

## *Master of Accountancy, M.Acc. Degree*



COLLEGE of  
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY  
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

The ETSU Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.) degree is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and the degree is also accredited by the premier business school accrediting agency, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Less than a third of US business schools and only 5% of business schools worldwide meet the rigorous standards of AACSB. **Additionally, both the undergraduate and graduate accounting programs have a separate AACSB International accounting accreditation. East Tennessee State University is one of a small percentage of non-doctoral granting schools in the nation which has a separate AACSB International accredited Master of Accountancy program.**

The ETSU M.Acc. is designed for individuals who desire advanced study of accountancy and seek professional careers in public accounting, industry, and government. The combination of the Bachelor of Business Administration degree and the M.Acc. degree meets the educational requirements for Certified Public Accountants in Tennessee and all other states. Furthermore, the M.Acc. is a major step toward obtaining the credentials necessary for a teaching career in accountancy. The M.Acc. program covers financial and managerial accounting, auditing, taxation, and consulting services. Additionally, the program provides exposure to topics representative of the larger business environment.

### *What do Students Say About the ETSU M.Acc.?*

It's a solid academic program that prepared me well for the CPA exam. ETSU is big enough to attract large corporate recruiters and offer a mix of faculty, but still small enough that you know most everyone and can access faculty for additional opportunities.

The MAcc program at ETSU allows students to focus their strengths and find a base understanding of many broad accounting subjects to best prepare for the workforce. After talking to many other accounting graduates, ETSU also has one of the most affordable programs available to obtain Masters level education.

The MAcc program provided a thorough curriculum and professors invested in student success.

Good value; the afternoon & evening classes make it possible to work while getting your masters.

It is a very good program with great professors. I was always treated well with understanding and compassion.

I started this program to get the degree and get out without caring if I gained anything else from it. However, the knowledge and relationships I'm taking away are key to me feeling

happy about having a career in accounting. The students are amazing and push each other to work harder and think deeper, the professors make students want to succeed and learn as much as possible, and the networking allowed me to accept a job offer for my dream job. I think it is a very robust program. The courses are engaging and develop an understanding of the history of our profession while still exploring contemporary issues. The material is hands on and, because of the smaller class sizes, group discussions facilitate a greater understanding of topics.

The value combined with the effort and commitment level of the faculty made the program well worth the time and resources

This is a high level program that outstrips that of many other programs at the school plus it more than prepared me for the mentality and focus necessary to succeed in public accounting.

It's a great value and it's great that it is able to be structured around people's lives.

## *Statistics*

The following are based on graduates of the M.Acc. program from Fall 2016-Fall 2019:

Internships: 77% completed internships while in the M.Acc. program

Jobs: 79% found jobs before graduation from the M.Acc. program

CPA exam: 93% plan to take the exam, 31% have passed at least one part before graduation

The following are based on Fall 2019 enrollment:

Average entrance GPA: 3.61

Average GMAT score: 559

Student/Teacher ratio: 15:1

Gender ratio female to male: 16:17

## *Admission Requirements*

In general, the School of Graduate Studies admits students on a continuous basis, with preferred application deadlines of August 10 for Fall semester, December 5 for Spring semester, and May 15 for Summer term.

### **Graduate Admissions**

The admissions process is administered online (<http://www.etsu.edu/gradschool/>). Application requirements include:

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- One official transcript from every college or university where the applicant has taken courses.
- An undergraduate GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for domestic students, and a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for international students

- A completed application form
- A personal essay of 150-300 words, detailing your interests in a graduate program at ETSU
- A non-refundable application fee of \$55 (\$65 for international students)

The *Graduate Catalog* provides a detailed description of requirements for admission to the Graduate School. Additional information is posted on the Graduate Admissions website. For information on the GMAT, call 1-800-GMATNOW, or access their website at [www.gmat.org](http://www.gmat.org). Please direct further questions concerning graduate school admission to Marc Tucker, Graduate Program Specialist, (423) 439-4221, [tuckermr@etsu.edu](mailto:tuckermr@etsu.edu).

### **Departmental Admissions**

A student applying for admission to the M.Acc. program must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. International students must hold the equivalent of a four-year degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution. All applicants to the M.Acc. are presumed to be proficient in the use of word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software as well as basic business mathematics. Specific admission criteria are as follows:

- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.5
- Minimum GMAT score of 450 (The GMAT is waived if student has received an undergraduate degree with a major in accounting with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher from ETSU or any other AACSB-accredited university within five years prior to registering for the ETSU Master's program. The GMAT is also waived for candidates who have already passed the CPA exam.)
- Minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper exam) or 213 (computer exam) if an international student
- Minimum formula score of 1,050 computed as  $(200 \times \text{undergraduate GPA}) + \text{GMAT score}$

Candidates for the M.Acc. program must submit all required application materials before they enroll in graduate-level business courses. Nondegree students must receive approval from the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Business and Technology before registering for graduate business courses.

