

# MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

SAM M. WALTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS  
SAM M. WALTON  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS





## The Master of Accountancy

At the Walton College, we connect scholarship with practice and people to organizations. Through excellent curriculum, outstanding placement, and exceptional people, the MAcc program will give you the competitive advantage needed to excel in the accounting profession. The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program at the Sam M. Walton College of Business will provide you with a broad-based accounting education where critical thinking, creative problem solving, and professional determination are encouraged. We emphasize high demand skillsets such as project management, teamwork, and communication skills.

We view the MAcc Program as a collection of professional development experiences, academic degree completion, and CPA preparation. Upon completion of the MAcc program, you obtain a rich set of professional experiences, a graduate degree, and the academic requirements needed to sit for the Certified Public Accountant exam in the state of Arkansas.

## Exceptional People

The Accounting Department faculty is internationally recognized and possesses practical experience in auditing, tax, financial reporting, information systems, and management accounting. They are actively engaged in research activities, thus expanding their understanding of capital markets, knowledge management, accounting practice, tax policy, and auditing behavior. The department's faculty also represent and serve within various professional accounting organizations both domestically and internationally.

To learn more about our exceptional faculty, visit <http://waltoncollege.uark.edu/acct/>

“The Walton College greatly prepared me for the transition from student to professional. As a student, I was given many opportunities for self-development among professionals and my peers. **The resources provided by the Accounting Department, Walton College Career Center, and Beta Alpha Psi were second to none** – and I truly believe they have been a critical factor in my successes so far.”

– Lindsay Hicks, MAcc, 2010

## Open Letter from Our MAcc Employer Partners

Dear UA Accounting Students,

We represent some of the largest businesses in Arkansas and the world, and we employ the vast majority of accounting graduates from the University of Arkansas. Our respect for and support of the accounting program at the University of Arkansas is unified and unmatched.

### Your Education

Just as we operate in nationally and globally competitive marketplaces, you will compete in national and global job markets over the course of your career. Professional certification is a critical attribute of our profession. Professionally certified individuals command greater compensation and more opportunities for advancement over the course of their careers. Early passing of the CPA exam represents one of the most important ways to boost and ensure a successful start of your career. You should also consider the role that certifications such as Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Management Accountant, among others, might play in helping you reach your career objectives.

We strongly encourage you to consider the value of a MAcc degree. Many students underestimate the challenge of meeting CPA Exam eligibility requirements without a MAcc degree. In addition, a MAcc degree increases your ability to compete for future career opportunities. Although not all careers require graduate degrees, we strongly encourage students to pursue graduate education, such as the University of Arkansas MAcc and IMAcc Programs.

The accounting program at the University of Arkansas is challenging and rewarding. Don't discount the importance of maintaining the highest level of commitment to your course work. Historically, greater performance leads to more desirable employment opportunities. Stay focused and steadfast.

### Your Activities

Professionally-minded extracurricular activities are a great way to expand your experiences beyond the classroom and distinguish your strengths to potential employers. Your involvement in Beta Alpha Psi will help you connect with other students and employers.

Internships allow you to experience the workplace and better enable you to choose among potential employers. International experiences greatly develop your appreciation for the global marketplace in which we all work and live. Volunteer service activities and student membership in professional organizations can also assist you in defining your career objectives.

### Your Mind

Keep an open mind when you evaluate the career possibilities in accounting. Take the time to explore the various employment opportunities in government, industry, and public practice. You will be pleasantly surprised at the variety of exceptionally rewarding career paths that we can offer. An accounting degree can lead to many exciting pursuits, whether you are interested in external or internal audit, corporate accounting, tax, advisory, management, or financial services.

Our fervent desire is to see you embark on a successful career. You have picked a great place to start at the University of Arkansas. We look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Your Future Employers

## Excellent Curriculum

The Master of Accountancy degree is a 30 credit hour program completed in two semesters for students with appropriate backgrounds in business administration and economics and with an undergraduate concentration in accounting.

For those without an undergraduate concentration in accounting, pre-requisite coursework beyond introductory accounting must include:

- Financial Accounting
- Management and Cost Accounting
- Accounting Information Systems
- Auditing
- Taxation

The MAcc degree emphasizes coursework applicable for careers in either public or private sector accounting. In MAcc courses, you are exposed to all functional areas of accounting and you develop the skills needed to identify alternative solutions to a wide range of accounting and business issues. You develop these skills by critically analyzing emerging practice-related problems.

