

The Patterson School of Accountancy

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PROGRAM AND FACILITIES

Purpose • The primary function of the school is to provide professional education required to prepare students for careers as professional accountants in financial institutions, government, industry, nonprofit organizations, and public practice. Emphasis is placed upon both theoretical principles and concepts and practical applications to fulfill the need for reliable financial information. Professional courses offered at both the undergraduate and graduate levels provide students with the accounting education required to commence and continue to develop in a wide range of professional accounting careers.

Degrees Offered • The curriculum of the School of Accountancy consists of a two-year pre-accountancy program plus a three-year professional program. The Bachelor of Accountancy degree is awarded upon completion of requirements through the fourth year of the program. The professional degree of Master of Accountancy or Master of Taxation will be awarded at the successful completion of the fifth year. For information concerning graduate degrees in accountancy see the Graduate School catalog.

ADMISSION

Admission to the Pre-accountancy Program • Students wishing to enter the pre-accountancy program must meet all requirements for general admission to the University. International students must score at least 600 on the paper-based TOEFL or 250 on the computer-based TOEFL.

Admission to the Professional Program • In order to be considered for admission to the professional program, a student must successfully complete the pre-accountancy program or its equivalent and have a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 on 54 or more cumulative hours attempted. A student failing to meet this grade-point average requirement may appeal for an exception but should be able to cite strong evidence of his or her potential for successfully completing the program. Completion of the minimum requirements will not in itself, however, ensure admission to the professional program. Admission will be by acceptance of application. Before enrolling in Accountancy 401, 402, or 411, a student must have been admitted to the professional program.

SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

Progression Requirements • In order for a student who has been accepted into the professional program to progress from one year to the next professional year, the student must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 on the cumulative hours attempted at the University and a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 in 300-level or above accountancy courses, and comply with general University requirements. The 300-level or above required accountancy courses may be repeated only once.

Graduation Requirements • In order to qualify for the degree of Bachelor of Accountancy, a student must earn a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 on the cumulative hours attempted at the University and a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 on 300-level or above accountancy courses completed through the University, and comply with general University requirements for graduation. A student must complete in residence at least 30 semester hours of courses above the 300 level in business or accountancy.

Minor Requirement • The Bachelor of Accountancy degree requires a minor. The minor may be in any department at the University that formally grants a minor. A student must meet the minor requirements as set forth by the department granting the minor. A student may use any of the required courses of the Bachelor of Accountancy degree to meet the minor requirement (e.g., English 101 or 102 for a minor in English).

Credit from Other Sources • A student is to obtain written permission from the dean prior to completing academic credit at other institutions or by independent study. A limit of one course from Accountancy 401, 402, 405, and 407 may be approved.

Maximum Course Load • A student may not enroll in more than 18 academic semester hours unless that student has earned the privilege. To earn this privilege, a student must have 2/5 of a grade point higher than a C for each additional hour. This grade-point average is to be earned the semester preceding approval of an overload.

Mississippi Public Accountancy Law • The public accountancy law authorizes the State Board of Public Accountancy to award certificates to Certified Public Accountants upon qualification through passage of the CPA examination and appropriate professional experience. Candidates must have completed a minimum of 150 educational hours with a concentration in accounting to apply to sit for the examination.

Facilities • The School of Accountancy is housed in Conner Hall. Classrooms are designed to facilitate discussion and are equipped with adequate desk space and projection equipment. The University Library contains an extensive collection of books, periodicals, and related materials to supplement textbooks and to aid in research. The University houses the National Library of the Accountancy Profession, which is the largest and most prestigious accountancy library in the world. Two computer labs are available for the exclusive use of accountancy students.

Academic Honors • The following scholastic awards are offered to students in the School of Accountancy. For details, see the Academic Program chapter.

ACCOUNTANCY ALUMNI CHAPTER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

BETA ALPHA PSI AWARD

DELTA SIGMA PI SCHOLARSHIP KEY

FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS OF ACCOUNTANCY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS AWARD

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

CURRICULUM FOR PRE-ACCOUNTANCY

(The first two years are in pre-accountancy with admission to the professional program at the beginning of the third year.)

Courses should be taken in the sequence shown below. As an exception, the semester sequence may be altered for courses marked with an asterisk (*) and specified for the same year.

FRESHMAN YEAR

Courses	Semester Hours	
	1st	2nd
English 101, 102–English Composition ¹	3	3
Laboratory Science I, II ²	3-4	3-4
Humanities I, II ³	3	3
Math 267, 268 Calculus for Bus./Econ./Accy. ⁴	3	3
Fine arts elective ⁵	3	
MIS 241 Management Information Systems ⁶		3
Behavioral science ⁷		3
Total Semester Hours	15-16	18-19

¹ Honors College students may take HON 101 and 102 rather than English 101 and 102 in the freshman year.

² Choose from Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, or Physics.

