

The Master of Science (MS) in Accounting degree is designed to provide students with the education necessary for a rewarding and challenging professional career in advanced positions in public, private, or nonprofit accounting. The program also provides the foundation needed for the students to sit for the certified public accounting exam by incorporating CPA review material in the student's final courses. To ensure appropriate technical expertise, students will be exposed to courses such as Federal Taxation, International Accounting, Advanced Auditing, Advanced Accounting, Forensic Accounting, and Accounting Theory and Research.

Each state sets forth standards required to be eligible to take the CPA exam and apply for licensure or certification as a CPA. The Certified Management Accountant (CMA) certification requires membership in the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) as well as education, work experience, and examination requirements. While the programs at West are designed with consideration for the standards proposed by the National Association of State Boards of Accounting (NASBA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the IMA, West cannot assure that successful graduates will meet their states' or IMA's specific eligibility requirements to take the CPA or CMA exams or apply for licensure or certification as a CPA or CMA. Applicants should check with their appropriate state organization and/or the IMA to determine if the West program, combined with their undergraduate degree, work experience, and any other specific criteria, meets examination and licensing eligibility requirements for the CPA and/or CMA designations. State and/or IMA requirements may vary from the time of admission to program completion. There is no assurance at the time of program completion that the specific jurisdiction's requirements will be consistent with the requirements at the time of admission.

For gainful employment disclosures about this program, visit http://west.edu/content/dam/westedu/gainful-employment/MS_ACC/52.0301-Gedt.html

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of accounting, auditing, tax and legal business environment terms and concepts.
2. Utilize professional tools used in accounting, audit

and tax research.

3. Evaluate a set of facts and circumstances through professional judgment.
4. Develop and communicate solution alternatives to internal and external stakeholders.

Required Course of Study

MS Accounting Core - 18 credits

Major Requirements - 18 credits

Capstone - 3 credits

Credits Required for Degree: 39

MS Accounting Core Course Descriptions

MS Accounting Core – 18 credits

CUL 623 Global Communication for Professionals

This course provides an overview of critical topics related to professional communication in the global economy and prepares students to develop strategies for successful intercultural exchanges. Students evaluate verbal and non-verbal communication models as they are manifested across cultures and create research-based analyses of cross-cultural scenarios. Course content addresses the application of intercultural communication skills to organizational structures and decision-making, negotiations, and ethics.

ACC 550 Accounting Principles and Foundations

This course is designed to provide students without a background in accounting (undergraduate education or professional work experience) the fundamental concepts such as accounting cycle, debits and credit, managerial/cost techniques, and basic financial statement preparation.

ACC 601 Intermediate Accounting Applications I*

This course provides an in-depth discussion of the accounting cycle including preparation of the balance sheet, and focuses on a more comprehensive study of the sections of this key financial statement. An advanced discussion of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) is also included. In addition to discussion of the standards and principles of financial accounting and accounting information

systems, additional topics include the further study of both current and long-term assets, as well as liabilities and stockholder's equity.

*Prerequisite: ACC 550 or equivalent

ACC 602 Intermediate Accounting Applications II*

This course furthers an advanced discussion of the income statement and statement of cash flows, including the effect of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) on these financial statements. Students explore the concepts of securities, investments, income taxes, pensions and post-retirement benefits, leases, and full disclosure. Topics are studied through in-depth analysis of corporate financial statements.

*Prerequisite: ACC 601

ACC 610 Advanced Cost Accounting*

This course is designed to present cost accounting concepts and skills at the graduate level. It addresses general business concerns of cost management and control. Managers use cost accounting information to make decisions on strategy formulation, research and development, budgeting, production planning, and pricing. Students gain hands-on experience in the application of these cost accounting concepts.

*Prerequisite: ACC 550 or equivalent

ACC 617 Accounting Theory and Research*

This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts of accounting theory, which provides an understanding of why companies elect certain accounting methods. The course will cover accounting principles and relationships that explain observed practices and predict unobserved practices. In addition, students learn how accounting theory can be verified through accounting research.

