

# DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

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## Why Study Accounting?

- Accounting provides the language you need in order to understand the past, present, and future performance of a business enterprise. If you understand accounting, you will understand how a business works, what makes it successful, and how it can be improved.
- A degree in accounting will open many doors into highly valued professional business careers. You will be able to earn a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation. You can combine your knowledge of accounting with other areas of business and finance in preparing for outstanding careers in the fields of investments, business management, entrepreneurship, and business consulting.

In business and society, accountants make a difference. They prepare, review, interpret, and forecast 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. Accountants are also widely involved in various levels of regulatory and law enforcement. 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, the American Institute of CPAs, the Maryland Association of CPAs, and the AACSB.

## Vision, Mission and Core Values

### Vision

To be at the forefront of accounting education in Maryland and beyond.

### Mission

The mission of Towson University Accounting is to prepare students for dynamic careers in business and professional accounting by equipping them with the latest in knowledge of accounting standards and practices and the ability to understand and apply high powered technology and analytics to the problem solving needs of today.

### The Means to Accomplish our Mission

Our undergraduate Accounting program offers up-to-date teaching of accounting principles and practices with an emphasis on the use of the latest analytical and information technologies based on a solid general and business education foundation. Our core Accounting curriculum is based on standards 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, promotes a high code of ethics, special concern for student learning, and the effective use of technology.

We emphasize the importance of having faculty who are heavily engaged in the practice and profession of accounting. We provide students with a variety of practically-based experiential learning opportunities by calling upon our diverse partnerships with the Maryland business community and accounting industry. Most of our students end up working for one of the many accounting and business entities who support our accounting programs.

### Core Values

Our values include an uncompromising belief in a culture where student and 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 guaranteed.

## Opportunities for Peer and Professional Networking

- Student Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi: International Honor Society in Accounting.
- Student Chapter of National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)
- Towson University Society of Accountancy (TUSA)
- Accounting Advisory Board (a body of over 30 practicing accountants working to promote the department and its students)
- Annual Accounting Open House attended by a variety of employers looking to hire our students
- Annual Department of Accounting Awards Banquet in which we honor our student accomplishments
- Partnerships with providers of CPA Review material so you can prepare to pass the CPA exam
- A large number of Student Scholarships & Awards for Academic Achievement, including:
  - 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

## Admission

### 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 (located in the major requirements).
- An average GPA of 2.70 or higher in the three Upper-Level Accounting courses.
- A grade of C or higher in each of these courses.
- A cumulative GPA of 2.30 or higher in all course work.

Students will not be permitted to enroll in ACCT 303, ACCT 401 or ACCT 421 without first being admitted to the major. Students who enroll in other upper-level “major-only” accounting courses before being admitted to the Accounting major do so at their own risk.

No more than two courses may be repeated, of which no more than one course may be repeated twice.

Degree candidates intending to major in Accounting are designated as pre-Accounting (PACT) until admitted into the Accounting major. Students are encouraged to communicate each term with their assigned faculty adviser to evaluate their progress in completing the requirements for admission to the major and the degree.

Students are required to apply for the Accounting major using forms available in the Department of Accounting office, Stephens Hall 102, or online.

## Majors

- Major in Accounting
- Accelerated B.S./M.S. in Accounting

## Minors

- Minor in Accounting

## Faculty

*Professors:* Seth Hammer, Tesfaye Lemma, JinDong Park, Jorge Romero, Charles Russo (Graduate Program Director), Andrew Schiff

*Associate Professors:* Mehrzad Azmi Shabestari, Isaac Bonaparte, Islam Elshahat, Steven Isberg (Chairperson), Arundhati Rao, Zhen (Jen) Zhang

*Assistant Professors:* Barry Buchoff, Sue Cooper, Kyungeun Kwon