

The Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) provides the breadth of knowledge for the professional accountant. Students master the theory and principles that frame a wide range of problems and issues encountered in the accounting profession.

This program is designed for accountants and non-accountants who are preparing for a professional certification in accounting such as the uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. This degree will allow students to seek positions in such career areas as accounting, auditing, and budgeting.

The MSA consists of 36 credit hours. Thirty credit hours constitute the core curriculum, which covers the following areas of accounting: accounting theory and research, accounting information systems, managerial accounting and legal aspects of business, internal control systems, financial reporting, auditing, taxation, not-for-profit and government accounting, forensic accounting, and accounting ethics. The core courses were designed based on the standards proposed by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). Additionally, 6 credit hours make up the financial accounting and communication proficiency courses. The proficiency courses are required for students who have not completed previous coursework in financial accounting or communications.

This program addresses the goals of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Vision Project for the professional values, communications and leadership skills, strategic and critical thinking skills, and technology skills (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 2007). In addition, the program meets the University of Phoenix learning goal of collaboration. A key feature of this program is the utilization of the CPA test prep software, which is integrated throughout the core program.

Required Course of Study

ACC 537 Financial Accounting

In this course, students are introduced to the basic concepts and methods used in corporate financial statements for information of investors and other interested external parties. Topics include University of Phoenix tools, basic accounting concepts, financial statements, inventory and fixed assets, present value of bonds and stockholders' equity, statements of cash flow, and error correction and accounting changes. (3 credits)

COM 530 Communications for Accountants

In this course, students examine principles and practices of group communication in the context of an organization. Topics include group communication, culture and conflict, group formation, influence in organizational communication, organizational change, formal communications, and public communications. (3 credits)

The U.S. Department of Education requires the University to provide the following information about each of our programs that lead to gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

42% of students who completed this program during the most recent federal award year completed it within 18 months.¹

Related occupations²

Accountants #13-2011.01

Auditors #13-2011.02

Program costs³

Tuition and fees \$18,525 to \$28,065

Includes cost per credit, application fee, and fees for resources (books/eResources) for students completing the program in normal time.

Median graduate debt⁴

Federal \$31,853

Private \$0

Institutional \$0

¹ The on-time completion rate identifies the percentage of students completing this program during the most recent federal award year who completed it within "normal time." The term "normal time" means the length of time it would take a student to complete this program if the student is continuously enrolled, takes a full course load, successfully completes each attempted course, and does not have any transfer credits. Students enrolled in this degree program are typically nontraditional students. Students may exceed "normal time" for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, internships, practicums, clinical rotations, student teaching or administrator experiences required for licensure.

² Graduates of this program will be educationally qualified to enter the occupations listed. Visit onetonline.org for job descriptions.

³ The range provided represents the sum of tuition and typical fees required to complete the program within normal time, based on the University's 2012/2013 tuition levels. The actual costs that will be incurred by a particular student to complete this program will depend upon factors specific to that student. Tuition rates for this program may vary due to factors such as: (i) geographic location of the student; (ii) modality of coursework; (iii) military service; and (iv) future changes in tuition rates. The number of credits required for a particular student to complete the program will be dependent upon various factors, including: (i) transfer credits available; (ii) repeated coursework; and (iii) completion of additional specializations within this program. Please contact an Enrollment Advisor for additional information.

⁴ The figure represents the median amount of debt incurred by students who completed the program during the relevant federal award year. The actual amount of debt a particular student will incur to complete this program is dependent on various factors specific to the student. Please contact an Enrollment Advisor for additional information.

Master of Science in Accountancy

ACC 541 Accounting Theory & Research

This is the first core course in the Master of Science in Accounting (MSA). In this course, students apply accounting research tools to current accounting issues. Other topics include research of accounting questions related to inventory, fixed assets, leases, derivative instruments, debt, contingencies, segment reporting, pensions, business combinations, consolidations, stockholder's equity, and a program overview. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 537

ACC 542 Accounting Information Systems

In this course, students examine the fundamentals of accounting systems design. Topics include business information systems, business processes and data flows, database concepts and tools, internal control and risks, auditing the information system, and using the information system to perform audit functions. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 543 Managerial Accounting & Legal Aspects of Business

In this course, students examine managerial accounting as part of the business's accounting information system and legal aspects of the business enterprise. Topics include managerial accounting and capital budgeting; cost analysis; management planning and control; negotiable instruments; secured transactions; debtor/creditor relationships; property and insurance; and legal aspects of employment and environment. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 544 Internal Control Systems

In this course, students gain a broad perspective of accounting and control that considers attainment of all goals of the organization, including those concerned with financial objectives. Topics include an overview of control, risk management, internal control systems, controls for current asset functions, controls for other accounting classifications, controls for information technology systems, and reporting on controls. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 545 Financial Reporting

This course prepares students to address concepts of financial reporting for roles as CPAs. Students learn important criteria for calculating capital changes, applying concepts of fixed assets and cost determination, and preparing consolidated financial statements. Other topics include the professional responsibilities of CPAs, deferred taxes, cash-flow statements, balance sheet preparation, restructuring of troubled debt, and the intricacies of comprehensive income. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 546 Auditing

In this course, students focus on the auditing practice performed by public accountants. Topics include the CPA profession and the auditor's role, planning the audit, audit reporting and required communications, evaluating internal controls, audit programs for current assets and liabilities, and audit programs for other business cycles. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 547 Taxation

In this course, students develop an understanding of the taxation of business entities and the individuals who own those entities. Topics include tax entities, property transactions, calculating basis, gains and losses, alternative minimum tax, S-corporations and partnerships. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 548 Not-for-Profit & Government Accounting

In this course, students receive an overview of the budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, and auditing required of government and not-for-profit organizations. Topics include governmental accounting, accounting records in government, fund allocation, government-wide reporting, not-for-profit accounting, and governmental performance measures. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 556 Forensic Accounting

In this course, students are introduced to the conduct of fraud examinations, including a discussion of specific procedures used in forensic accounting examinations and the reasoning behind these procedures. Topics include an overview of fraud and abuse, forensic evidence, substantive procedures for cash outflow irregularities, substantive procedures for asset irregularities, financial statement fraud, and examination reporting. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

ACC 557 Accounting Ethics

In this course, students focus on core values of the accounting profession such as ethical reasoning, integrity, objectivity, and independence. Topics include economics, price and consumer behavior, business and accounting issues, ethics and information technology, and professional standards. (3 credits) Prerequisite: ACC 541

Note: each state sets forth standards required to be eligible to take the CPA exam and apply for licensure or certification as a CPA. While this program was designed with consideration for the standards proposed by the National Association of State Boards of Accounting (NASBA), the University of Phoenix cannot, and will not, provide any assurance that completion of this program will allow a successful student to qualify within the student's specific jurisdiction. Potential applicants should check with the appropriate organization within their jurisdiction to determine if this program, combined with their undergraduate degree and any other specific criteria, meets the requirements to qualify for examination in that specific jurisdiction. States frequently change their requirements for examination. There is no assurance that at the time of degree completion the specific jurisdiction's requirements will be consistent with the requirements at the time of admission.

University of Phoenix is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association (ncahc.org).
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