

## **My University Scholar Plan (“My Plan”)**

**Annette Nellen**

### **I. My Reasons for Going to College and Choosing to Major in Accounting**

After graduating from Agoura High School, I began my university studies at San José State University on August 23, 2006.

My reasons for going to college include:

- § I always planned to go to college
- § I wanted to prepare for a career
- § I enjoy going to school

My declared major at Fall 2006 is undeclared.

Although I’m an undeclared major, I’m thinking about majoring in Accounting.

I selected this major for the following reasons:

- § I’m good at math and career books recommend this career for people good at math.
- § The description in the course catalog looks interesting.
- § I’ll try a few courses and see if I like it. I notice that accounting majors have to take a basic economics course and it also counts for GE so I’ll take this course which will benefit me even if I don’t major in accounting.

Other areas of study that interest me include:

- § Astronomy (they didn’t have this class at my high school)
- § Religious studies (because I don’t think I know much about religions)

Upon receiving my Bachelor’s Degree, I plan to ...

Get a good job and have a career that I will enjoy and be able to earn a decent living.

I may go on to graduate school or law school.

## **II. What I Should Expect to Get out of My Studies and Activities at SJSU**

**A. My Major:** All of the majors at SJSU have stated learning objectives for students to help students gain a better understanding and appreciation of what they will learn from the program.

The learning objectives for Accounting (major) are:

### **Outcomes - B.S. Business Administration**

(outcomes are common to concentrations in Accounting, Accounting & Information Systems, Corporate Financial Management, and Finance)

#### **Communication**

Students should be able to:

- explain in both oral and written form their analysis of numerical and written data
- read, critique, and judge the value and contribution of a written work
- listen effectively
- understand how to market professional services and to market themselves

#### **Creative Thinking**

Students should be able to:

- solve diverse and unstructured problems in unfamiliar settings

#### **Teamwork**

Students should be able to:

- understand interpersonal and group dynamics in business as well as be sensitive to their strengths and weaknesses in working with team members
- work effectively with diverse groups of people

#### **Adapting to Change**

Students should be able to:

- stay current in the field of accounting and the business environment in which they work
- deal effectively with imposed pressures
- understand methods for managing change within organizations

#### **Global Perspective**

Students should be able to:

- take a global perspective to accounting, financial management, tax, and legal issues relevant to businesses

#### **Accounting Knowledge**

Students should be able to:

- understand the underlying accounting concepts, the elements of and the relationships among the primary financial statements as well as how business transactions are processed to produce financial statements
- understand the accounting cycle
- understand the types of information needed for management decision-making and how to prepare it
- set up and evaluate an accounting system.

- conduct research into generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), SEC reporting rules, auditing standards, etc., and how to interpret and apply that research
- understand the purpose of the audit function and audit standards
- understand basic computer programs and how to apply them to accounting practices
- understand basic income tax concepts and how they are applied to different entities, the differences between tax and GAAP rules, and to perform basic tax research

### **Fundamental Business Concepts**

Students should be able to:

- understand and appreciate the cultural, social, political, economic and legal forces that affect businesses
- understand how businesses are organized and managed
- understand the nature of financial markets relevant to businesses
- understand the laws that affect businesses (e.g. securities, corporate, labor, contracts, intellectual property basics)
- appreciate the ethical rules and considerations involved in accounting work and have practice in applying them
- use various techniques and information sources to analyze and solve accounting and financial problems

Source: The above objectives were copied verbatim from <http://www2.sjsu.edu/ugs/PA/pa-Account.htm>.