*Prerequisite: ACC 550 or equivalent

Major Course Descriptions

Major Requirements – 18 credits

ACC 680 Advanced Financial Reporting*

This course is designed as a prep course for FAR section of CPA exam, including the integration of exam review material.

*Prerequisite: ACC 617

ACC 682 Accounting Legal Environment*

This course is designed as a prep course for REG section of CPA exam, including the integration of exam review material.

*Prerequisite: ACC 617

ACC 684 Audit Environment*

This course is designed as a prep course for AUD section of CPA exam, including the integration of exam review material.

*Prerequisite: ACC 617

ACC 686 Accounting Business Environment*

This course is designed as a prep course for BEC section of CPA exam, including the integration of exam review material.

*Prerequisite: ACC 617

Select two of the following courses:

ACC 618 Advanced Auditing*

This course serves as a graduate-level introduction to the auditing of financial statements. Students learn about professional responsibilities of the auditor, ethics, how to evaluate potential clients, audit planning, evidence gathering and evaluation of internal controls, audit conduct, and the audit report. The course also addresses the responsibilities of corporate executives under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

*Prerequisite: ACC 602

ACC 622 Federal Taxation*

This course is designed to give students an overview of federal taxation laws and forms. Students obtain a basic understanding of issues related to tax laws, the origin of tax laws, concepts, and their application. Other course topics include the determination of income, deductions, exclusion, and deferrals. Students work with the individual 1040 form and related Schedules A, B, and C. The course also covers business taxation, including that of partnerships, corporations, and Subchapter S Corporations using forms 1065, 1120, and 1120S. In addition, the course introduces the principles and concepts related to researching tax issues.

*Prerequisite: ACC 550 or equivalent

ACC 623 Forensic Accounting*

This course serves as an introduction to forensic accounting and focuses on the detection and deterrence of fraud. Students will be exposed to the major types of fraud schemes, including skimming, cash larceny, billing schemes, check tampering and payroll schemes, as well as the most common fraudulent financial statement schemes. Students will also learn the techniques associated with gathering and preserving evidence, interviewing witnesses and writing reports. Resources available to the fraud investigator will be discussed, and students will have an opportunity to examine various components of a corporate code of conduct to analyze how it can be used in fraud investigation.

*Prerequisite: ACC 602

ACC 641 International Accounting*

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts in international accounting, financial reporting, and financial control. The course will compare International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). It will explain international accounting terminology, application, and the importance of international dimensions of accounting for today's professionals. It will also provide students with hands-on experience preparing international financial statements.

*Prerequisite: ACC 602

ACC 642 Multinational Taxation*

The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the complex rules of international taxation and present a broad survey of the U.S. federal income taxation rules relating to international transactions. This course addresses inbound transactions, the treatment of non-resident aliens, and foreign corporations investing and/or doing business in the United States. It also addresses outbound transactions, the treatment of U.S. citizens and residents investing and/or doing business outside the United States. In addition, the course emphasizes the reading and application of original source authorities. Upon successful completion, students will have a working knowledge of international taxation, enabling them to discuss international tax issues.

*Prerequisite: ACC 622

ACC 675 Advanced Consolidation Accounting*

This course is designed to introduce students to concepts related to financial accounting and reporting, specifically business combinations, consolidated financial statements, foreign currency translation, international accounting, and translation of financial statements of foreign affiliates. The course addresses how convergence with international accounting standards is important to every aspect of financial reporting. It will also provide students with hands-on experience in the process of business combination and financial statement preparation. International Financial Reporting Standards are emphasized throughout the course.

*Prerequisite: ACC 641

Capstone Course Descriptions

Capstone – 3 credits

ACC 698 Accounting Capstone*

The Accounting Capstone course incorporates various accounting components such as financial reporting and analysis. A course-long project will be the major component of the course, allowing students to demonstrate achievement of the program objectives.

*Prerequisite: 33 credits