INTEGRATING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY INTO ACCOUNTING CURRICULUMS

As the accounting industry becomes digitized, it is increasingly important that future accountants are well-versed in digital technologies.

Finance experts recommend that people spread Accountants who are well-versed in data analytics offer a competitive advantage, and firms are increasingly investing in recent graduates who hold this skillset. How can accounting educators prepare their students for this economy?

Cory Ng, associate professor of instruction, deputy chair, and director of the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program, evaluates the success of his own curriculum in teaching students about data analytics in accounting. Specifically, Ng teaches a course about robotic process automation, artificial intelligence, and using business intelligence tools for data analysis in the MAcc program.

Pre- and post-surveys of the students in Ng's class show significant improvements in understanding these concepts. By the end of the course, all students had achieved at least "average awareness" of the course learning objectives and in the use of the advanced data analytics technologies. Additionally, results from the university student feedback forms suggested that the overall course design was effective.

Ng notes that professors do not have to be technology experts to expand their students' technology skill sets. Furthermore, Ng offers a blueprint–syllabus, rubrics, final group project, assignments–that other professors can use to create their own accounting curriculums.

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

● Firms are increasingly investing in recent accounting graduates who are well-versed in data analytics technologies.

● All students in Cory Ng's class achieved at least "average awareness" in the course learning objectives and in using advanced data analytics technologies.

● Ng offers a blueprint other educators can use when designing their own accounting curriculums.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW:

● Accounting educators
● Accounting practitioners
● Accounting students

CONTACT US:

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● Teaching Advanced Data Analytics, RPA, and Artificial Intelligence in a Graduate Accounting Program.
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