Information on Pursuing a Master of Accounting Degree for Students Not Pursuing or Holding Undergraduate Accounting Degree

The Master of Accounting (MAcc) Program at Iowa State is designed for students who are undergraduate accounting majors. Increasingly, students without an undergraduate accounting major are expressing interest in pursuing a MAcc. The information below is intended to help students decide if getting a MAcc is a possibility for them.

**Student with an Undergraduate Business Degree**
A student with an undergraduate business degree will normally already have at least two semesters of accounting, the equivalent of our Financial Accounting (284) and Managerial Accounting (285). This student would need to complete the undergraduate accounting courses in order to receive a MAcc. These courses are:

- Accounting 383 Intermediate Managerial Accounting
- Accounting 384 Accounting Information Systems
- Accounting 386 Intermediate Accounting I
- Accounting 387 Intermediate Accounting II
- Accounting 485 Principles of Federal Income Tax
- Accounting 497 Introduction to Auditing

An application will be considered once a student has completed Accounting 383, 384, 386, and 387. You must take Acct 386 before Acct 387. Thus, these courses will take at least two semesters for you to complete. These courses do not have to be completed at Iowa State.

Your completion of the above course work **does not guarantee your admission** to the program. You must perform well in these classes, have good GMAT scores and positive recommendations to be admitted. Generally, you must perform well in these courses to be admitted.

You may apply to the program during the semester in which you are taking Acct 387. Once the course is completed, a decision will be made on your application. You will need to file a complete application, including GMAT scores and TOEFL if necessary. Your application may be done in time for you to enroll in classes for the next semester. This will most likely **not** give international students time to get a change in visa status, if necessary, to enroll full time in the program.
Students may transfer up to nine credits into the MAcc program. Thus, a possibility for students is to take the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester One</th>
<th>Semester Two</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acct 383</td>
<td>Acct 387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acct 386</td>
<td>Acct 596*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acct 384</td>
<td>Graduate Elective*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acct 485</td>
<td>MAcc Communications Course*</td>
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*These courses could be transferred to the MAcc program

It is important that a student is not enrolled as an “undergraduate special student” as credits cannot be transferred from that status. Generally, students are best served by enrolling as a nondegree graduate student. The student could then be admitted, transfer in 9 credits and would need 21 more credits to complete the MAcc as well as Acct 497. The entire process will normally take a total of four semesters to complete.

Other options these students might consider are adding an accounting major to an undergraduate degree or doing an MBA with a concentration in accounting.

**Student Without an Undergraduate Business Degree**

A student with an undergraduate degree outside of business will have a few more requirements. First, you must complete Acct 284 and 285 before doing the rest of the undergraduate courses shown above. Additionally, a student graduating with a MAcc should, at a minimum, have exposure to the core areas of business. Thus, your Program of Study should include, at a minimum, a finance, marketing and management class. These courses can be taken at the undergraduate or graduate level. MBA core courses may be used to meet these requirements and may be taken in your MAcc program as electives. You will also need to meet the statistics prerequisite for Acct 497.

Students in this situation may also want to consider doing an MBA with a concentration in accounting. An MBA generally has no prerequisites and requires no undergraduate accounting courses. You will need 24 hours of accounting beyond Acct 501 to sit for the CPA exam in Iowa. Normally, you will need to do your MBA and most of the undergraduate accounting courses, but this will give you a well rounded business education and the accounting necessary to be a CPA.

A third option is to do a second undergraduate degree in accounting. This would need to be investigated with undergraduate programs.

If you have any questions, please contact us at busgrad@iastate.edu or 515-294-8118.