

Master of Science

Accounting with a Concentration in Controllership (MS)

Frank Holman, Graduate Program Director

Objective: To provide a curriculum that facilitates the promotion of professional judgment/skepticism and critical thinking skills that add value in decision making.

Focus: Students have the option to choose from various electives in the general MS in Accountancy or to align coursework based on two areas of interest (concentrations): *Controllership* addresses the needs of students who have an interest in operational and financial decision making, and *Taxation* provides the requisite skills set for those interested in tax compliance and planning. All associate with careers in Public Accounting, Industry, or Government/Not-For-Profit organizations and prepare students for the CPA and other professional designations/licenses (i.e., CMA, CIA, CFE, CISA, CGFM, etc.).

Admission Requirements

Prospective students may apply for admission to the program for the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Admission is granted to those who demonstrate the likelihood of successful completion of this graduate accounting program.

Criteria for admission include cumulative undergraduate and upper-level accounting grade-point averages (GPA), and Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) scores. In general: applicants should possess a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or higher; and applicants should possess an upper-level accounting course GPA of 3.0 or higher. The sum of the GMAT score plus 200 times the upper-level accounting curriculum GPA should equal 1,000.

For students without a degree in accounting, the cumulative upper level accounting GPA of 3.0 will be based on performance in the following prerequisite courses (with no grade below a C.): ACCT 305, Essentials of Financial Accounting I; ACCT 306, Essentials of Financial Accounting II; ACCT 311, Managerial Accounting; ACCT 425, Taxation of Individuals; and ACCT 411, Financial Auditing.

To be considered for admission, the following must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. application forms (may be done on-line) for graduate study in business,
2. official transcripts of all previous college work,
3. one letter of recommendation,
4. a brief resume,
5. an one-page essay setting forth the applicant's work experience, and goals and objectives for the program, and
6. scores on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) if applicable.

Applicants whose native language is not English are also required to submit an acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Exam.

The following courses are prerequisites to the MS, Accounting program:

Financial Accounting

ACCT 201	Principles of Financial Accounting *	3
ACCT 305	Essentials of Financial Accounting I	3
ACCT 306	Essentials of Financial Accounting II	3
ACCT 411	Financial Auditing	3

Management Accounting

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ACCT 202	Principles of Managerial Accounting *	3
ACCT 311	Managerial Accounting	3
Taxation		
ACCT 425	Taxation of Individuals	3
Economics, Statistics/Business Analytics, Marketing, Information Technology, Finance, and Commercial Law		
Select 18 credits		18
Total Credit Hours		39

* Or equivalent from an accredited institution

Application deadlines are July 1 for fall admission, November 1 for spring admission, and April 1 for summer admission. International student deadlines are April 15 (fall semester), October 1 (spring semester), and February 15 (summer semester).

Applicants who have not obtained an acceptable GMAT score, or an acceptable TOEFL score for those applicants whose native language is not English, will not be permitted to enroll in graduate accounting courses.

GMAT Waiver

Applicants can waive taking the GMAT and disregard the GMAT-related admission requirements if any of the following are met:

- Applicant has passed all parts of the United States Uniform CPA exam;
- Applicant holds a Masters Degree with a posted GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- Applicant is a member of the Old Dominion University chapter of Beta Alpha Psi with a posted GPA of 3.0 in upper level accounting courses; or
- Applicant has a Bachelors Degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 overall and in the prerequisite accounting courses with a grade of C or better in the prerequisite accounting courses.

Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate courses are required to complete the MS Accounting program. Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of a least 3.00 in all graduate work taken.

Accounting Core

Foundation Strengthening Courses

ACCT 623	Accounting Analytics and Operational Reviews	3
ACCT 626	Financial and Global Accounting	3
ACCT 627	Operational Cost Control	3
ACCT 630	Business Valuations using Financial Statement Analysis	3
ACCT 640	Professional Ethics and Legal Issues In Accounting	3
ACCT 650	Tax Strategies for Business Decisions	3
ACCT 662	Tax Procedure and Practice	3
Total Credit Hours		21

Controllership Concentration

Select three of the following:

ACCT 624	Information Technology Assurance Services +	3
ACCT 625	Fraud Examination and Forensic Accounting	3
ACCT 668	Accounting Internship *	1-3
ACCT 695	Selected Topics in Accounting *	3
ACCT 697	Independent Study in Taxation *	3
ACCT 727	Strategic Cost Management	3
ACCT 730	Financial Management Decision Making	3
ACCT 998	Master's Graduate Credit	1

Total Credit Hours for Concentration	9
Total Program Hours	30

- * Students may only take 6 hours in these courses.
- + Recommended for students wishing to pursue a career in Public Sector Finance.