**B. My GE Courses:** Learning objectives for SJSU's General Education courses

Upon completion of SJSU's General Education curriculum students should be able to demonstrate:

- § a broad understanding of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts;
- § an ability to communicate ideas effectively both in speaking and in writing;
- § the capacity for critical and creative thinking;
- § an understanding of ethical choices inherent in human development;
- § an ability to assess information (information literacy);
- § an ability to address complex issues and problems using disciplined analytic skills and creative techniques;
- § multi-cultural and global perspectives gained through intellectual and social exchange with people of diverse backgrounds and experiences;
- § the characteristics of "intentional learners" who can adapt to new environments, integrate knowledge from different sources, and continue learning throughout their lifetimes; and
- § the capacity to participate as a socially responsible member of civic, professional, cultural, and other communities.

**C. My Entire University Experience:** Goals from the SJSU Mission Statement -

- § in-depth knowledge of a major field of study
- § broad understanding of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts.
- § skills in communication and in critical inquiry.
- § multi-cultural and global perspectives gained through intellectual and social exchange with people of diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds
- § active participation in professional, artistic, and ethnic communities.
- § responsible citizenship and an understanding of ethical choices inherent in human development

**III. More Information about My Major at SJSU**

SJSU Department: Accounting & Finance

Location: BT 850

Phone number: 924-3460

Website URL: <http://www.cob.sjsu.edu/acct&fin/>

#### **IV. Possible out-of-class activities, experiences and information related to my major**

A club or organization at SJSU that relates to my major is the Beta Alpha Psi. This club meets monthly on a Friday evening in the University Room. There a few other times when they meet for presentations with professionals.

According to information found in the SJSU Career Center, possible career opportunities in my chosen major include:

- § work for a CPA firm
- § work in the financial reporting or tax department of a business
- § internal auditor for Santa Clara County
- § Revenue Agent with the IRS

The following companies interview on campus to hire people majoring in accounting:

- 1) PricewaterhouseCoopers
- 2) Deloitte
- 3) Intel

A professional organization related to my major and/or future career is:

Name: The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Website/URL: [www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org)

Purpose of the organization/What does it do?

The AICPA provides its members with “resources, information, and leadership that enable them to provide valuable services in the highest professional manner to benefit the public as well as employers and clients.” [Source: AICPA Mission Statement available at <http://www.aicpa.org/about/mission.htm>]

Who may join? People who have passed the CPA exam and accounting students who pay dues.

Name of any newsletter or publication they provide to members: Journal of Accountancy

How much does it cost to join? Between \$180 and \$270 depending on the member’s job title. Students can join for \$35.

A journal that relates to my major and/or future career is:

Journal of Accounting Research

This journal is published (how often): 5 times per year

## **V. The Courses Needed to Complete My Major**

Based on the SJSU Catalog and any information available from my department office here is a likely schedule I'll pursue over the next few years so that I graduate in Spring 2009. For each semester from Fall 2005 to the semester I graduate, I'll likely take the following courses (present a list for each semester that states the course and the number of units).

### Fall 2005 (15 units)

English 1A Composition I (A2)  
Comm 20 Public Speaking (A1)  
MUSE Authors and Advocacy: Changing Our Communities One Page at a Time (C2)  
Hist 15A (D2 and F)  
Bus 10 Discovering Business

### Spring 2006 (17 units)

Engl 1B Composition II (C3)  
Math 70 Finite Math (B4)  
Hist 15B US History/Govt (D3 and F)  
ASTR 10 (B1) Distr. Astronomy  
ASTR 102 (B3) Astronomy Lab  
BUS 91L Business Computer Tools  
KIN 20A Beg Badminton (PE)

### Fall 2006 (13 units)

BUS 20 Financial Accounting  
BUS 80 Business Law  
ECON 1A Macroeconomics  
BIOL 10 The Living World (B2)  
KIN 32 Aerobics (PE)

### Spring 2007 (15 units)

BUS 90 Business Statistics  
PHIL 10 Intro to Philosophy (C1)  
ECON 1B Microeconomics (D1)  
PHIL 57 Logic and Critical Reasoning (A3)  
RECL 10 Having a Meaningful Life (E)

