Accountancy

Degree Offered

- Master of Accountancy (MAcc)

Given the changing environment in both the public and private sectors of the economy, many accountants will need an educational background that goes beyond that obtained in an undergraduate degree program. Accountants must be proficient in applying professional concepts and principles to a wide variety of existing and emerging situations as an effective member of a team and also have the ability to adapt to new standards and methods of doing business. Competing in such an environment requires a solid technical foundation, adeptness in analyzing complex business situations, and the ability to effectively communicate recommended solutions and conclusions. Thus, the objectives of the MAcc program include the integration of financial and non-financial data in problem-solving and decision-making, the application of relevant research techniques and information technologies, the integration of varying viewpoints and techniques of conflict resolution, and the importance of adhering to a strong ethical code.

The accounting programs at WVU, both undergraduate and graduate, have separate accounting accreditation by the AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Students pursuing the MAcc program can also pursue a certificate in forensic accounting and fraud examination.

Program

The MAcc program is a thirty credit-hour program, which can be completed in approximately twelve months of full-time study. The program requires that the student has an undergraduate degree and meets very specific accounting and business course prerequisites. Work experience is not a requirement for admission. Careful selection of degree candidates limits the size of classes, leads to high-quality efforts in the program, and permits frequent and direct contact between students and faculty. The full-time program consists of two twelve credit-hour semesters and a six credit-hour summer session.

No thesis is required in the program, but communication skills are emphasized in all courses. Extensive use is made of information technology in accounting applications.

Academic Standards

A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 in all course work towards the MAcc degree is required for graduation from the program. A student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.75 will be placed on probation. If the average is not brought up to 2.75 by the end of the following semester, the student will be suspended from the program. A grade below C- in more than one course taken while enrolled as a graduate student will result in suspension from the program. A grade below C- will not count for the thirty semester credit-hour requirement for graduation unless repeated with a grade of C- or above. Complete information about the MAcc program may be obtained from http://www.be.wvu.edu/macc/index.htm.

Requirements to Sit for C.P.A. Examination

The specific requirements to sit for the Uniform C.P.A. Examination vary with each state board of accountancy. Some states (or other jurisdictions such as the District of Columbia or Guam) require candidates to have a bachelor’s degree with a specified distribution of accounting and business courses as the minimum educational requirement to take the examination, whereas others require a bachelor’s degree and the completion of 150 semester hours of academic credit (including a specified distribution of courses) as the minimum. These standards are subject to change; thus, students should review the requirements (including the distribution of courses) of the board in the jurisdiction in which they plan to sit for the examination. Incidentally, these are the requirements to sit for the examination, not to be certified. Most boards of accountability require 150 semester hours of academic credit for certification.

For the specific requirements to sit for the C.P.A. examination in West Virginia, go to the Board’s website at https://www.boa.wv.gov/ or call (304) 558-3557. For requirements in other jurisdictions, go to the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy’s website at http://www.nasba.org.

Content specification of the C.P.A. examination and related information may be found at http://www.cpa-exam.org.

Admission to Program

Admission to the MAcc program is determined by a committee of accounting faculty members. The committee acts upon individual applications within a short period of time after receipt of the completed application.

The admission committee seeks applicants who ideally possess a 3.2 cumulative grade point average and a total GMAT score in the 60 percentile or higher. The GMAT score is used in consideration for awarding graduate assistantship.

Applicants who have passed the Certified Public Accountant examination are exempt from the GMAT requirement. Candidates who meet most of the above requirements will still be considered. Other factors such as work experience and other graduate degree work may also be a part of the committee’s decision-making.
International students should note that the College of Business and Economics TOEFL requirement is higher than the university’s requirement. Applicants must have a TOEFL score of 580 (paper), 237 (computer), or 92 (internet-based). If applicants have taken the IELTS instead of the TOEFL, the minimum score is 7.0.

**Prerequisites**

To assure that all students in the program have the same foundation in business, the following prerequisite courses (or their equivalent) must be completed before enrolling in MAcc graduate courses:

- principles of accounting (six hours)
- intermediate accounting (six hours)
- cost accounting
- income tax accounting
- auditing
- principles of microeconomics
- principles of marketing
- principles of management
- principles of finance
- statistics
- business law (six hours, three of which may be taken concurrently with graduate courses)
- accounting systems

**Master of Accountancy Curriculum Requirements**

**Core Requirements**

- ACCT 501 Accounting/Economic Decision Making 3
- ACCT 511 Financial Accounting Theory and Practice 3
- ACCT 512 Mergers and Acquisitions 3
- ACCT 551 Assurance Services and Professional Standards 3
- ACCT 571 Accounting/Business Consulting 3
- ACCT 581 Fraud Investigation 3
- ACCT 582 Fraud Data Analysis 3

Select one of the following tracks:

**Assurance Track**

- ACCT 591 Advanced Topics (Income Tax 2) 3
- or ACCT 561 Governmental and Not-for-Profit Accounting 3
- or FIN 453 Life Insurance and Estate Planning 3

**Tax Track**

- ACCT 591 Advanced Topics (Income Tax 2) 3
- or LAW 625 Nonprofit Organizations 3
- ACCT 541 Federal Tax Research and Writing 3
- or ACCT 591 Advanced Topics (Advanced Corporate Tax) 3
- or LAW 753 Estate and Gift Taxation 3
- or FIN 453 Life Insurance and Estate Planning 3

Total Hours 30

**Suggested Plan of Study for Assurance Track**

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Select one of the following:

- ACCT 591 (Advanced Corporate Tax)
- ACCT 571
- ACCT 591 (Advanced Tech for Accounting)
- FIN 453

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Total credit hours: 30

**Suggested Plan of Study for Tax Track**

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<td>LAW 753 (Advanced Corporate Tax)</td>
<td>ACCT 591 (Advanced Corporate Tax)</td>
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Total credit hours: 30

**Major Learning Goals**

**ACCOUNTANCY**

**Goal 1:** Students will demonstrate competence in advanced technical topics.

**Goal 2:** Students will demonstrate research skills by finding and interpreting authoritative literature.

**Goal 3:** Students will communicate the results of research and/or analysis.

**Goal 4:** Students will identify an ethical dilemma and propose a solution.