DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

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Why Study Accounting?

- To prepare for college-graduate, entry-level jobs such as cost accountant, staff accountant, tax preparer and auditor.
- To prepare for specialized master's programs in Accounting and the CPA exam in order to hold jobs such as auditor, tax adviser, system analyst, business and personal accountant. (Note: The state of Maryland requires 30 units beyond the B.S. to qualify to sit for the CPA exam. Students who are not Maryland residents should check their own state's requirements.)

In business and society, accountants make a difference. They prepare and review the financial information that is relied upon by investors, lenders, businesses and other organizations throughout the world. Accountants also provide expert advice on taxes, financial planning, information systems and a wealth of other business matters. In today's fast-paced, rapidly changing world, few careers offer as many advantages and rewards as a career in accounting. These include:

- a high level of job security
- competitive starting salaries
- a wide range of career options
- top-tier income potential
- a path to senior management
- the option to create your own business
- an opportunity to travel
- a respected, established profession
- the knowledge that you are an expert, trusted adviser
- the satisfaction of helping others

At Towson University, you will join one of only three accounting programs among Maryland's public colleges and universities that have achieved the additional accounting accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). Of all the accounting programs in the United States, only about one in 10 accounting programs have achieved this distinction.

A wealth of additional information about accounting is available on the Internet. A few of the websites that you may want to visit include the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook (https://www.bls.gov/ooh), the American Institute of CPAs (https://www.startheroplace.com), the Maryland Association of CPAs (https://www.macpa.org), and the AACSB (http://www.aacsb.edu).

Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

To be regionally recognized as a premier accounting program.

Mission

The mission of the TU Accounting Programs is to provide our graduates with a high quality professional education that develops their knowledge and skills to prepare them for professional licensure and for success as contributors and leaders within the accounting profession or business.

The Means to Accomplish our Mission

Our undergraduate Accounting program provides a professional specialization built on a foundation of general education, a broad business core, and Accounting-specific content areas specified by the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy. Completion of the B.S. in Accounting or the M.S. in Accounting and Business Advisory Services will qualify graduates to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination in Maryland.

Like the College of Business and Economics, the Accounting Department (https://www.towson.edu/cbe/departments/accounting), promotes a high code of ethics, special concern for student learning, and the effective use of technology.

To foster student learning, which is the highest priority of the department, college and university, we emphasize intellectual contributions of applied and basic scholarship; support faculty development, community engagement, and involvement in professional organizations; and are guided by input from our stakeholders and advisory boards.

Core Values

Our values include an uncompromising belief in a culture where faculty excellence is fostered and rewarded; ethical behavior is a norm; professionalism including civility and respect is a way of life; and diversity and inclusion are highly valued.

Distinctive Features

- Student Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi
- Student Chapter of National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)
- Towson University Society of Accountancy (TUSA)
- Accounting Advisory Board (of business professionals)
- Annual Accounting Open House
- Annual Department of Accounting Awards Banquet
- Partnerships with firms to provide discounted access to study materials for the CPA Exam
- Student Scholarships & Awards for Academic Achievement:
  - Accounting Advisory Board Scholarship
  - Accounting Alumni Scholarship Award
  - Department of Accounting General Scholarship Award
  - Deloitte Scholarship in Accounting
  - Ellin & Tucker Scholarship
  - Fran Soistman and Family Scholarship
  - Kenneth and Renee Moreland Accounting Scholarship
  - SC&H Excellence in Accounting Scholarship
  - Sylvia Bernstein Prize for Excellence in Accounting
  - Russell E. Denison Annual Award for Excellence in Accounting
  - Outstanding Accounting Student Achievement Award
- MACPA Outstanding Achievement in Accounting Award
- Association of Government Accountants Award
Requirements for Admission to the Accounting Major

Accounting is a screened major. Admission to the Accounting major requires:

- An average GPA of 2.70 or higher in the six lower level business courses (listed below).
- An average GPA of 2.70 or higher in the three upper-level accounting courses required for admission to the major (listed below).
- A cumulative GPA of 2.30 or higher in all course work.

A grade of C or higher is necessary for each course required for admission.

Students who enroll in upper-level “major-only” accounting courses before being admitted to the Accounting major do so at their own risk. Those who do not meet all prerequisites for an accounting course will be disenrolled.

- Major in Accounting (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/business-economics/accounting/accounting-program)
- Accelerated B.S./M.S. in Accounting (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/business-economics/accounting/bs-ms-accounting)

Courses

ACCT 201 PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING (3)  Accounting and financial reporting concepts and the significance of financial accounting information in decision-making. Includes the effects of accounting events on business financial statements; planning and decision-making tools in the operating cycle; and the process of recording and communicating information.

ACCT 202 PRINCIPLES OF MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING (3)  Managerial accounting concepts and the significance of accounting information for managerial decision-making. How managers use information to carry out three essential functions in an organization: to plan operations, to control activities, and to make managerial decisions. Prerequisite: ACCT 201 or ACCT 211 with grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.

ACCT 211 HONORS ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES I (3)  Similar to ACCT 201 except it emphasizes more conceptual approaches to accounting and requires completion of a research paper, case studies, and practice sets. Also requires a considerable amount of computer based instruction. Prerequisites: SAT scores 550 or above, Verbal; 600 or above, Math; and Admission to the Honors College.

ACCT 212 HONORS ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES II (3)  Similar to ACCT 202 except it emphasizes more conceptual approaches to accounting and requires completion of a research paper, case studies, and practice sets. Also requires a considerable amount of computer based instruction. Prerequisites: SAT scores 550 or above, Verbal; 600 or above, Math; Admission to the Honors College; and ACCT 211 with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.