The length of the M.Acc. program will depend upon a student's prior academic work and the number of courses to be taken per semester. The well-prepared full-time student who is not working can complete the program in three semesters. However, the department strongly advises students to spread the program over four semesters so they can study for the CPA exam throughout the program and possibly work an internship. Part-time students can complete the program through evening classes at the ETSU main campus.

If students do not have an undergraduate degree in accounting from ETSU, they may need to take prerequisite courses for the program. The M.Acc. Graduate Coordinator will evaluate undergraduate transcripts to determine what, if any, prerequisite courses are needed. Students may be admitted if they lack only two courses. If prerequisite courses are required, they must be

taken in addition to the degree requirements. Below is a list of prerequisite courses (or their equivalents) for the M.Acc. program:

#### **Prerequisite Courses**

ACCT 2010	Principles of Accounting I (3 credits)
ACCT 2020	Principles of Accounting II (3 credits)
ACCT 3010	Financial Accounting I (3 credits)
ACCT 3020	Financial Accounting II (3 credits)
ACCT 3110	Managerial Accounting (3 credits)
ACCT 3320	Information Technology for Accounting (3 credits)
ACCT 3410	Federal Income Tax (3 credits)
ACCT 4010	Advanced Financial Accounting (3 credits)
ACCT 4320	Data Analytics for Accounting (3 credits)
ACCT 4610	Auditing Theory and Professionalism (3 credits)

Although general business courses have not been listed as prerequisites for the ETSU M.Acc. program, students planning to take the CPA exam should check their transcripts with CPA exam eligibility requirements to confirm that they have met the prerequisites for the exam.

International students should contact Ricardo Tapia, our international graduate admissions recruiter for further information and requirements. His e-mail is [etsuinternational@etsu.edu](mailto:etsuinternational@etsu.edu).

#### **M.Acc. Orientation**

Students admitted to the M.Acc. Program are required by the College of Business and Technology to attend the graduate business student orientation. The orientation is usually held the first Monday prior to the beginning of classes in the fall semester. If the student is unable to attend, he or she must answer a set of questions provided by the Dean's Office prior to registering for the following semester.

### ***Graduate Assistantship & Tuition Scholarship Requirements***

A limited number of Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to qualified students. A Graduate Assistantship waives your tuition (but not fees) each semester and pays you a stipend each month for nine months of the academic year. In return you will work for the university 20 hours per week doing such activities as grading papers, helping professors with their research, data entry, and other jobs. A Tuition Scholarship waives your tuition (but not fees) each semester. In return you work for the university 8 hours each week of the academic year. For further information about GA and TS positions, please contact **Tracie Gamble**, Executive Aide Graduate Studies at (423) 439-5314 or e-mail at [gamblet@etsu.edu](mailto:gamblet@etsu.edu).

Student loans also are available to eligible students. For further information on financial aid, please contact the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies or the ETSU Financial Aid office at (423) 439-4300.

## ***M.Acc. Curriculum***

The core M.Acc. courses are designed to provide students with a strong technical accounting background and the concentrations provide the flexibility to create an experience unique to the individual's professional and academic interests. The courses will also help students learn skills necessary to succeed in an accounting career and on the CPA or CMA Exams, while also exploring future areas of specialization and engaging with top-ranked faculty who are personally invested in students' long-term career success.

## **Core Courses**

The M.Acc. program consists of a minimum of seven core courses, three concentration courses, and a capstone course, for a total of 33 semester hours. The accountancy core courses cover the six major areas of accounting practice: financial and managerial accounting, auditing, taxation, regulation, and international accounting. An accounting analytics course is also included in the core curriculum.

## **Concentrations**

In addition to the core curriculum, M.Acc. students must choose one of four concentrations available: Taxation, Audit, Controllership, and Generalist. Students take three courses within their chosen concentration. These concentrations are described in more detail below.

### Audit Concentration

#### *Overview*

The Audit Concentration provides students with advanced knowledge of auditing standards, internal control, and financial regulations. Students are taught how to review, analyze and evaluate financial statements in order to provide useful and accurate information for investors and other decision-makers. Students are also required to work in groups to build teamwork proficiency, an essential skill in the audit profession. Graduates of the program emerge with strong analytical skills, a solid understanding of professional ethics, and the ability to act with professional skepticism and due care.

