

Department of Accounting

Paula Thomas, Chair
Business and Aerospace Building N425C

The mission of the Master of Science degree program in Accounting and Information Systems is to provide a flexible and focused program that prepares students for professional jobs in accounting and other related fields. The program is designed to offer students opportunities to obtain knowledge in nonaccounting areas to support their career development. Fulfilling this mission requires that faculty members enhance and broaden their skills through academic and professional research, service to the profession, and educational development.

The Department of Accounting offers the Master of Science in Accounting and Information Systems with accounting as the primary field and courses for the Master of Business Administration degree. A minor in Accounting is offered for students seeking a master's degree other than the M.B.A. The accounting graduate coordinator serves as advisor for students choosing Accounting as their primary field.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to take a balance of accounting and information systems courses; however, there is significant flexibility in the requirements to allow a student's program to be specialized to the extent desired for particular career goals.

The prerequisites for a student seeking an M.S. degree in the department are the same as those required for the M.B.A. degree (see page 65), plus instruction in international business. A recent graduate of an AACSB-accredited program would normally possess an adequate background in these prerequisites. A student electing accounting as a primary field must complete an additional 21 hours of prerequisites including Financial Accounting and Reporting I and II, ACTG 3110 and 3120; Cost Accounting, ACTG 3310; Accounting Systems, ACTG 4510; Federal Taxes I, ACTG 4530; External Auditing I or Internal Auditing, 4620 or 4640; and Business Policy, B AD 4980.

To be admitted to the M.S. program (see page 27), a student must meet one of the following:

- a. $GPA \times 200 + GMAT = 950$
 or Upper Division $GPA \times 200 + GMAT = 1,000$
- b. International students must comply with the following provision: For undergraduate degrees from foreign institutions where a grade point average cannot be clearly established but where that work is thought to be equivalent to domestic grades of **B** or higher,

admission eligibility may be determined by the **GMAT** score. A score of at least 450 is required for unconditional admission under such circumstances. Preparatory work taken in institutions with grading systems paralleling that of most United States institutions must conform to a **B** average.

The M.S. with Accounting concentration fulfills the requirement to sit for the CPA exam in Tennessee.

Requirements for the Master of Science Degree

Accounting as Primary Field; Information Systems as Secondary Field

Required

ACTG 6650 Advanced Accounting Theory
 INFS 6610 Information Systems Management and Applications

Electives

Three hours in INFS at the 5000 or 6000 level
 Three hours in ACTG at the 5000 or 6000 level
 Nine hours in ACTG at the 6000 level
 Six hours of approved electives at the 6000 level
 Three hours in international/global at the 6000 level

Additional Requirements

Candidates must pass a comprehensive written examination upon the completion of course requirements.

The degree is to be completed within six years from the time of admission to the degree program.

No foreign language or thesis is required in the program.

NOTE: Students who have credit for the undergraduate equivalent of the 5000-level course are not permitted to enroll in the 5000-level course for credit.

Courses in Accounting [ACTG]

5310 Advanced Cost Accounting. Three credits. Prerequisites: ACTG 3310 with a minimum grade of C and Q M 3620. In-depth analysis of costs, quantitative concepts relating to management objectives, control, and planning. Application of statistical techniques to solve managerial accounting problems. Heavy use of technology and communications for solving various accounting situations.

5510 Accounting Systems. Three credits. Prerequisites: ACTG 3020 or 3310 and INFS 2200 or consent of department chair. Current developments in establishment of complete accounting systems and the application of principles to typical business organizations. Special emphasis on accounting cycles, controls, and database design.

5530 Federal Taxes I. Three credits. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of department chair. Addresses determination of taxable income for individuals; federal income tax returns and research methods.

5540 Federal Taxes II. Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 4530 (5530) with minimum grade of C or consent of instructor. Structure of taxation for corporations, partnerships, estates, trusts, gifts; returns and research.