ACCT 300 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS (3)  A detailed review and discussion of the revenue, expenditure and other transaction processing cycles; batch, OLRT and cloud-based approaches to data processing; file-oriented and database systems; e-business infrastructure, networks and applications including data mining techniques pertaining to accounting; internal controls; and system development and accounting software selection. Students will complete projects utilizing both manual and cloud-based computerized accounting systems. Prerequisite: ACCT 202 or ACCT 212 with grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.

ACCT 301 INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING I (3)  Revenue recognition methods, balance sheet presentation, cash flow reporting, and accounting for changes and errors; conceptual framework of accounting; disclosure requirements. Prerequisite: ACCT 202 or ACCT 212 with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.
ACCT 302 INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING II (3)
Examination of electronic data processing issues involved in the design and operation of manual and computerized accounting systems related to revenues, purchasing, inventory, financial and payroll processes. Projects include a manual system and a mid-range accounting software. Discussions of database structures, e-commerce and ethics. Prerequisite: ACCT 301 with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.

ACCT 303 INTERM ACCT III (3)
Analysis of equity. Reporting of earnings per share. Accounting for investments, leases, post-employment benefits and income taxes. Prerequisites: ACCT 302 with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher and ACCT Major Standing.

ACCT 341 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING I (3)
Components of several cost systems will be discussed, including process costing, job-order costing and activity-based costing (ABC). Elements of standard cost accounting, variance analysis, budgeting, and cost-volume-profit analysis will be presented. Prerequisite: ACCT 202 or ACCT 212 with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.

ACCT 361 TAX ACCOUNTING I (3)
Covers federal income tax laws governing gross income, deductions, calculation of taxable income tax rates. Emphasis is placed on the effect of these laws on the income of individual taxpayers. Prerequisite: ACCT 202 or ACCT 212 with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher.

ACCT 362 TAX ACCOUNTING II (3)
Covers laws dealing with federal taxation of corporations, partnerships, estates and trusts, and retirement plans. Prerequisites: ACCT 361 with grade of C (2.0) or higher and ACCT major only.

ACCT 401 AUDITING I (3)
Focuses on developing a solid foundation of knowledge of auditing standards (AICPA and PCAOB), professional ethics, internal controls, reliability and validity of audit evidence and reporting, as well as an awareness of the importance of internal controls in order to avoid the many facets of fraud. Prerequisites: ACCT 401 requires a grade of C (2.0) or higher in COMM 131 and either BUSX 301 or ENGL 317; ACCT 303 (may be taken concurrently); major in ACCT.

ACCT 402 AUDITING II (3)
Builds on the foundation laid out in ACCT 401. Develops the skill set relating to Audit procedures, tests of controls for various accounts, substantive procedures for various account transactions and balances including the identification of fraud risk factors which may lead to possible transactional misstatements and/or fraudulent financial statements utilizing software (such as ACL or IDEA) to download and analyze appropriate data. Prerequisites: ACCT 401; ACCT major and senior status.

ACCT 410 GOVERNMENTAL AND NOT-FOR PROFIT ACCOUNTING (3)
Accounting and financial reporting procedures for governmental and nonprofit organizations. Promulgated accounting standards, conceptual issues, and special topics will be examined. Emphasizes accounting for state and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, colleges and universities, and health care organizations. Prerequisite: ACCT 303 with grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher, Accounting major only.

ACCT 412 INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING (3)
Covers international convergence of financial reporting standards and covers various international accounting theories and practices in order to provide students with necessary skills in analyzing and interpreting financial statements that are prepared by multinational and transnational corporations. Prerequisite: ACCT 303 with grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher, Accounting major only.

ACCT 421 ADVANCED ACCOUNTING (3)
Advanced accounting theory applied to specialized topics and current problems. Emphasis on consolidated statements and partnership accounting. Prerequisites: ACCT 303 with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher; ACCT major and senior status.

ACCT 442 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING II (3)
Development of advanced management accounting theories, the analysis of cost management systems with a strategic emphasis, and the management’s use of accounting information through case analyses. Prerequisites: ACCT 341 with a grade equivalent of C (2.0) or higher and ACCT major only.

ACCT 450 FORENSIC ACCOUNTING AND FRAUD EXAMINATION (3)
Forensic accounting is an interdisciplinary study of social learning/ process theories, accounting, law, and the systems of internal controls, evidence gathering, interpersonal skills, communication skills and information technology skills. Fraud examination provides foundation knowledge about fraud prevention, detection and investigation for an accountant. In this course, students will learn what occupational fraud is, how and why it is committed, how fraudulent activities can be deterred and appropriate procedures for investigating and resolving allegations of fraud. Students will utilize the IDEA software in fraud detection. Prerequisites: ACCT 300 and ACCT 302.

ACCT 470 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Course content varies with each topic. In-depth study of contemporary business issues as they affect current accounting practices. May be repeated for credit provided a different topic is covered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

ACCT 480 SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTING (3)
Sustainability accounting concerns the process of identifying, measuring and reporting the entities’ impact on the planet with a focus mainly on the environmental impact. The course will cover topics including economic and reporting models, sustainable capital budgeting and investing, environmental liabilities and greenhouse gas emissions. Prerequisite: ACCT major.

ACCT 495 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IN ACCOUNTING (1-3)
Directed research on specific problems in a functional area of accounting. May be repeated for a maximum total of 6 units. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

ACCT 497 ACCOUNTING INTERNSHIP (1-3)
Projects include a manual system and a mid-range accounting software. Students are required to work in assigned projects in actual accounting environments. Priority will be given to seniors; also open to highly qualified sophomores or juniors. Graded S/U. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 units. Prerequisites: ACCT 301 and consent of department chair.