#### *Possible Careers*

Audit careers include assurance service positions with Big Four, national, regional, and local public accounting firms, as well as industry. Investigative services such as the FBI, CIA, and the IRS also hire forensic auditors to investigate financial criminal activity. The Audit Concentration furthermore lays a strong foundation for careers in financial services, such as commercial banking and investment banking.

#### *Academic Courses*

The Audit Concentration consists of three audit courses (9 hours) of the minimum thirty-three (33) M.Acc. courses. The audit courses consist of Advanced Auditing Practice, Forensic Auditing, and Internal Auditing and Control Systems. An approved internship in auditing may replace one of these courses. See the Chair of Accountancy or Graduate Coordinator for more information.

#### *Skillset*

Audit and assurance service providers are expected to interact with managers, employees, audit committees, regulators, and other auditors on a team. Thus, it is important that students develop strong interpersonal skills, professionalism, and group-work skills. Students wishing to pursue a career in audit should have a strong understanding of GAAP, financial statements, and auditing standards. Auditors must also possess strong ethical standards which allow him or her to act with integrity and independence in all matters, endurance for long audits, and possess excellent communication skills.

## Tax Concentration

### *Overview*

The Tax Concentration combines in-depth tax courses with foundational accounting courses to provide a balanced and thorough groundwork for a variety of career paths. The Tax Concentration provides M.Acc. students with advanced tax knowledge and skills through both the study and practice of tax law. The core taxation courses focus on critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills. Students will work within the tax code, examine case studies, and hone their ethical acumen. Students should graduate fully equipped to transition into a career with a strong understanding of the tax system and an ability to apply it to personal and business tax preparation and planning.

### *Possible Careers*

Tax careers include employment in CPA firms, corporate tax offices, and government, including the Internal Revenue Service. The tax industry offers diverse options such as personal income tax preparation, corporate tax returns, and estate planning, among others.

### *Academic Courses*

The Tax Concentration consists of three academic taxation courses (9 hours) of the minimum thirty-three (33) M.Acc. courses. These courses include Tax Research, Taxation of Flow-Through Entities, and Advanced Tax Topics. An approved internship in taxation may replace one of these courses. See the Chair of Accountancy or Graduate Coordinator for more information.

### *Skillset*

Students exploring taxation as a career should possess a strong understanding of tax laws and the effect of tax laws on individuals and corporations. He or she should be able to apply knowledge of financial statements and taxation principles to future tax planning, utilizing problem solving and analytical skills in the process. Students should also possess the ability to concisely communicate complex tax concepts to individuals who do not have a tax background.

## Controllership Concentration

### *Overview*

The Controllership Concentration reflects the emerging role of accountants and financial professionals as key members of the management team in the corporate world. The concentration equips students with an understanding of financial reporting and advanced managerial accounting as applied in both the manufacturing and service sectors. Students will learn how to implement procedures such as capital and operational budgeting, principles of lean management, Six Sigma, cost of quality, software solutions to financial challenges, internal controls, and asset management. Students should graduate with a holistic understanding of financial leadership in the strategic and operational decision-making processes of an organization.

### *Possible Careers*

Both current and future CPAs and CMAs should consider the Controllership Concentration if planning to aspire to senior management positions. Controllers manage the accounting department in an organization and serve in a similar role as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The roles are sometimes combined in small organizations. Controllership career options including manufacturing firms, non-profits, and service industries.

### *Academic Courses*

The Controllership Concentration consists of three concentration controllership courses (9 hours) of the minimum thirty-three (33) M.Acc. courses. The controllership-specific courses include Controllership and Financial Leadership, Internal Auditing and Control Systems, and either Applied Corporate Finance or Not for Profit Entity Accounting. An approved controllership internship may replace any of these courses except for Controllership and Financial Leadership. See the Chair of Accountancy or Graduate Coordinator for more information.

### *Skillset*

A student in the Controllership Concentration should develop strong analytical, problem-solving, and leadership skills. He or she will be expected to have a thorough understanding of budgeting, cost-benefit theory, and financial statement reporting. In addition, a controllership position requires an ability to provide financial consultation to upper management and aid in decision making for the firm.

## Generalist Concentration

### *Overview*

The Generalist Concentration reflects the choice of many millennial students who want to try out a variety of options. Students will choose courses that match their desired interests. Students should graduate with a broad array of skills that will enable them to begin to pursue a variety of career paths.