- 5570 International Accounting.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 2120 or equivalent with C or better. Development of accounting systems and entrepreneurial practices in various countries, specific international financial reporting issues, international financial statement analysis, managerial accounting issues for global businesses including budgeting and control, and international taxation issues.
- 5610 Governmental Accounting and Reporting.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 3120 with a minimum grade of C. State and local government accounting principles and procedures; classifications of accounts for budgetary and financial reporting; accounting for revenues and expenditures or expenses; reporting for funds and the governmental entity; and auditing the governmental entity.
- 5630 External Auditing II.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 4620 or equivalent with a minimum grade of C. Audit procedures used in tests of controls and in substantive tests for the major transaction cycles by using both microcomputer and statistical sampling.
- 5640 Internal Auditing.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 3120 with a minimum grade of C. Introduction to the field of internal auditing. Primary focus on data gathering and report writing unique to internal auditing.
- 5650 Accounting Theory.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 3120 with minimum grade of C (or taken concurrently). Analysis of propositions, axioms, theorems, controversial accounting concepts, authoritative statements, and research on accounting principles.
- 5660 Experiences in Financial Reporting.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 3120 with a minimum grade of C. Focus on applying accounting and reporting requirements to selected financial reporting issues and cases. Credit not allowed in ACTG 5660 if student has credit in ACTG 4650 or 5650.
- 5680 Forensic Accountancy and Fraud Auditing.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 4620 or 4640 or approval of department chair. Practice of forensic accounting, i.e., nontraditional investigative aspects of accountancy (e.g., litigation support, business interruptions, etc.); emphasis on fraud prevention and the detection of fraudulent intent to obtain improper individual or group gains.
- 5840 Study Abroad.** Three credits. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and completion of core courses in respective field as determined by graduate business studies. A short-term international business education experience designed to expose the student to the economic, political, cultural, and social environments of a foreign country(ies), with specific emphasis directed toward the international state/status of the subject matter pertinent to the discipline.
- 6000 Survey of Accounting Principles.** Two credits. The accounting cycle, financial statements, accounting systems, use of accounting information for managerial decision-making purposes and problem solving. Not open to students with undergraduate accounting backgrounds. **May not be used for elective credit in graduate business degree programs.**
- 6310 Advanced Cost Accounting, Budgeting, and Controllership.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 3020 or 3310 or 6910. Recent conceptual and analytic development in cost accounting, budgeting, and controllership. Includes principles and procedures in preparation of business budgets and methods of accounting for managerial control of cost of production, distribution, and administration through the use of standards.
- 6510 Federal Income Tax Research and Planning.** Three credits. Prerequisites: ACTG 4530/5530 and 4540/5540 or consent of instructor. Skillful application of tax research methodology in the use of primary tax authority, secondary tax reference materials, and research aids. Research through practice in the use of materials available in the tax library.
- 6550 U.S. International Taxation.** Three credits. Prerequisites: ACTG 4530/5530 and 4540/5540. Basic concepts of U.S. taxation of international transactions. Topics include sourcing of income from foreign activities, Subpart F income, selecting the proper vehicle for foreign investments, and computing foreign tax credits.
- 6610 Advanced Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting and Reporting.** Three credits. Prerequisites: ACTG 3120 and 4610 (5610) with a minimum grade of C. State and local government accounting principles and procedures; accounting and reporting for state and local governments, colleges and universities, hospitals, and nonprofit organizations. Auditing practices for all these organizations.
- 6650 Advanced Accounting Theory.** Three credits. Prerequisite: Consent of department chair. History and development of accountancy, tax structures, and industrial development of past, present, and projected societies including relevant research into current controversial issues. Extensive research required. Required for M.S. in Accounting/Information Systems with accounting as the primary field.
- 6660 Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting Problems.** Three credits. Prerequisite: Accounting major or consent of instructor. Application of theoretical concepts and promulgations of authoritative bodies to financial accounting and financial reporting situations encountered in practice.
- 6720 Advanced Auditing and Public Accounting Practices.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 4620 or consent of department chair. Critical analysis of techniques used in auditing, method of data collection, and nature of audit evidence. Includes modern and relevant statistical and social research techniques and computer use as applied to the various steps in audit practices and procedures.
- 6810 Empirical Methods in Accounting.** Three credits. Prerequisites: Foundation requirements and consent of instructor. Independent study and research on topics in or related to accounting under supervision of graduate faculty.
- 6910 Accounting and Business Decisions.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ACTG 2120 or equivalent. Accounting concepts and their application to the decision-making process. Research reports on a variety of financial and managerial accounting topics prepared and presented orally by the student. Not open to students with undergraduate major in accounting.
- 6999 Comprehensive Examination and Preparation.** One credit. Open only to students who are not enrolled in any other graduate course and who will take the master's comprehensive examination during the term. The student must contact the graduate advisor during the first two weeks of the term for specifics regarding the details of this comprehensive examination preparatory course. Credit may not be applied to degree requirements.

Course in Business Law [BLAW]

- 6430 Legal Environment of Management.** Two credits. Legal rights and potential liabilities of business managers. Presentation of the legal, ethical, and political environment of business. Includes basic principles of the legal system, torts and product liability, antitrust, labor and employment laws, securities, contracts, sales, secured transactions, bankruptcy, agency, partnerships, corporations, and commercial paper. **May not be used for elective credit in graduate business degree programs.**