

Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree in Accountancy



Western Illinois University is one of only 190 schools worldwide to achieve accreditation by the AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – for its undergraduate and graduate programs in Business and Accounting. The integrated degree builds upon the broad framework of the undergraduate degree in Accountancy. Graduate Accounting courses emphasize current accounting topics, critical thinking, case studies, accounting theory, and written and oral communication. Classes are limited in size to encourage close interaction between the professor and the student. In addition, the student is allowed to tailor coursework in Accounting and Business to meet his or her educational and professional goals. WIU's School of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences' curriculum and activities develop outstanding graduates who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to enter the accounting profession and to meet future career challenges.

Program Description

The Integrated Accounting Program (IAP) is designed to bridge the Bachelor of Business and the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) degrees. The program provides the opportunity for outstanding undergraduates to earn both an undergraduate and a graduate degree in five years. A student enrolled in the program is allowed to take six semester hours (sh) of "bridge" courses which will count as credit for an undergraduate and graduate degree while finishing his or her undergraduate degree. This option provides for a smooth transition from the undergraduate to graduate level and allows some flexibility in the electives taken by integrated students. The program is designed for students preparing for professional careers in accounting. Upon completion of the program, the students will have earned the 150 sh required to sit for the CPA exam. Studying for the CPA can be a part of the coursework in earning your MAcc and students are encouraged to sit for all parts of the CPA before graduating!

Benefits of Achieving a Master's Degree

- According to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), "the additional academic work needed to acquire the technical competence and develop the skills required by today's CPA is best obtained at the graduate level."
- Studies show that students who get a graduate education have a substantially higher rate of success on the Uniform CPA Exam.
- The AICPA reports that those with a CPA earn 10 – 15% higher salaries than regular accountants and have the potential to boost earnings by \$1 million over their lifetime.
- The most recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook lists

Accountants and Auditors with a better than average growth rate and says those "who have earned professional recognition, especially as Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), should have the best prospects" and goes on to say applicants with a MAcc may have an advantage.

- "Demand is high and supply is low" and "hiring managers in nearly every industry are scrambling to find skilled accounting and finance professionals, especially CPAs", according to the 2020 Robert Half Salary Guide.

Benefits of Pursuing an Integrated Degree

Students enrolled in the IAP are able to:

- Complete both degrees in five years
- Two bridge courses count towards undergraduate and graduate degree at the undergraduate tuition rate
- No GMAT required
- Scholarships available only for students in the IAP
- Coursework includes studying for all four parts of the CPA exam using the highly successful Wiley CPAexcel with local instruction
- Take ALL parts of the CPA exam during your fifth year
- Special consideration for graduate assistantships, which provide a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver
- MAcc may be completed online or in the classroom in Macomb or Quad Cities
- 100% job placement rate for 2019/20 WIU MAcc graduates within 30 days of graduation for those seeking employment.
- Affordable, locked in tuition rates

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

School of Accounting, Finance,
Economics and Decision Sciences
wiu.edu/accountancy
(309) 298-1152

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MAcc Graduate Coordinator
(309) 298-1023
CA-Westen@wiu.edu

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 [facebook.com/
WIUAccountingFinance](https://www.facebook.com/WIUAccountingFinance)

 [instagram.com/wiuanf](https://www.instagram.com/wiuanf)

General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad


**Western Illinois
University**

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate students may apply to the program after they complete 60 sh of undergraduate coursework of which a minimum of 30 sh must be at WIU. Students with 90 or more hours or beginning their final two semesters may begin taking bridge courses. In addition, students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 overall, in their major, and in their Accounting coursework. The applicant should apply to the WIU School of Graduate Studies for admission to the IAP.

Integrated Degree Requirements

Students enrolled in the IAP will be required to satisfy the courses required for the Bachelor of Business in Accountancy and the MAcc program as currently described in the graduate and undergraduate catalogs. Students must complete a minimum of 120 sh of undergraduate credit to meet the Bachelor of Business degree requirements and 30 sh of graduate credit needed to meet the MAcc degree requirements, including the following:

Core Courses (12 sh)

ACCT 540 Contemporary Issues in Accounting (3 sh)
ACCT 541 Advanced Accounting Concepts I (3 sh)
ACCT 542 Advance Accounting Concepts II (3 sh)
ACCT 580 Advanced Auditing (3 sh)

Directed Electives (3-9 sh)

ACCT 445G/B Financial Modeling (3 sh)
ACCT 457G/B Fraud Examination (3 sh)
ACCT 471G/B Advanced Federal Taxation (3 sh)
ACCT 510 CPA Regulation (1 sh)
ACCT 520 CPA Financial Accounting & Reporting (1 sh)
ACCT 530 CPA Business Environment & Concepts (1 sh)
ACCT 555 Information Systems Auditing (3 sh)
ACCT 620 Accounting Internship (3 sh)

Research Skills (3 sh)

DS 533 Applied Business Forecasting and Planning (3 sh) MGT 540
Applied Business Research (3 sh)
ACCT 445G/B Financial Modeling (3 sh)

Integrative Experience (6-12 sh)

MGT 590 Strategic Management (3 sh) required
Graduate-level Accounting, Business, or Computer Science Courses (A minimum of 3 sh must be taken outside of Accounting.)

Total Program: 30 sh

Internship Opportunities

Internships often provide students with the impetus to complete coursework with a clearer concept of the relationship between academic pursuits and professional development. Students graduating from the IAP have been placed at firms, including, but not limited to, Accenture, Caterpillar, CliftonLarsonAllen, Deloitte, GrantThornton, John Deere & Co., and RSM, after completing an internship with that particular firm.

Graduate Assistantship Positions

IAP and MAcc students are encouraged to apply for Teaching Support Assistant (TSA) positions within the School of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences when applying for admission. Positions are awarded on a competitive basis and provide students with a monthly stipend and tuition waiver. TSA's work a set number of hours each week helping to mentor students, promote the accounting program and assist faculty.

CPA Project

IAP and MAcc students are invited to become part of WIU's CPA Project. During the MAcc program, students may take courses for graduate credit that will help them study and prepare to sit for all parts of the CPA exam. Wiley CPAexcel exam review materials are used within our locally instructed course. Students are strongly encouraged to take and pass the exam while in school.



“The ability to receive a quality education, while earning my bachelors and master’s degree in five years, is economically advantageous and helped me to secure a job in my dream field. The teachers at Western have always made me feel like a priority. The accounting and finance department maintains excellent connections with professional alumni and has helped numerous students obtain jobs after graduation to further the cycle of mentoring between alumni and students.”

*—Cassidy Jurkaites,
WIU Bachelor of Business Accountancy
Spring 2020 Graduate and
WIU MAcc Integrated Student*