ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES M.S.

Degree: Master of Science

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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. This program is designed to meet two important educational 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: Auditing & Attestation (AUD), Business Environment and Concepts (BEC), Financial Accounting & Reporting (FAR) and Regulation (REG). Students planning to take the CPA exam will be best served by a program of study, such as our BS in Accounting and this graduate program, that emphasizes the same subject matter as the exam.

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

Graduates of the M.S. 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 Bursar’s 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 (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/business-economics/accounting/bsms-accounting)) 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 M.S. 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. Student must complete a graduate application with the University admission 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.

Admission Requirements

The minimum requirements for admission to the joint graduate program in Accounting and Business Advisory Services at Towson University and the University of Baltimore are a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university**, and a 3.00 minimum undergraduate GPA for full admission and a 2.75 for conditional admission. Admission to the program will be based on undergraduate academic performance and scores on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). ***

Non-immigrant International Students

Program Enrollment: F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements, and contact the International Student and Scholars Office with questions.

Admission Procedures: See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies and International Graduate Application online.

** See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html).

*** This GMAT or GRE requirement will be waived for students with a baccalaureate degree in business or accounting from an AACSB-accredited university who graduated with a GPA of 3.5 or greater.

Prerequisite Courses

The following list of undergraduate accounting and non-accounting classes are required to be completed before enrolling in graduate courses required as part of the M.S. in Accounting and Business Advisory Services program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 201</td>
<td>PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; ACCT 202</td>
<td>and PRINCIPLES OF MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Select two / three of the following:</strong></td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 301</td>
<td>INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 302</td>
<td>INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 303</td>
<td>INTERM ACCT III</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 341</td>
<td>MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 361</td>
<td>TAX ACCOUNTING I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 401</td>
<td>AUDITING I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Non-Accounting Courses</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 201</td>
<td>MICROECONOMIC PRINCIPLES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 205</td>
<td>STATISTICS FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 231</td>
<td>BASIC STATISTICS</td>
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FIN 331  PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  3
LEGL 226  BUSINESS LAW  3
MNGT 482  BUSINESS ETHICS AND SUSTAINABILITY  3
or PHIL 371  BUSINESS ETHICS

This ethics requirement can also be met by taking PHIL 563 as part of graduate electives.

Elective Courses  9
Select three of the following:
   ACCT 300  ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS
   BUSX 301  BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS
   or COMM 131  PUBLIC SPEAKING
   or COMM 21  INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
   EBTM 350  BUSINESS ANALYTICS
   ECON 202  MACROECONOMIC PRINCIPLES
   MKTG 341  PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING
   MNGT 361  LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Total Units  45-48

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.) Students may take courses at either institution, but typically take a minimum of 12 units sponsored by each institution out of the total 30-unit program.

Code | Title                                      | Units
---|--------------------------------------------|---
Required Courses  1
ACCT 740  ADVANCED TOPICS IN ASSURANCE SERVICES  3
ACCT 752  ADVANCED TOPICS IN ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS  3
FIN 605  FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  1.5
FIN 625  CORPORATE FINANCE  1.5

Additional Accounting and Ethics Courses  3
Select three of the following:
   ACCT 630  CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING
   ACCT 680  TAXATION OF ENTITIES
   ACCT 720  DESIGN OF MANAGERIAL COST AND CONTROL SYSTEMS
   PHIL 563  BUSINESS ETHICS  5

Other Electives  12
Select four of the following:
   Accounting  3,5
   ACCT 695  INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IN ACCOUNTING
   ACCT 697  GRADUATE ACCOUNTING INTERNSHIP
   ACCT 730  FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYTICS AND VALUATION
   ACCT 750  FORENSIC ACCOUNTING
   ACCT 770  SEMINAR IN CURRENT TOPICS IN ACCOUNTING
   ACCT 780  SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTING
   Electronic Business and Technology Management  4
   EBTM 602  INTRODUCTION TO SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
   EBTM 604  INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT
   EBTM 625  PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION
   EBTM 715  PROJECT COST ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
   EBTM 720  SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYTICS

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 (http://www.ubalt.edu/merrick/graduate-programs/master-of-science/accounting-and-business-advisory-services-ms/program-requirements.cfm) 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.

1. Graduates will understand and apply the regulatory environment surrounding the accounting profession, as it pertains to external reporting, including independence rules, securities acts, and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.
2. Graduates will analyze statistical and financial data and spreadsheets, and interpret their findings.
3. Graduates will evaluate cost and control systems for their effectiveness in measuring performance.
4. Graduates will use appropriate professional research sources in investigating financial accounting reporting practices.
5. Students will be able to use application software to extract, manipulate and summarize accounting and related data from a relational database or comparable data source.
6. Students will be able to design and generate custom reports which enable decision makers to more effectively utilize accounting and related data.
7. Graduates will identify and analyze ethical dilemmas and recommend appropriate resolutions.
8. Graduates will prepare an effective written report, using appropriate data, analysis and conclusions.