School of Professional Studies Draft Report for the MSCHE Self Study

**I. BS in Accounting Program**

**A. Introduction**

Trinity has a long history of providing market- relevant academic programs through its School of Professional Studies (formerly the Weekend College). Middle States Standard 11 expects an institution to have quality programs that display academic sufficient content, rigor, and coherence with the mission of the institution. Through the self-study process, the School of Professional Studies (SPS) analyzed its academic offerings and made critical decisions about existing programs, while working to develop new programs for working students at the undergraduate level.

In Spring 2014, the School of Professional Studies (SPS) introduced the BS in Accounting Program. In addition to offering the coursework that prepares students for the accounting profession, the program emphasizes the ethical, legal and regulatory environment that accounting and finance professionals face. Further, the requirements of the DC and Maryland Boards of Accounting have been combined so that the curriculum will meet both requirements. The BS in Accounting Program is market- relevant, mission driven, and has clearly defined academic standards and outcomes. The program meet the needs of the community of learners that Trinity serves and will drive enrollment growth.

**B. Program Details**

1. Program Outcomes

Upon successfully completing the program, students will be able to:

1. Develop and communicate meaningful and relevant financial information to facilitate decision making;

2. Analyze financial information and judge organizational effectiveness by using appropriate criteria;

3. Use critical thinking and analysis to make recommendations to achieve predetermined objectives;

4. Use analytical tools to identify problem areas and suggest remedial actions;

5. Understand, communicate, and implement ethical business practices in financial decision making and reporting;

6. Develop and implement effective leadership styles that promote organizational and societal health.

2. Program Coursework

The BS in Accounting Program includes 34 general education credits, 30 required business credits, 18 credits in professional skills, and 21 additional credits in Professional Accounting, for a total of 103 required credits. The accounting, business and finance courses included in this program meet or exceed the state licensure requirements for the District of Columbia and Maryland CPA exams. Students have 25 credits in general electives available to take as they choose.

3. Course Delivery

Face-to-face is the primary delivery system for the BS in Accounting Program. However, the program also features hybrid coursework, clinical opportunities, and the utilization of dynamic case studies that span the curriculum. The program will is designed to accommodate on-site locations inside of a variety of business and government locations in our region.

**C. Findings and Action Steps**

Key Findings:

* SPS developed several new programs, including BS in Accounting Program, to offset the loss of the Pre- Nursing Program.
* The BS in Accounting Program aligns with the top twenty industries in the District of Columbia

Action Steps:

* SPS developed the BS in Accounting Program with industry partners and in review of market trends and industry growth.
* SPS aligned the BS in Accounting Program to the Accounting industry certification (i.e. the CPA license).
* SPS additionally utilized the University’s strong commitment to ethics and graduating ethical professionals to embed courses that prepare students for the Certified Fraud Examiner process as well.

**D. Recommendations**

The School of Professional Studies does not have any recommendations at this time.