



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

June 2, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

SUBJECT: Degree Authorization for the State University of New York at Oneonta

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the State University of New York at Oneonta to offer the Master of Business Administration degree, subject to approval by the New York State Board of Regents.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the New York State Board of Regents for the State University of New York at Oneonta to confer the Master of Business Administration degree.

Background

Approval of this resolution will authorize the State University of New York at Oneonta ("SUNY Oneonta") to offer the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree, subject to approval by the Board of Regents. Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents SUNY Oneonta's first use of the M.B.A. degree.

The M.B.A. degree is a specialized graduate degree widely recognized by prospective students and employers. M.B.A. programs prepare graduates to take

on leadership responsibilities and advance their careers in a range of business fields.

The proposed M.B.A. in Accounting at SUNY Oneonta is designed to prepare students to pursue licensure as certified public accountants under the established 150-hour pathway. Through advanced courses in business disciplines and accounting, including study of entrepreneurialism, advanced data analytics, and the role of artificial intelligence as well as advanced financial statement analysis, professional communication, ethical reporting requirements related to environmental, social, and governance issues, and the unique reporting issues for governmental and nonprofit entities, students will gain the necessary skills for careers in accountancy. SUNY Oneonta will seek programmatic accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The curriculum will be offered fully online and can be completed in one year of full-time study. The proposed M.B.A. is intended to replace SUNY Oneonta's existing five-year Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Professional Accounting. This shift will provide students with the opportunity to obtain two degrees within the same timeframe and to study advanced accounting concepts at the graduate level. Additionally, the proposed M.B.A. adds to the portfolio of baccalaureate degree programs in Business and Economics at SUNY Oneonta.

Projected enrollment in the first year of the program is 15 full-time students and 5 part-time students, increasing in year five to 26 full-time students and 17 part-time students.

Because the proposed M.B.A. will replace the fifth year of the existing five-year baccalaureate program, it will draw primarily on existing resources. No new faculty will be hired and no new facilities will be required to implement the program.

According to the labor market analytics tool Lightcast, through 2031, for master's programs in accounting, there is modest demand for target occupations with a projected increase of just over 4% in the Mohawk Valley region, statewide, and nationally. Additionally, most of the specialized skills developed through master's degrees in accounting are rapidly growing in demand, including in the areas of auditing, financial analysis, and risk management.

The external evaluators highlighted multiple strengths of the program, including the quality of the faculty who have "been delivering a high-quality 5-year undergraduate accounting program for many years." Additionally, it was noted that the "inclusion of data analytics, artificial intelligence, and environmental, social, and governance reporting demonstrates the program's commitment to addressing emerging industry trends."

Offering the Master of Business Administration fits well with the mission of the State University of New York at Oneonta. The program has been carefully reviewed by the System Provost's Office and Budget Office and found to be sound, both academically and fiscally.