

# Master of Accountancy



The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program at Western Illinois University is designed to develop outstanding graduates who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to enter the accounting profession and meet future career challenges. The WIU School of Accounting, Finance, Economics & Decision Sciences provide a student-centered environment that promotes academic excellence, professional and personal growth, a spirit of collegiality, and ethical and professional conduct. The faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and is engaged in research, service, and professional interactions to benefit the University, the accounting profession, and the community.

## Master of 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 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. Class sizes are limited 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. 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.

## Admission Requirements\*

In addition to meeting the general admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies, admission to the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program requires a GMAT score of 500 or above, with scores at or above the 25th percentile in both the verbal and quantitative sections and a score of 4 or above on the written portion. An acceptable combination of undergraduate grade point average and total GMAT score is also required. Specifically, either  $200 \times \text{GPA} + \text{GMAT}$  must be at least 1,100, with a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75, or  $200 \times \text{GPA} + \text{GMAT}$  must at least be 1,150 with a minimum GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours (sh) of undergraduate courses.

The GMAT requirement is waived for students with an undergraduate major in Accountancy, having an overall GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) from an institution with AACSB international accreditation. Applicants with a bachelor's degree in business from an AACSB accredited institution, with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.60 or higher (on a 4.0 scale), will not be required to take the GMAT exam. International students must also have minimum scores of 550 PBT or 79 IBT on the TOEFL. All application materials and supporting documents must be received before an admission decision is made.

\*Due to COVID-19 restrictions at GMAT testing facilities, students with a minimum GPA of 2.75 will be admitted on a probational basis and must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to continue in the MAcc program.

## Benefits of Pursuing a MAcc at WIU


- Currently No GMAT required \*
- Scholarships available only for students in the MAcc
- 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 graduate school
- Graduate assistantships available, which provide a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver
- MAcc may be completed online or in the classroom on the Macomb and Quad Cities campus
- 100% job placement rate for 2019/20 WIU MAcc graduates within 30 days of graduation for those seeking employment.
- Affordable, locked in tuition rates


**Program Location:**  
Macomb, Online


## Contact Information

**Questions about the program:**  
School of Accounting, Finance,  
Economics and Decision Sciences  
[wiu.edu/accountancy](http://wiu.edu/accountancy)  
(309) 298-1152

Cheryl Westen  
MAcc Graduate Coordinator  
(309) 298-1023  
[CA-Westen@wiu.edu](mailto:CA-Westen@wiu.edu)

 [linkedin.com/company/  
wiu-accounting-and-finance-  
department](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wiu-accounting-and-finance-department)

 [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](mailto:Grad-Office@wiu.edu)  
[wiu.edu/grad](http://wiu.edu/grad)

  
**Western Illinois  
University**

## 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.
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## Internship Opportunities

Internships often assist students in differentiating among career paths and provide them with the impetus to complete coursework with a clearer concept of the relationship between academic pursuits and professional development. MAcc graduates have been placed at firms including, but not limited to, John Deere & Co., Caterpillar, Deloitte, RSM, CliftonLarsonAllen, BDO Seidman, and Accenture, after completing an internship with that particular firm.

## CPA Project Scholars & Diversity Pipeline

Minority students, particularly those from historically black colleges and universities, are encouraged to apply for a graduate assistantship as a CPA Project Scholar. These scholars will work towards increasing diversity awareness and mentoring other students while earning their MAcc and sitting for the CPA exam. Tuition waivers, monthly stipends, CPA review materials, and CPA exam fee reimbursement are some of the benefits of being selected as a CPA Project Scholar.

## MAcc Degree Requirements

The MAcc program requires the completion of 30 sh, of which a minimum of 15 sh must be graduate-level Accounting courses. The challenging core curriculum consists of courses in advanced accounting concepts using case studies and research, as well as advanced auditing. Students may take electives in advanced taxation, fraud investigations, and further review of CPA exam sections. In addition, several business courses outside the discipline are required to provide the student with a diverse, integrated learning experience. Courses may be completed in the classroom at our Macomb & Quad City campus or online.

## Integrated BB/MAcc Accountancy Program (IAP)

Western offers a unique Integrated Bachelor of Business/Master of Accountancy Program (IAP). The IAP is oriented toward preparation for careers in professional accountancy and is available for students currently enrolled in the undergraduate Accounting program at Western. The IAP is strongly recommended for students interested in a plan of study designed to gain eligibility to sit for the CPA exam. To be admitted to the IAP, students must have completed 60 sh or more, achieved junior-level standing in Accounting courses, and earned a minimum GPA of 3.25 in **each** of the following: cumulative undergraduate, overall major, and Accounting courses within the major. Students enrolled in the IAP are able to:

- Complete both undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years
- Up to two courses count towards undergraduate and graduate degree at the *undergraduate tuition rate*
- No GMAT required
- Apply for scholarships only for students in the IAP

Additionally, upon reaching graduate status, IAP students will receive special consideration for graduate assistantships, which provide a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver.

## 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.



*“What is life if we are not learning, if we are not being true to ourselves, if we are not striving for greatness. Western Illinois University’s MAcc program brings meaning to my life and it can do the same for you! I embarked on this CPA project scholar MAcc program with hopes of fulfilling my dreams of getting my Master of Accountancy and becoming a CPA. This program is the whole package deal! From mentoring the undergraduates, recruiting and reaching out to students in local community colleges/high schools, tutoring all the other bright scholars and to helping out our great professors. I have grown to be a better resource, friend and accountant! Don’t forget to get involved, because I sure did! Join N.A.B.A (National Association of Black Accountants), B.A.P. (Beta Alpha Psi) and many more. I thank all those involved in the program for accepting me and being a part of my success. From Miami to Macomb...it was worth it!”*

—Alicia Royes, Master of Accountancy and CPA Project Scholar 2020