, to participate in strategic decision making in business and government, and to serve as an active and contributing member of society.

The Master of Science in Accounting is designed to prepare students for professional careers in Accounting. It is designed specifically to enable students to meet the NJ State Board of Accountancy eligibility requirements for taking the CPA examination in NJ.

Assessment Process:
This is a 30-credit program that included seven required cores courses and three elective courses, one of which must be in accounting. Required courses cover all of the major topics in accounting – financial accounting, managerial (cost) accounting, tax (corporate and individual), auditing, and law and ethics. The final required course, Seminar in Professional Accounting Practice (ACCT 5990), utilizes a case study approach to focus on applying accounting principles to evaluate and solve accounting problems.

Each core course incorporates assessment tools such as case analyses, presentations, exams, teamwork and research papers. Feedback from these assignments contributes to the review of the curriculum, with changes made to address gaps in student learning. For example, in AY 2010, a review of the culminating experience (ACCT 5990) revealed that the curriculum did not adequately address contemporary issues that would strongly impact graduates’ professional success. The course was revamped to focus on these issues and the requisite tools to be informed about changing tax regulations and standards.

In the Spring 2012 semester, a comprehensive program assessment took place in the culminating experience (ACCT 5990) which included a number of instruments: a comprehensive knowledge test, embedded exam questions, case analysis + professional memo evaluated with a rubric. Instruments were developed that were utilized in the pilot. Moving forward, each Spring composite data from scored student assignments and exams will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses, and to inform decisions that will result in program improvements.
addition, a systematic process for gathering data utilizing an indirect measure, the Graduating Student Survey, was established. Data from the student survey will also help inform decisions regarding program improvement that increase student learning. Faculty will meet each May to examine the data and make recommendations on how student learning can be improved.

**Assessment of Student Learning**

*Students who graduate with a Masters in Accounting from Kean University will:*

**SLO1:** Demonstrate knowledge of financial and managerial accounting, accounting systems, tax and auditing. (KU2, KU4)

**Direct Measure:** Knowledge exam developed by Accounting faculty was administered early in the spring semester in ACCT 5990. Status: Exam has been developed. Pilot: Fall 2012.


**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student & Alumni survey.

**SLO2:** Access, interpret, analyze and apply relevant accounting standards to solve accounting problems. (KU 1, KU2, KU4)

**Direct Measure:** Final Exam question in ACCT 5990. Piloted in Spring 2012.

2 cases graded with rubric in ACCT 5990. Pilot: Fall 2012.

**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student & Alumni survey.

**SLO3:** Produce effective, professional-quality communication summarizing their analysis of accounting problems and proposed remedies that are easily understood by a non-accountant reader. (KU4)

**Direct Measure:** Final Exam question in ACCT 5990. Piloted in Spring 2012.

Student prepared Memo for case assignment, graded with rubric in ACCT 5990. Pilot: Fall 2012.

**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student & Alumni survey

**SLO4:** Students will know the emerging issues in accounting, and learn techniques for staying current on these issues. (KU1, KU2, KU4)

**Direct Measure:** Final Exam question in ACCT 5990. Piloted in Spring 2012.

* Kean University Student Outcomes: *Kean University graduates should be able to:*
1. Think critically, creatively and globally;
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; and
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof.