ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
https://www.towson.edu/cbe/departments/accounting/programs/accounting-business-advisory/

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The Master of Science in Accounting and Business Advisory Services at Towson University is a joint program with the University of Baltimore. Graduates of the Master of Science in Accounting and Business Advisory Services program will have the necessary background in accounting and analytics to pursue careers in accounting, auditing, taxation, or management consulting.

The M.S. in Accounting and Business Advisory Services received STEM designation from the Department of Homeland Security. STEM refers to programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics disciplines. Data analytics, financial analysis, information systems, and quantitative analysis are integral to the higher-level skills impacting the accounting profession. STEM designation allows graduates of the program with F-1 visas to remain in the United States an additional 24 months under the optional practical training STEM extension. TU's accounting and business advisory services M.S. receives STEM designation – Business Dialog (towson.edu)

This program is designed to meet the following learning objectives:

First, when combined with a bachelor's degree in accounting, the program allows students to earn the additional units necessary to meet the 150-hour requirement to sit for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam in Maryland and many other states. The CPA exam includes four sections consisting of three core sections and one discipline section. The three core sections of the CPA exam are:

1. Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)
2. Auditing and Attestation (AUD)
3. Taxation and Regulation (REG)

Discipline Section (4th Section): CPA exam candidates select one discipline section from the following:

- Business Analysis and Reporting (BAR)
- Information Systems and Controls (ISC)
- Tax Compliance and Planning (TCP)

Students planning to take the CPA exam will be best served by a program of study, such as our Bachelor of Science in Accounting and this graduate program, that emphasizes the same subject matter as the exam. The combined BS and MS degrees align with the AICPA Model Curriculum.

Second, by incorporating courses in the related disciplines of data analytics, financial management and information technology, the program complements and expands the technical skills acquired in an undergraduate accounting education.

Graduates of the Master of Science in Accounting and Business Advisory Services program will have the flexibility needed to accelerate their public accounting careers or pursue careers in other areas such as management accounting, internal auditing, accounting for governmental or other nonprofit entities, and management consulting.

NOTE: Since this program is jointly operated with the University of Baltimore, the tuition, fees and grading system for students are the same as at the University of Baltimore. Contact the Student and University Billing Office for more information.

Accelerated Bachelor's-Master's Program

Requirements to be a CPA in Maryland (and in all but two of the other states) include 150 hours of post-secondary education. To provide a seamless process for Towson students to achieve the 150 hours, a program that combines the bachelor's degree in accounting and the master's degree in accounting and business Advisory Services (Accelerated Bachelor's-Masters Accounting Program) is offered.

Admitted accounting majors may apply for the accelerated Bachelor's-Masters Accounting Program in the second term of their junior year and be admitted prior to their senior year. Students can apply to the graduate Master of Science in Accounting and Business Services Program in their senior year but are not officially admitted to the graduate program until the second term of their senior year. Students must complete a graduate application with the Admissions office. In order to be admitted to the Bachelor's-Master's Accounting program, the student must be an admitted undergraduate accounting major with at least one term of residency in the university. The student also must take the GMAT and achieve a minimum score of 400 and have a GPA of at least 3.00.

9 units of graduate-level courses can be counted toward both the undergraduate and graduate programs. A bachelor's degree is awarded after all the bachelor's degree requirements are met, normally in the fourth year. The undergraduate accounting elective is fulfilled by taking any three of the required or elective graduate accounting courses in lieu of the free elective and two accounting electives.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Application deadlines and a full listing of materials required for admission can be found on the website.

Prerequisite Courses

Students must have a B.S. in Accounting from an AACSB Accredited Institutions or have taken the following courses:

Code	Title	Units
ACCT 341	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING I	3
ACCT 361	TAX ACCOUNTING I	3
ACCT 505	ACCOUNTING ESSENTIALS	1.5
ACCT 510	INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING I	3
ACCT 511	INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING II	3
ACCT 512	AUDITING/ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS	3
ACCT 513	INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING III	3

Degree Requirements

Completion of a minimum of 30 units beyond the undergraduate degree of which a minimum of 18 units should be in 600-level courses or

above designed primarily for graduate students. (This is an AACSB requirement.)

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses [1]		
ACCT 624	FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING ANALYTICS	3
ACCT 680	TAXATION OF ENTITIES	3
ACCT 720	DESIGN OF MANAGERIAL COST AND CONTROL SYSTEMS	3
ACCT 740	ADVANCED TOPICS IN ASSURANCE SERVICES [1]	3
ACCT 752	ADVANCED TOPICS IN ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS [1, 2]	3
FIN 605	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT [1]	1.5
FIN 625	CORPORATE FINANCE [1]	1.5
Other Electives		**12**
Select four of the following:		
Accounting [3]		
ACCT 611	DATA SCIENCE TOOLKIT I	
ACCT 612	DATA SCIENCE TOOLKIT II	
ACCT 635	FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS	
ACCT 650	LAW AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	
ACCT 655	TAX POLICY	
ACCT 695	INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IN ACCOUNTING	
ACCT 697	GRADUATE ACCOUNTING INTERNSHIP	
ACCT 701	ACCOUNTING ETHICS	
ACCT 702	FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING	
ACCT 722	VISUAL BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE	
ACCT 730	FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYTICS AND VALUATION	
ACCT 750	FORENSIC ACCOUNTING	
ACCT 755	GOVERNMENTAL AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ACCOUNTING	
ACCT 770	SEMINAR IN CURRENT TOPICS IN ACCOUNTING	
ACCT 780	SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTING	
INSS 650	NETWORKING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS [6]	
INSS 651	DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS [6]	
Applied Information Technology (TU Courses) [4]		
AIT 600	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE	
AIT 610	SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS	
AIT 612	INFORMATION SYSTEMS VULNERABILITY AND RISK ANALYSIS	
AIT 614	NETWORK SECURITY	
AIT 632	DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
Economic Analytics (TU Courses) [4]		
ECON 601	INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMETRICS	
ECON 631	COMPUTATIONAL ECONOMICS	
ECON 632	MACHINE LEARNING FOR ECONOMICS	
Electronic Business and Technology Management (TU Courses) [4]		
EBTM 602	INTRODUCTION TO SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	
EBTM 604	INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
EBTM 625	PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION	
EBTM 720	SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYTICS	
Finance (UB Courses) [6]		
FIN 700	FINANCIAL REPORTING	
FIN 715	INVESTMENT ANALYSIS	
FIN 720	GLOBAL FINANCE	
FIN 724	APPLICATIONS OF BUSINESS ANALYTICS AND MACHINE LEARNING	
FIN 725	RISK MANAGEMENT	
FIN 780	BUSINESS VALUATION	
FIN 797	SPECIAL TOPICS IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	
Professional Writing (TU Course) [4]		
PRWR 621	BUSINESS WRITING	
Total Units		**30**

Other graduate courses in areas such as applied information technology, economics, management, marketing, etc., may also be chosen after consultation with the graduate director depending on the student's career goals and professional needs.

[1] Courses offered at Towson University and University of Baltimore.

[2] INSS 605-IT for Business Transformation, offered by University of Baltimore, may be substituted.

[3] Additional courses are available from University of Baltimore. Consult with the Program Director to determine if they are appropriate for you.

[4] Courses offered at Towson University only.

[5] Available as an elective only to students who have not taken an equivalent course in their undergraduate program.

[6] Courses offered at University of Baltimore only.

CPA Examination

A student must have also completed the specific courses required to sit for the Certified Public Accountant examination in Maryland, which would normally be taken during the student's undergraduate studies (see Prerequisite Course section). A student who has not completed these courses prior to admission to the M.S. in Accounting and Business Advisory Services program will develop a plan to satisfy these requirements in consultation with the graduate director. This can be expected to add to the total number of units needed to earn the degree.

Learning Outcomes

1. **Goal 1: Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills**

   L.O 1.1 Graduates will understand and apply the regulatory environment surrounding the accounting profession, as it pertains to external reporting.

L.O. 1.2 Using accounting and finance data analytics techniques, Graduates will use financial analysis to solve business problems and recommend actions that maximize shareholder value.

L.O. 1.3 Using accounting and finance data analytics techniques, Graduates will evaluate cost and control systems for their effectiveness in measuring performance.

Goal 2: Research Skills

L.O. 2.1 Graduates will use appropriate professional research sources in investigating financial accounting reporting practices.

Goal 3: Application of Information Systems & Technology

L.O. 3.1 Graduates will use advanced technology and data analytics tools to understand companies internal controls and recommend improvements.

Goal 4: Ethical Perspective

L.O. 4.1 Graduates will identify and analyze ethical dilemmas and recommend appropriate resolutions.

Professional Standards of the AICPA including the Audit and Attest Standards, Compilation and Review Standards, Tax Standard, Code of Professional Conduct, Valuation Standards, Forensic Services Standards, and Consulting Standards.

Goal 5: Effective Communications Skills

L.O. 5.1 Graduates will prepare an effective written report, using appropriate data, analysis and conclusions generated from accounting and auditing data analytics techniques.

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