Department of Accounting

2157 Constant Hall
(757) 683-3529
Douglas Ziegenfuss, Chair

Master of Science-Accounting

Yin Xu, Graduate Program Director

Accounting services are becoming both broader and more specialized. The major changes that have occurred in the accounting profession dictate expanded and updated educational programs. The minimum education necessary for the professional accountant cannot be achieved in four years of undergraduate study. For instance, the Virginia Board of Accountancy requires Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam candidates to have 150 semester hours of education for licensure. Therefore, the ideal model for a professional accounting education embodies a Master of Science in Accounting program that augments a broad undergraduate education. The program is designed to accommodate both full-time and part-time students with courses offered in the evenings.

Admission Requirements

Prospective students may apply for admission to the program for the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The Department of Accounting welcomes applicants who have earned bachelor’s degrees from accredited institutions. Admission to the program is competitive and is granted only to those who show high ability and likely success in graduate business study. Successful applicants will stand well above the average in most of the criteria used to measure graduate student promise.

Criteria used for admission include the candidate’s score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), undergraduate grade point averages and the trend in grades during undergraduate work, one letter of reference, a goals statement, and previous work experience. Students must earn a grade of B- or better in each undergraduate business course used to satisfy the program’s prerequisite courses.

The application process is as follows: submit to the Graduate Admissions Office
1. application forms (may be done on-line) for graduate study in business,
2. official transcripts of all previous college work,
3. one letter of recommendation,
4. an one-page essay setting forth the applicant’s work experience, and
5. scores on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

Applicants whose native language is not English are also required to submit an acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Exam.

Prior to admission, each candidate must have completed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses—Accounting Credits</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 201 &amp; ACCT 301 Principles of Financial Accounting and Intermediate Accounting</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 202 &amp; ACCT 311 Principles of Managerial Accounting and Managerial Accounting</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 421 Taxation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And eighteen hours in economics, statistics/decision sciences, marketing, management, finance, and commercial law.</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application deadlines are July 1 for fall admission, November 1 for spring admission, and April 1 for summer admission. International student deadlines are April 15 (fall semester), October 1 (spring semester), and February 15 (summer semester).

Applicants who have not obtained an acceptable GMAT score, or an acceptable TOEFL score for those applicants whose native language is not English, will not be permitted to enroll in graduate accounting courses.

Fast-Track Undergraduate Admission

Undergraduate students majoring in Accounting at Old Dominion University may apply for conditional status in the Master of Science in Accounting program after completing ACCT 301, Intermediate Accounting I, with a minimum Overall and Accounting Grade Point Average of 3.00. These students can then achieve regular admission status by completing their undergraduate degree with a minimum Overall and Accounting Grade Point Average of 3.00, and obtaining an acceptable GMAT score.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate courses are required to complete the Master of Science in Accounting. Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 in all graduate work taken. Additionally, students must successfully complete at least one part of one of the following professional exams during the final two semesters of their graduate course work:

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam,
- Certified Management Accountant (CMA) exam, or
- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) exam.

Students who already hold one or more of these professional designations must successfully complete at least one part of one of the other professional exams during the final two semesters of the graduate work.

The Program of Study

The program of study is designed for the student interested in a professional career in accounting either as an assurance services provider (auditor) or management accountant in public accounting or in industry and government. The curriculum, especially the required courses, are designed to improve the student’s chances of passing the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. However, there is enough flexibility in the choice of electives to tailor programs of study to successfully complete other certification exams such as:

- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA),
- Certified Management Accounting (CMA),
- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA),
- and the Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) exams.

Additionally, a student completing the four auditing courses meets the requirements of the Institute of Internal Auditors Endorsed Internal Auditing Program.

* Or equivalent.
Excluding ACCT 601.