A s the 19th century drew to a close, business was growing in complexity, and the need for more sophisticated and scientific approaches to it was evident. Yet, there was little opportunity to study business at America’s universities. In 1899, representatives of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and New York University came together to fill the void. They planned a new school to educate individuals preparing for the requirements of the first Certified Public Accounting Law, passed by New York State to recognize accounting as a profession.

In 1900, the NYU School of Commerce, Accounts, and Finance was established—one of the first schools of business in the United States. Charles Waldo Haskins was its first dean. By the end of the school’s first decade, significant demand had arisen for graduate courses. These were offered at the School of Commerce’s satellite division near Wall Street. In 1916, the Graduate School of Business Administration was established.

The School of Commerce took the lead in formulating objective scholarly standards of academic excellence. In doing so, it became a charter member of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which is officially recognized as the sole professional accrediting agency for undergraduate and graduate degree programs of business. In addition, the Undergraduate College was the first school to award the Bachelor of Science degree that included a solid grounding in the liberal arts and sciences.

In the mid-1980s, the College and the graduate school received a major gift from an alumnus, Leonard N. Stern, chairman and chief executive officer of the Hartz Group, Inc. In recognition of Mr. Stern’s generosity, the New York University Board of Trustees combined the College and the graduate school under the name of the Leonard N. Stern School of Business and unified both schools at the University’s Washington Square campus.

Now in the first decade of the 21st century, the world population is approaching seven billion, and humankind is experiencing unprecedented rates of technological and social change. The challenges facing business leaders continue to grow in scope and complexity.

Amid these changes, the Stern School remains committed to the principle of an integrated four-year curriculum that combines grounding in the liberal arts with graduate-caliber business studies. Engagement in NYU’s College of Arts and Science continues to be a cornerstone of the undergraduate experience, as does a rigorous and challenging analytical approach to study of the business enterprise.

The Undergraduate College continues to be an innovator in undergraduate business education, offering a curriculum guided by the following four principles:

• To instill proficiency—by achieving professional levels of competence in the core functions of business
• To encourage intellectualism—by inspiring intellectual curiosity, high levels of intel-
intellectual engagement, and open-mindedness to new ideas and alternative points of view

- To foster collaboration—by developing the skills needed to thrive in groups, organizations, and broader communities
- To promote an awareness of social impact—by providing opportunities for discussion and frameworks for understanding the role of business within our global society

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**Accreditation**

The Undergraduate College of the Leonard N. Stern School of Business is accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The college is also accredited separately by AACSB for its accounting programs of study.