

University of Delaware
Lerner College of Business and Economics
Department of Accounting & Management Information Systems
Master of Science in Accounting
PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT, updated January 2023

PART I. PROGRAM HISTORY

A. Statement of Purpose

The Department of Accounting & Management Information Systems (MIS) offers a program of study leading to the Master of Science degree in Accounting. The objective of the MS in Accounting is to extend the education of qualified students into advanced study in each of the major areas of the field of accounting, finance and quantitative methods. The Accounting program prepares students for professional careers in public accounting, consulting, information systems, industry, and government.

B. Degrees Offered

Majors are offered for a more in-depth study in (1) financial management, (2) controllership, (3) management information systems and (4) analytics, although students may earn the Master of Science in Accounting degree without selecting a major and with completing 9 credits of choice electives (see Part III, Section A for list of elective options). Students cannot complete more than a single major.

PART II. ADMISSION

A. Admission Requirements

Minimum requirements for admission are the following:

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in the major field of study
- Graduate GPA (if applicable) should be at least 3.2
- GMAT/GRE test scores are optional
- \$75 application fee

All foreign national applicants for graduate study at the University of Delaware are expected to have or gain English proficiency prior to enrolling in graduate coursework. See <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/grad/prospective-students/grad-admissions/test-scores/> for additional information on admission requirements to UD graduate programs.

B. Prior Degree Requirements

Applicants may have majored in any area during their undergraduate study. However, the M.S. program assumes knowledge of core accounting principles upon entry (with specific course and topic equivalents noted in Section D) as well as completion of courses meeting Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International general skills, business and management knowledge areas.

Normally, those holding an undergraduate business degree from an accredited AACSB International program will have met the general skills, business and management knowledge areas requirements outside the area of accounting.

C. Application Deadlines

Students can enter the program starting in the Fall or the Spring semester. For matriculation in the Fall semester, domestic applicants should apply by July 1 and international applicants should apply by June 1. For matriculation in the Spring semester, domestic applicants should apply by January 1 and international applicants should apply by November 15.

D. Special Competencies Needed (i.e., specific courses or experience)

The equivalent of the accounting courses required for an undergraduate accounting major:

- ACCT 315 Intermediate Accounting I
- ACCT 316 Intermediate Accounting II
- ACCT 327 Cost Accounting
- Economics
- Business Law
- Completion of courses meeting AACSB common body of knowledge requirements

Admitted students who lack the prerequisites may be required to take ACCT600, ECON603, and/or ACCT653 to fulfill these prerequisites. Credit for these courses do not count toward the 30-credit program completion requirement.

E. Admission Categories (explain other than regular such as provisional)

CAP

The Graduate Conditional Admissions Program (Graduate CAP) provides international students acceptance into the program without the need to take the TOEFL exam. After completing Graduate CAP at the University of Delaware's English Language Institute (ELI), the student may begin graduate coursework at Lerner.

4+1

The "4+1" program is the joint Bachelors degree and Masters degree in Accounting. Offered only to current Lerner undergraduate students majoring in Accounting, the application is abbreviated, without the need for an essay, resume, letters of recommendation, or test scores.

Only an unofficial transcript from the University of Delaware is needed. The abbreviated application is assessed at: <https://grad-admissions.udel.edu/register/?id=43fe0412-6be8-4bcb-9c8e-29811cf518c7>

Students accepted into the 4+1 program may choose two accounting courses, typically two from ACCT613, 614, 615, and 617, that double-count for their undergraduate and graduate credit requirements. 4+1 students also do not need to take ACCT604 and BUAD620 (which are required for M.S. Accounting students) because their undergraduate accounting curriculum includes courses that teach the same material. As a result, 4+1 students take five required courses and five 600-level elective courses from ACCT, BUAD, MISY, or FINC.

F. Other documents required (i.e., letters of recommendation, essays, portfolios, interviews, writing assessments, etc.)

- Unofficial transcripts of all previous college records (both international and English); if admitted, official transcripts are required prior to matriculation
- Essay on the applicant’s interest in the program, also known as a personal statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume

G. Admission decisions

Admission to the graduate program is selective and competitive based on the number of well-qualified applicants and the limits of available faculty and facilities. Those who meet stated minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of the requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

Admission will be decided by the Office of Graduate & MBA Programs and/or the Graduate Director, in consultation with an admission committee (composed of faculty who participate in the program).

PART III. ACADEMIC

A. Degree Requirements

The degree includes a 21 credit core and 9 credits of electives which are clustered to represent either a general Accounting program (MS in Accounting) or include a major.

