

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

Graduate Programs

The Master of Science in Accounting Degree

The objective of the MS accounting program is to provide students with a greater breadth and depth in accounting than is possible in the BS program. The MS program has a specific focus on preparing graduates for careers as professional accountants who will complete the Uniform CPA Examination. Students who complete our master's program will be technically adept, resourceful, and ready to compete in a fast-changing, increasingly-global world. In addition to technical competence, the program places particular emphasis on professional ethics, personal responsibility, continuing development of leadership skills, and communication skills. Advanced courses provide a theoretical foundation for insight into significant problems practitioners in the accounting profession will confront. Candidates enter the program as a cohort in the summer semester and may select one of five concentrations: (1) Tax, (2) Financial Reporting and Auditing, (3) Data Analytics and Systems, (4) Corporate Finance, and (5) Research Methods. The program consists of 33 or 34 hours depending on the selected concentration. Please note that some concentrations may not be available every year. Please check with the Program Coordinator if you have questions about a specific concentration, as not all concentrations may be available each year.

Admissions are decided on a holistic approach, with the following criteria preferences being considered: an undergraduate degree, an upper-division grade-point average in accounting of 3.25, an overall grade-point average of 3.0, and a GMAT score of 550.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The PhD in the Spears School of Business with a major in accounting provides the highest degree of preparation for the individual student, enabling the student to make significant contributions in research, teaching, and professional engagement in a university setting. Admission to the program is very competitive.

Graduates of recognized colleges and universities whose records indicate appropriate academic achievement and intellectual capacity may qualify for admission to the program. Additional factors considered in the admissions process include interpersonal skills and professional accounting experience. Satisfactory scores on the GMAT and TOEFL (for non-US applicants) are also required.

Students in the PhD program take a series of seminars that provides an overview of relevant accounting academic literature, along with additional methods coursework that prepares students to conduct high-quality academic research. A student's advisory committee assists in developing a plan of study that adequately covers the student's research and teaching interests. Our PhD students have teaching and research-related responsibilities throughout their program.