Master of Accounting
General Program Requirements and Overview

The Master of Accounting program (MAcc) is a 30-hour program that is designed to be completed in one year (fall, spring and summer). There are two options that students can choose; (1) noncreative component option and (2) creative component option. Both options require 15 hours of graduate accounting courses and 15 hours of elective courses. Currently, students are required to take Acct 598 and a learning community consisting of Acct 583 and English 507, and meet an international requirement. Students applying for the MAcc should be enrolled in an undergraduate program as an accounting major or have taken the equivalent of Accounting 383, 384, 386, 387, 485 and 497. Students without an accounting major will need to discuss with the MAcc Coordinator the best way to complete the necessary undergraduate work. See http://www.business.iastate.edu/files/masters/pdfs/MAcc/NonaccountingmajorsinMAcc5-2011.pdf for more information.

Courses should be selected based on your individual career goals and with the advice of your Program of Study Committee. Accounting 508, 581 and 592 cannot be used to satisfy any of the hours pertaining to this degree. Students can take up to six credit hours outside of accounting under the 500 level as long as the class is “available for nonmajor graduate credit.”

Students with a GPA in excess of 3.25 at Iowa State University may be allowed to waive the GMAT. See http://www.gradcollege.iastate.edu/academics/programs/apresults.php?apnumber=45 for more information.

REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF PROGRAM:
The following are the required components of the program:

- Acct 598 - Financial Accounting: Theory and Contemporary Issues which may be only offered once a year
- Acct 583 – Accounting for Strategic Management along with English 507 – Writing and Analyzing Professional Documents which are offered as a learning community the opposite semester from Acct 598
- One course with an international business focus which may be Acct 596, International Accounting
- Enough additional graduate accounting courses to total at least 15 credits in Accounting
- Enough additional courses to have a total of 30 credits
- Up to six hours of the additional courses outside of accounting may be under the 500 level as long as the class is “available for nonmajor graduate credit.”

INTERNATIONAL COMPONENT OPTION
The following courses will meet the international requirement:

ACCT 596  International Accounting
ECON 355  International Economics
ECON 455  International Trades and Finance
ECON 555  Issues in International Economics
FIN 480  International Finance
MGMT 414 International Management
MGMT 567 International Entrepreneurship
MKT  448 Fundamentals of International Marketing
MKT  541 International Marketing

MAcc students can also satisfy the international course requirement by earning three hours of graduate credit in a study abroad program. Other classes may be acceptable if they are approved by your Program of Study Committee.

NONCREATIVE COMPONENT OPTION:
If you are doing the noncreative component option, your Program of Study Committee is a standing committee and you do not need to solicit committee members.

CREATIVE COMPONENT OPTION:
The creative component consists of two credits and is in addition to the thirty credits needed for the noncreative component option. Those who choose to do the creative component option will need to create their own Program of Study Committee. This committee will consist of two faculty members from the accounting department and another faculty member from another discipline. The Coordinator of the MAcc Program can assist you in the development of this committee. The Program of Study Committee needs to be established by the beginning of your 2nd semester on campus. Besides the Program of Study Committee, a student choosing the creative component option will need to be aware of the following discussion pertaining to creative component and final oral.

Creative Component
Your creative component is an independent study project on a topic that is of interest to you. You may work with a faculty member on an ongoing research project, work on a project that is related to a work experience you have had, or develop a library research project on a topic that you find interesting. The following are some guidelines pertaining to your creative component.

- For students planning to graduate in the fall semester, a creative component committee chair should be selected in the summer or spring semester prior to the beginning of your last semester.
- For students planning to graduate in the spring or summer semester, your selection should be made during the preceding fall semester.
  - The request should be made in person and not via phone or email.
- During the first two weeks of your last semester, you should choose a topic that is mutually acceptable to the student and the chair. Additionally, the student should workout deadlines for research and writing activities. You can do this before the last semester if you wish.
- Before the start of the student’s last semester, a committee should be determined with guidance from the chair. This is usually done during the second semester. (A
Committee Request form must be submitted to the Graduate College along with the Program of Study.)

- Once the committee has been agreed upon, each faculty member should be contacted in person, not by phone or email, requesting their membership on the committee.
- During this meeting or shortly thereafter, the candidate should present their idea to each committee member.
- One month prior to the Final Oral presentation, the student should schedule a time that is mutually convenient to the chair and committee, book the room and ensure proper media equipment (this is facilitated by the COB graduate office). Request for Final Oral forms can be picked up from the Graduate College or Business Graduate Programs Office.
  - If a committee member has agreed to a time but has to withdraw, it will be the member’s responsibility to contact the chair and arrange an acceptable replacement.
- Two weeks prior to the oral presentation, the student must give each member of the committee a draft of their creative component. This is a requirement of the University per Graduate College Handbook and failure to comply can mean delay of graduation.
- The student should bring the final draft to the presentation with copies for each member of the committee.
  - The candidate is not responsible for providing food or drink.
- The chair will bring the necessary documents to the presentation.
- Students need to give the Graduate Programs Office a copy of the final creative component after their Final Oral. This can be on a CD or thumbdrive.

**Final Oral**

Your Final Oral examination should be scheduled at least three weeks prior to the end of the semester in which you intend to graduate. The Request for Final Oral form must be turned in one month prior to the examination date, so this paperwork must be initiated **seven to eight weeks** prior to the end of the semester you intend to graduate. Forms can be obtained from the College of Business Graduate Programs Office, 1360 Gerdin Business Building. A rough draft of your project must be provided to your committee two weeks prior to your oral examination date.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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