³ Choose from African American studies, classics, modern languages, history, honors, philosophy, religion, Southern studies, or gender studies.

⁴ Calculus 267 requires a 24 ACT score or equivalent. If this ACT score is not met, Math 121 (College Algebra) must be taken first. Calculus 261 and 262 may be substituted.

⁵ Choose from art, music, or theatre.

⁶ Computer proficiency requirement must be met as a prerequisite.

⁷ Choose from anthropology, geography, journalism, Latin American studies, political science, psychology, or sociology.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Courses	Semester Hours	
	1st	2nd
ACCY 201, 202—Accounting Principles I, II	3	3
ECON 202*, 203*—Principles of Economics	3	3
Math 269*		3
Literature or foreign language ¹	3	3
BUS 250—Legal Environment of Business*		2
BUS 271 or SPCH 102/105*	3	
BUS 230*	3	
Minor requirement*		3
Total Semester Hours	15	17

¹For those choosing foreign language to meet this requirement, two semesters of the same foreign language must be taken.

CURRICULUM FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM OF THE SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

JUNIOR YEAR

Courses	Semester Hours	
	1st	2nd
Accountancy 303, 304	3	3
MGMT 372*	3	
MKTG 351*	3	
FIN 331*	3	
BUS 302*	3	
ACCY 309*, 310*	3	3
MIS 309*		3
ENG 250*		3
Minor requirement*		3
Total Semester Hours	18	15

SENIOR YEAR

Courses	Semester Hours	
	1st	2nd
ACCY 401*, 402*	3	3
ACCY 405*, 407*	3	3
ACCY 411*	3	
MGMT 391	3	
MGMT 493 or ACCY 520 ¹		3
Minor requirement	3	3
Nonbusiness elective ²		3
Total Semester Hours	15	15

¹ ACCY 520 (Accounting Internship) may substitute for MGMT 493. A student may enroll in up to 6 hours of ACCY 520. However, only 3 hours would count towards degree requirements. Specifically, a student may apply 3 hours of ACCY 520 towards degree requirements at either the undergraduate or master's level (but not both).

² Nonbusiness electives may be part of minor requirement with the exception of business minors. In all instances, business/accountancy courses must be less than or equal to 50 percent of all applied courses.

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

The objective of the Master of Accountancy is to provide students with greater breadth and depth in accounting education. The purpose of this program is to provide students with the knowledge and background necessary for entry into the profession and enable them to continue to grow and develop within the profession.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants recommends five years of academic study in order to obtain the professional knowledge for a career in accounting. More than 46 states, including Mississippi and surrounding states, have laws requiring five years of study as a prerequisite to sit for the CPA examination.

ADMISSION. Admission to this program is based on the applicant's undergraduate record and the score made on the Graduate Management Admission Test. Test scores must be presented prior to admission.

PREREQUISITES. Students must present credit in the following undergraduate courses (or their equivalents): Accountancy 303, 304, 309, 401, 402, 405; Economics 202, 203; Business 230, 250, 302, and Accountancy 411; Management 372; Marketing 351; Mathematics 267; and knowledge of computer programming. A minimum grade of C is required in Accountancy 401, 402, and 405. Transfer students having no undergraduate systems course comparable to Accountancy 310 are required to take Accountancy 609 (Systems).

Courses	Semester Hours
ACCY 509, 601, 605, and 610	12
Accountancy electives	12
Approved nonaccountancy electives ¹	6
Total	30

¹ A student is allowed to use 3 hours of ACCY 520 (Accounting Internship) to substitute for a nonaccountancy elective for either the Master of Accountancy or Master of Taxation degree. While a student may enroll in up to 6 hours of ACCY 520, only 3 hours would count towards degree requirements. Specifically, a student may apply 3 hours of ACCY 520 towards degree requirements at either the undergraduate or master's level (but not both).

MASTER OF TAXATION

The objective of the Master of Taxation is to provide students with a greater breadth and depth in accounting education and a specialization in the tax area. The purpose of this program is to provide education to allow entry into a professional tax career upon graduation and prepare for continuing growth and development.

ADMISSION. Admission to this program is based on the applicant's undergraduate record and the score made on the Graduate Management Admission Test. Test scores must be presented prior to admission.

PREREQUISITES. Students must present credit in the following undergraduate courses (or their equivalents): Accountancy 303, 304, 309, 401, 402, 405; Economics 202, 203; Business 230, 250, 302, and Accountancy 411; Management 372; Marketing 351; Mathematics 267; and knowledge of computer programming. A minimum of C is required in Accountancy 401, 402, and 405. Transfer students having no undergraduate systems course comparable to Accountancy 310 are required to take Accountancy 609 (Systems).

Courses	Semester Hours
Accountancy 601, 605, 610	9
Required tax courses: ACCY 509, 612	6
Tax electives	6
Accountancy electives	6
Approved nonaccountancy electives	3
Total	30