Accounting courses includes graduate level courses in Financial Accounting, Fraud Prevention and Detection, Professional Auditing Standards, Advanced Taxation, Accounting Ethics, and Advanced Financial Analysis, among others. Students complete 18-24 credit hours of accounting courses, in combination with 6-12 credit hours of non-accounting electives.

Students have the opportunity to use non-accounting electives to develop their own areas of professional development, such as concentrations in finance, information systems, supply chain management, or academic careers. For example, students can take a series of Information Systems classes through which they can earn “ERP Certification.”

The Walton College also offers a rich selection of graduate level international study abroad courses that MAcc students can use as elective courses. Prior study abroad locations include Brazil, India, China and Ireland. For more information about study abroad opportunities visit <http://waltoncollege.uark.edu/geo/>

“Did you know that the MAcc degree is increasingly becoming the standard of entry into the accounting profession? In the past decade, **the number of accounting graduates entering the public accounting profession with Master’s degrees increased 105%**, compared to an increase of 37% for undergraduates. Moreover, a MAcc degree also increases your marketability into other business roles outside of traditional core accounting functions, such as finance, information systems, and other operational management areas. **We work diligently to keep our students competitive in the national workplace.** Our MAcc program accommodates not only students with traditional accounting backgrounds, but also students from other majors seeking to diversify their educational experience.” – **Dr. Gary F. Peters**, Program Director, [gfpeters@walton.uark.edu](mailto:gfpeters@walton.uark.edu)



**Funmilola Awopetu,**  
MAcc, 2012



## Professional Development

Developing yourself as a business professional is one of the most important things you can do to prepare for your career. During your experience in the MAcc program, you will have ample opportunities for professional development. You can listen to guest speakers from some of the largest companies in the world, take workshops on improving your communications skills, and work with our image consultant experts to make sure you look your best at recruiting functions and interviews.

**Audrey Davidson,**  
MAcc, 2013



The Accounting department at the Walton College enjoys strong relationships with corporate partners. These corporate connections are enhanced through networking events, speaking events, and academic activities – culminating in employment opportunities.

## Career Planning & Development

The George W. Edwards Jr. Career Development Center at the Walton College provides MAcc students with personalized career planning. Its dedicated staff focuses on your career aspirations and assists you with your résumé, interview skills, job search strategies, and salary negotiations. Students have access to numerous business career fairs and Employer/Student networking events.

We are particularly proud of our MAcc student placement success. Our MAcc graduates have gone to work for companies such as BKD, Conoco, Deloitte, Dillard's, Ernst & Young, Grant Thornton, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Tyson Foods, Inc., Walmart, and Windstream, among many others.

To learn more about the Career Center, visit <http://waltoncollege.uark.edu/career/>

**Chris Poe,**  
MAcc, 2010





## Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available to qualified students. These assistantships pay tuition and provide students with stipends of \$3,000 per semester for which they work up to 15 hours per week for the Accounting Department.

## Scholarships

The Accounting Department through the generous donations of alumni and partners, also awards numerous cash scholarships. These awards often range from \$1,000-\$3,000.

Scholarships and assistantships are extremely competitive. All students applying to the MAcc program are automatically considered for financial assistance.

Student loans are also available for domestic students by filling out the FAFSA at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## Tuition and Expenses

The University of Arkansas prides itself on offering particularly affordable graduate experiences compared to other MAcc Programs.

Information about estimated costs can be found at: <http://treasurer.uark.edu/Tuition.asp>

## Admission

Admission to the Walton College MAcc programs is highly competitive and selective. Decisions are based on the entire application package. Enrollment in each program is limited.

Application deadline is **March 1**. Applications received after the deadline are considered on a space-available basis.

## Application Materials

- Application form
- Application fee
- Résumé
- Official transcripts
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- Two essays
- GMAT score

Visit <http://gsb.uark.edu/admissions.asp> for detailed instructions regarding the application process.

### International applicants must also submit:

- TOEFL – Minimum 79 internet-based score. TOEFL is waived for applicants with degrees completed at an American institution.
- Summary of Educational Experience Form – Download from [gsb.uark.edu/forms.asp](http://gsb.uark.edu/forms.asp)
- Supplemental and Financial Information Form – Download from [gsb.uark.edu/forms.asp](http://gsb.uark.edu/forms.asp).



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