

Advice from a faculty member

A crucial qualification for career development



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As the economy restructures, skill sets demanded from accounting personnel are also changing. Ms Rainey Choi has experience in both teaching accountancy and working as an accounting professional, and she tells us how the AAT qualification helps her students to develop their accounting careers in today's competitive market.

Rainey is the College Lecturer and Programme Manager for the Diploma for Accounting Technicians at HKU SPACE and the perfect candidate to be nominated by her faculty as an AAT advisor. "I thoroughly enjoy being an AAT advisor as I then get more chances to directly interact with the students," says Rainey. Since being nominated she has spent a great deal of time reviewing the AAT qualification, including the AAT examination syllabus, past papers and membership requirements.

A recognized and practical qualification

Rainey believes that the AAT qualification is an important attainment for accounting students. The New Qualification Framework has widened the coverage of the AAT examination syllabus, benefiting both AAT students and their employers. This broadening is not limited to technical areas. "Communications skills are a top priority for students nowadays," notes Rainey, who adds that in the past, accounting job was rather independent and routine. As accounting software has taken on the labour-intensive part of the job, accounting personnel have to conduct more team-based work. As such, effective communication is a crucial success factor. Rainey believes that studying for AAT examination Paper 2: Business Communication and Organization and Management, is very useful for students.

Rainey's advice to students in the new cohort is to set a clear goal with a realistic plan for themselves in years to come. "Once I met a student who went through a huge change after getting the AAT qualification – he went from being someone without much of a plan to being highly driven; he finally attained a top-up degree," recalls Rainey. With substantial knowledge gained from classroom, a wide network of study buddies and a crucial qualification for career development, this teacher believes that AAT students are sure to shine in whatever part of the industry they work in.

Top qualities to aim for:

- Attention to detail for figures and their underlying meaning
- Communication skills that connect you with people at work
- Defining a clear goal and navigating towards it