### *Possible Careers*

Depending on the courses chosen, students have the opportunity to pursue multiple career paths including the ones mentioned in the concentrations described above.

### *Academic Courses*

The Generalist Concentration consists of three concentration courses (9 hours) of the minimum thirty-three (33) M.Acc. courses. The generalist-specific courses include the student's choice of a wide variety of courses included under the Tax, Audit, and Controllership concentrations. See the Chair of Accountancy or Graduate Coordinator for more information.

### *Skillset*

Students with a generalist concentration will develop a variety of skillsets based on the courses chosen.



### **Capstone Course**

The M.Acc. capstone course, ACCT 5890, provides opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills. Options available to students include readings and research in preparation for passage of an approved professional exam, special study of an approved accounting topic, internship in a professional accounting position, and participation in an auditing or consulting engagement.

### ***Other Important Information***

#### **Course Times**

The M.Acc. courses are offered in the late afternoon (4:00 – 6:50 p.m.) and evening (7:00 – 9:50 p.m). Core accounting courses are offered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. The concentration courses are offered in different semesters so students need to plan their schedules ahead with the graduate coordinator.

#### **Degree Completion**

Students who go to school full-time usually take 9 hours per semester. Students who work full-time usually take 9 hours per semester. The time to complete the program depends on your work schedule, the number of foundation courses (if any) required, and other responsibilities the student is balancing. Many students also choose to study for and take parts of the CPA exam while they are pursuing their degree. Typically, students complete the program in four semesters, taking three courses in three semesters and two in the last one.

#### **CPA Exam**

All M.Acc. students are encouraged to sit for the CPA exam during their time in the program. The exam is an excellent way to prepare the student for his or her professional career. Private CPA review courses are available to assist students in their studies. However, M.Acc. students are urged to make their coursework their first priority as keeping at least a 3.0 GPA is required for the M.Acc. program. For further information on ETSU's Master of Accountancy program, please contact the following:

Dr. Michelle S. Freeman  
Graduate Coordinator of the M.Acc. Program  
East Tennessee State University  
423-439-4599  
[freemanms@etsu.edu](mailto:freemanms@etsu.edu)

# M.Acc. Degree Curriculum Summary



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Course	Title	Credits
<b>Core courses required for all M.Acc. students</b>		
ACCT 5010	Seminar in Financial Accounting	3
ACCT 5110	Seminar in Managerial Accounting	3
ACCT 5320	Seminar in Accounting Analytics	3
ACCT 5420	Seminar in Corporate Taxation	3
ACCT 5510	Seminar in Accounting Regulation and Ethics	3
ACCT 5610	Seminar in Auditing	3
ACCT 5810	Seminar in Global Accounting	3
<b>Concentration in Taxation:</b> Students must choose 3 of the following:		
ACCT 5410	Tax Research	3
ACCT 5430	Taxation of Flow-Through Entities	3
ACCT 5450	Advanced Tax Topics	3
ACCT 5905	Graduate Internship (in Tax)	3
<b>Concentration in Audit:</b> Students must choose 3 of the following:		
ACCT 5620	Advanced Auditing Practice	3
ACCT 5630	Forensic Auditing	3
ACCT 5640	Internal Auditing and Control Systems	3
ACCT 5905	Graduate Internship (in Audit)	3
<b>Concentration in Controllership:</b> Students must choose three courses below. ACCT 5210 is required for the concentration.		
ACCT 5210	Controllership and Financial Leadership	3
ACCT 5640	Internal Auditing and Control Systems	3
BADM 5430 OR ACCT 5717*	Applied Corporate Finance OR Not for Profit Entity Accounting * If students have taken ACCT 4717, they cannot take ACCT 5717 for credit.	3
ACCT 5905	Graduate Internship (in Controllership)	
<b>Concentration in Generalist:</b> Students must choose 3 of the following:		
ACCT 5410	Tax Research	3
ACCT 5430	Taxation of Flow-Through Entities	3
ACCT 5450	Advanced Tax Topics	3
ACCT 5620	Advanced Auditing Practice	3
ACCT 5630	Forensic Auditing	3
ACCT 5640	Internal Auditing and Control Systems	3
ACCT 5210	Controllership and Financial Leadership	3
ACCT 5717*	Not for Profit Entity Accounting * If students have taken ACCT 4717, they cannot take ACCT 5717 for graduate credit.	3
ACCT 5905	Graduate Internship	3
BADM 5430	Applied Corporate Finance	3
<b>Capstone required for all students</b>		
ACCT 5890	Professional Accounting Experience	3