<i>Required Core Courses</i>	<i>Credits</i>
MISY604 Database Design and Implementation	3
ACCT614 Advanced Federal Taxation	3

ACCT620	Theory of External Reporting and Applications	3
ACCT625	Financial Statement Analysis	3
ACCT683	International Accounting	3
BUAD620	Fundamentals of Analytics	3
BUAD640	Ethical Issues in Domestic and Global Business Environments	3
<i>Total Credits from Required Courses</i>		21

Elective Courses – choose 3 (may not be an exhaustive list) Credits

MISY602	Big Data Technologies	3
MISY605	Current Issues in Management Information Systems	3
MISY606	Object-oriented Systems Analysis, Design and Implementation	3
ACCT613	Federal Taxation of Income and Property Transactions	3
ACCT615	Advanced Financial Reporting	3
ACCT617	Auditing, Ethics, and Professional Responsibility	3
ACCT618	Estate Planning	3
ACCT667	Seminar: Various Topics	3
FINC612	Capital Markets & Financial Institutions	3
FINC615	International Finance	3
FINC616	Derivative Securities and Risk Management	3
FINC619	Financial Modeling and Valuation	3
FINC630	Fintech and Data Science for Finance	3
FINC650	Financial Management	3
FINC651	Corporate Financial Analysis	3
FINC652	Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management	3
FINC662	Fixed Income Securities	3
FINC671	Seminar in Finance	3
BUAD621	Decision Analytics and Visualization	3
BUAD622	Optimization and Spreadsheet Modelling	3
BUAD625	Business Analytics Capstone	3
BUAD631	Operations Management and Management Science	3
MISY627	Information Technology and Organizational Effectiveness	3
MISY636	Unstructured Data Analytics	3
MISY640	Project Management and Costing	3
MISY641	Data Mining for Business Analytics	3
MISY650	Security and Control	3
MISY655	Ethics in Technology Management	3
MISY665	Introduction to Cybersecurity	3
MISY675	Dashboard Design and Storytelling	3

Total Credits from Elective Courses 9

Majors

Regardless of major, students are required to complete 21 credits of core courses. Beyond the general Accounting major, students may choose from four different majors which require the student to select three elective courses from the same area of study.

Analytics Major

Select three of the following elective courses:

MISY602	Big Data Technologies
MISY606	Object-oriented Systems Analysis, Design and Implementation
BUAD621	Decision Analytics and Visualization
BUAD622	Optimization and Spreadsheet Modelling
BUAD625	Business Analytics Capstone
MISY636	Unstructured Data Analytics
MISY641	Data Mining for Business Analytics
MISY675	Dashboard Design and Storytelling

Controllership Major

Select three of the following elective courses:

ACCT617	Auditing, Ethics, and Professional Responsibility
BUAD631	Operations Management and Management Science
MISY627	Information Technology and Organizational Effectiveness
MISY650	Security and Control

Financial Management Major

Must take: FINC650 Financial Management and select two of the following elective courses:

FINC612	Capital Markets & Financial Institutions
FINC615	International Finance
FINC616	Derivative Securities and Risk Management
FINC619	Financial Modeling and Valuation
FINC630	Fintech and Data Science for Finance
FINC651	Corporate Financial Analysis
FINC652	Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management
FINC662	Fixed Income Securities

Management Information Systems Major

Must take MISY606 Object-oriented Systems Analysis, Design and Implementation and select two of the following elective courses:

MISY605	Current Issues in Management Information Systems
MISY627	Information Technology & Organizational Effectiveness
MISY640	Project Management and Costing
MISY650	Security and Control

CIP Code Designations

Based on CIP codes provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

- MS in Accounting CIP 52.0301 (Accounting);
- MS in Accounting with Analytics major (MS Accounting Analytics); CIP 52.1399 (Management Sciences and Quantitative Methods, Other (STEM))
- MS in Accounting with Controllership major (MS Accounting Controllership); CIP 52.0399 (Accounting and Related Services, Other)
- MS in Accounting with Management Information Systems major (MS Accounting Management Information Systems); CIP 11.1005 (Information Technology Project Management (STEM))
- MS in Accounting with Financial Management major (MS Accounting Financial Management); CIP 52.0304 (Accounting and Finance)

Students in the STEM majors are authorized for Optional Practical Training (OPT) for 12 months, plus another 24 months (36 months total) as an extension from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

OPT is administered by UD’s Office for International Students & Scholars (OISS). Typically, one of the coordinators from Lerner’s Career Services office is the “recommender” for a student’s OPT application.

Course Modality

Some courses are offered in the Fall, the Spring, or both semesters. Some courses are offered in the Winter and Summer sessions. Most courses are taught in-person, while some are offered online in an accelerated (7 weeks) and asynchronous format. On-campus students may take online courses, but not vice versa.