### Fall 2007 (15 units)

BUS 100W Business Communication (Z)  
BUS 120A Accounting Information Systems  
BUS 121A Intermediate Accounting I  
BUS 160 Fund. Of Mgmt & Org Behavior  
DANC 102 – Dance in World Cultures (V)

Spring 2008 (15 units)

BUS 121B Intermediate Accounting II  
BUS 122A Mgmt in Acct Control Systems  
BUS 123A Tax Factors of Business Decisions  
BUS 130 Fundamentals of Marketing  
PHIL 186 Prof Business Ethics (S)

Fall 2008 (18 units)

BUS 123C Taxation of Individuals and Pass-Through Entities  
BUS 129A Financial Auditing  
BUS 170 Fundamentals of Finance  
BUS 188 Business Systems Integration  
BUS 190 Quantitative Business Analysis  
GEOL 103 Earth Systems (R)

Spring 2009 (15 units)

BUS 129B Operational Auditing  
BUS 126 Advanced Accounting  
BUS 140 Fundamentals of Operational Mgmt  
BUS 189 Strategic Mgmt  
BUS 187 Global Dimensions of Business

## **VI. Interview**

On October 13, 2006, I interviewed Joyce Smith who is a CPA at Young and Prosper CPA firm. I found Joyce's contact information from the Alumni Database at the Career Center. Joyce invited me to her office in Willow Glen for the interview.

Joyce majored in accounting and graduated from SJSU in May 1995. After graduating, she worked for a Big 4 CPA firm, rising the rank of manager. In 2000, she and a colleague started their own firm focused on individuals and small business clients. There are five owners of the firm and the firm provides accounting, audit, tax, financial planning and business consulting services.

Joyce got interested in accounting while in high school when she met a neighbor who was an accountant. Joyce told me she always did very well in math in school and enjoyed solving problems. When she was 16, her mother bought her 50 shares of stock in Intel and she started looking at the business section of the newspaper and reading the financial reports of Intel and found them quite interesting.

Joyce grew up in San Jose and was pleased to learn from her high school counselor that SJSU had a strong accounting program. She applied to a few other CSUs as well, but decided to stay near her family and attend SJSU.

Joyce is very pleased with her choice of major and career. She found she really enjoys working with people to help them solve their business and financial problems. She keeps up to date with changes in accounting and the tax law by reading two monthly journals and attending a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education courses each year which is required to keep her license.

She encouraged me to join Beta Alpha Psi at SJSU so I would meet professionals and show that I was interested in the field of accounting. She also told me that there are lots of accounting jobs other than at accounting firms and encouraged me to also look at what the IRS and other government agencies have to offer.

## **VII. In addition to taking the courses required to earn your degree, here are 2 other activities I'll engage in while at SJSU to help me get the most out of my university experience and be as prepared as possible for what I'll do after I complete my degree at SJSU (I'll probably engage in more, but here are two of them):**

1. Attend workshops offered by the Career Center on how to write a resume and how to be interviewed.
2. Join Beta Alpha Psi, the honorary accounting fraternity (if my grades are good enough)

## **VIII. Additional Reminders**

- § See my major adviser as required and more often if I have questions about completing my degree requirements.
- § Visit Career Center Job Fairs well before I plan to graduate so I can learn more about employers who interview on campus.
- § Get involved with Career Center workshops at least a year before you plan to graduate so I know how to write an effective resume, how to sign up for interviews, etc.
- § Get involved with the student club(s) related to my major.
- § Get involved with any student club that is of particular interest to me beyond my major.
- § Keep in touch with my MUSE Professor because she can help me find answers to my questions (Professor Nellen, [anellen@sjsu.edu](mailto:anellen@sjsu.edu); (408) 924-3508; BT 955).
- § Use campus resources when needed, such as the Learning Assistance Resource Center (for tutoring in a variety of subjects), the Peer Mentor Center, Counseling Services, Financial Aid, and others. Information can be found using <http://www.sjsu.edu>.