

Masters of Science (Accounting) Program

Frequently Asked Questions

August 15, 2014

1. How many credit hours are required to complete the Master of Science (Accounting) program?
 - a. 30 credit hours in total, 15 in each of two semesters (Fall and Spring)

2. Can a student start the Master of Science (Accounting) program in the Spring semester?
 - a. Not at this time. Students will start in the Fall semester and complete the program in the Spring semester.

3. Who is the Master of Science (Accounting) program's target audience?
 - a. We provide a CPA Exam-ready curriculum that provides a solid foundation for students looking to begin careers in public accounting and for students whose goals are leadership positions in corporations or non-profit/government entities. Our program is designed for students whose undergraduate major is accounting, particularly at Purdue University, but we welcome interested students from other U.S. and international universities and colleges.

4. What are the admissions procedures?
 - a. Details and answers to frequently asked questions about how to apply can be found at <http://www.krannert.purdue.edu/masters/programs/ms-a/msa-admissions-and-requirements/home.asp>.

5. Who should I have write my recommendations?
 - a. At least one recommendation should come from a faculty member who can comment meaningfully on your ability to pursue graduate-level study in Accounting. The second recommendation may come from another faculty member or from someone who has supervised you in an internship or other professional situation.

6. Is full-time work experience required in order to apply?
 - a. No. We seek students who are academically prepared. However, it is extremely helpful to have had one or more quality internships in the area of accounting.

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7. Does the Master of Science (Accounting) program allow me to customize my curriculum?
 - a. The curriculum is designed to be customizable to support the student's career objectives. The Master of Science (Accounting) program requires Advanced Auditing and Professional Practice (3 credit hours), Communications for Accountants (2 credit hours) and Business Law for Accountants (2 credit hours); 12 credit hours of accounting electives and 11 credit hours of general electives which can (and probably should) include additional accounting courses. A sample plan of study is available at <http://www.krannert.purdue.edu/academics/Accounting/msa.asp>
8. How does the Master of Science (Accounting) program differ from the Certificate of Advanced Accountancy?
 - a. The Certificate is a directed plan of coursework that can be tailored to meet the educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam. Students who are part of the Certificate Program earn their undergraduate degree after completing the undergraduate requirements for an Accounting major and the Certificate requirements. Upon graduation, they receive their undergraduate degree and the Certificate. Students enrolling in the Master of Science (Accounting) program will receive a Masters degree upon completion.
 - b. The Master of Science (Accounting) program offers a number of special classes that are restricted to MS(A) students that are specifically designed to improve their professionalism. These classes will focus on auditing, accounting information systems, communications and business law, all oriented to the practicing accountant and taught by professionally qualified instructors.
 - c. Students in the Master of Science (Accounting) program may also take masters level non-accounting electives if they have the appropriate background and prerequisites.
 - d. Master of Science (Accounting) students will have access to experiential learning opportunities.
 - e. Master of Science (Accounting) students will have access to substantial out-of-classroom opportunities including: (1) extra opportunities to meet/work with professional accountants, (2) case competitions, (3) technical (Excel) support and (4) the opportunity to do independent study research with research active faculty.
9. Will I be assigned a staff/faculty advisor?
 - a. Prof. Troy Janes, an Accounting faculty member, will assist each student with scheduling and course planning. In addition, students will have career advising support and will have opportunities for mentoring and research with other Accounting faculty in Krannert.
10. Are there career services available to Master of Science (Accounting) students?
 - a. The Krannert Professional Development Center (KPDC) provides assistance to students in helping themselves secure rewarding full-time placement opportunities. KPDC maintains private, comfortable interview suites; computers with Intranet and Internet access; resume production equipment; telephones for free job search calls; and a current library of online and directory resources. Career counseling and resume preparation services are also available to our students.
11. What types of career paths will a Master of Science (Accounting) prepare me to pursue?
 - a. Our curriculum is designed to prepare students for careers in public, corporate accounting or non-profit/government accounting. Customization allows students to choose courses that support careers in assurance or tax and CPA exam preparation. It also allows them to choose courses that support corporate or non-profit/government careers and CPA/CMA exam preparation. Our MS(A) program offers a degree that supports your career plans throughout your working lifetime and facilitates any career path changes you may wish to pursue in the future.