

Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree in Accountancy



Western Illinois University is one of only 181 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. The WIU Department of Accounting and Finance's mission is to provide a student-centered environment that promotes academic excellence, professional and personal growth, a spirit of collegiality, and ethical and professional conduct. The department's 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 up to 9 semester hours (SH) of graduate credit of which 6 SH can be "bridge" courses 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 and is **strongly recommended for those interested in a plan of study designed to gain eligibility to sit for the CPA exam.** Upon completion of the program, the students will have earned the 150 SH required to sit for the CPA exam.

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. Official admission occurs after completing 90 SH and a minimum of three 300-level Accounting 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, and the official transcripts will be obtained from Sherman Hall by graduate office staff.

Benefits of Pursuing an Integrated Degree

Students enrolled in the IAP are able to

- complete both degrees in five years
- earn up to 9 SH of graduate work in their senior year
- waive the GMAT
- apply for special scholarships reserved for students enrolled in the IAP
- sit for the CPA exam upon completion of the program
- receive (upon reaching graduate status) special consideration for graduate assistantships, which provide a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver

Benefits of Achieving a Master's Degree

- According to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, "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.
- MAcc degree holders receive starting salaries that are approximately 10 to 20 percent higher than the starting salaries of those with only a bachelor's degree.
- Today's MAcc holders are successfully performing the roles of business advisors, consultants, CFOs, and CEOs. The U.S. Department of Labor expects accountants to experience growth in the coming years. The bureau's 2014-2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook estimates 13 percent growth in accounting and auditing jobs from 2012 to 2022, adding that job candidates with professional designations, especially CPAs, should have the best prospects. Applicants who have a master's degree in Accounting also may have an advantage.

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

Department of Accounting and Finance
(309) 298-1152
Accountancy@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/accountancy

General admission questions:

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

Higher Values in Higher Education

Academic Excellence
Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth
Social Responsibility



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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, BDO Seidman, Caterpillar, CliftonLarsonAllen, Deloitte, Grant Thornton, John Deere & Co., and McGladrey, after completing an internship with that particular firm.

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, including the following:

Undergraduate Degree Requirements

University General Education Curriculum (43 SH)

Business Core Courses (33 SH)

ACCT 201 and 202, BCOMM 320, BL 431, DS 303 or ECON 487, FIN 331, MGT 481, IS 340, MGT 349 and 490, MKTG 327

Department Core Courses (24 SH)

ACCT 341, 342, 351, 371, 441, 451, 480; CS 302

Directed Electives (up to 6 SH may be bridge [B])

see below (9 SH)

Open Electives (8-11 SH)

Other (15 SH*)

Total Program (120 SH)

*May count toward the University General Education requirement.

Integrated Degree Requirements

Students enrolled in the IAP must complete a minimum of 150 SH of credit to graduate, including the 120 SH above. The program includes the following:

Core Courses (12 SH)

ACCT 540 Contemporary Issues in Accounting (3 SH)

ACCT 551 Advanced Management Accounting/Systems (3 SH)

ACCT 537 Issues in International Accounting (3 SH)

ACCT 580 Operational Auditing (3 SH)



Directed Electives (3-9 SH)

ACCT 442G/B Advanced Accounting II (3 SH)

ACCT 445G/B The Analysis and Use of Financial Statements (3 SH)

ACCT 457G/B Fraud Examination (3 SH)

ACCT 471G/B Advanced Federal Taxation (3 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)

MKTG 526 Applied Business Research (3 SH)

Integrative Experience (6-12 SH)

MGT 590 Strategic Management (3 SH)

Graduate-level Accounting, Business, or Computer Science Courses
(A minimum of 3 SH must be taken outside of Accounting.)

Total Program: 30 SH



“... the real deal—the perfect balance of dedicated faculty, small class sizes, and a personal experience, while still being afforded the opportunities of a large university. I found my perfect mix in Western’s Accountancy Program!”

— Cory Gall, Master of Accountancy, 2012