Substitutions and Transfers of Credit

Students may petition the Graduate Program Director for a variance in degree requirements based on previous degree completed. This should be done in writing (email is acceptable) to the Graduate Program Director. Permission and course substitutions will be determined by the Graduate Program Director, in consultation with a committee (composed of faculty who participate in the program).

English Language Expectation

Students are expected to have a sufficient level of oral and written English communication skills to be successful in department coursework. Those students with an assistantship that involves teaching or research should have a sufficient level of English oral communication skill to be comfortably understood by the students they teach and the faculty member with whom they work.

B. Committees for exams, thesis, or dissertations

The Master of Science degree in Accounting does not require a comprehensive exam or dissertation.

C. Timetable and definition of satisfactory progress towards the degree

Students may attend on a part-time or a full-time schedule. Full-time students with an undergraduate accounting degree from an AACSB college may complete the program within one full calendar year. Typically, students take a maximum of 12 credits per semester, although the Graduate Program Director may allow a student to enroll in 15 credits.

The estimated time of completion for other full-time students is 21 months. Part-time students will take 2-5 years to complete the program. Student should remain in contact with the Graduate Program Director throughout the program to ensure satisfactory progress toward the degree.

Graduate students will be evaluated in courses according to the University grading policy and must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to remain in good academic standing. GPA requirements are monitored by the Office of Graduate Studies according to the Graduate Studies Academic Probation Policy.

Leave of Absence (LOA)

Students who wish to take a LOA must inform the Graduate Director in writing (email is acceptable), with the expected amount of time of the absence and the expected return. The Graduate Director will decide if the LOA shall be granted, and if so, will forward the request to the Graduate College.

Application for Advanced Degree (AAD)

Students submit the AAD form to the Graduate Program Director or the Graduate Program Coordinator, who then check the form for accuracy. This form is due by early February (September) for Spring/Summer (Fall) graduates. The form is then signed by the Director and Department Chair, and then it is forwarded to the Graduate College.

For 4+1 students who are transferring credits taken during their undergraduate years for their graduate degree, they must submit a Transfer of Credit form. This form is due at the same time as the AAD form and is also signed by the Director and forwarded to the Graduate College.

PART IV. ASSESSMENT PLAN

Some graduates will pursue the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) license upon graduation. For those students, passing all portions of the CPA exam is a direct measure of the learning outcome of the degree program. For other graduates who do not pursue the CPA, job placement is an indirect measure. Data on job placements will be collected from the "LERNER GRADUATE &

MBA PROGRAMS GRADUATING CLASS CAREER SURVEY” at the time the student submits the Application for Advanced Degree (AAD).

PART V. FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is based on merit and not on need. Application for fellowship, tuition scholarship, or assistantship financial aid is a part of the admission application form. Funding is awarded to applicants and continuing students on a limited and competitive basis.

During the review of applications, some applicants are admitted with partial funding. The first possibility is a scholarship that covers 10-25% of tuition. The second possibility is a graduate assistantship that involves being a teaching assistant for a professor that requires, on average, 10 hours per week of work. The compensation is 50% off of tuition and a stipend that is about \$1,000 per month. The third possibility is no funding initially, but after one semester of strong academic performance, a student may be offered a graduate assistantship for his/her second semester and beyond. There are no assistantships that cover 100% of tuition.

Incoming students are awarded funding on the following basis:

- The availability of funded assistantships
- The quality and completeness of the student’s application
- The experience and background of the student
- Adherence to Departmental and University policy

Continuing second year students are awarded funding on the following basis:

- The availability of funded assistantships
- Performance in the first year of a funded assistantship based on faculty evaluations
- Performance in the first year of the Accounting graduate program
- Adherence to departmental and university policy

The Department does not award 3rd year funded assistantships to Accounting students.

The availability of any aid is not guaranteed. Typically, the following are available each semester:

- Four (4) positions of teaching assistantship for M.S. Accounting students
- Four (4) positions of teaching assistantship for 4+1 Accounting students

Students who receive funding to be a teaching assistant are given a contract with specific terms and conditions. In general, a student is evaluated by the professor throughout semester. If the student’s work is unsatisfactory, which may include failure to complete tasks on time or be unhelpful in assisting the professor in a variety of ways (e.g., proctoring, grading, etc.), then the student may lose funding for the next semester and be no longer asked to be a teaching assistant going forward.

PART VI. DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

A. General Student Responsibilities

Upon matriculation, students are expected to provide up-to-date address, telephone, and email information to the Department of Accounting & MIS staff and to update them as necessary throughout the time they are enrolled in the Master in Accounting degree program.

Students must activate their University of Delaware email account and arrange for messages to the UD email account to be forwarded to email accounts with other providers (e.g. Yahoo, Hotmail, or Gmail), if the student uses the outside account as his/her mail email account.