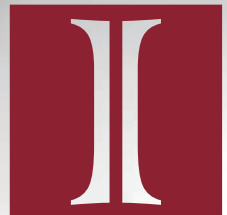


Master of Science in Accounting



University of Massachusetts Amherst



ISENBERG
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

The Isenberg Master of Science in Accounting (MSA)

program quickly confers the knowledge and skills you need to advance your accounting career and thrive in a growing field.



One of the highest ranked MSA programs in the Northeast — and one of a select few to achieve the prestigious AACSB accreditation in accounting — Isenberg's MSA prepares you for top-tier jobs in accounting, in a way that fits your lifestyle. You can take classes on campus or online. You can take advantage of our accelerated, two-semester program or finish your degree on your own timeline. Whatever you choose, Isenberg's world-class faculty is committed to your success. Our MSA also fulfills the CPA education requirements in most states.

What's more, Isenberg's educational experience and large alumni network give you a strong advantage in today's business environment. Consistently recruited by elite firms including the Big 4, our graduates are collaborative, strategic leaders who have the insights and the expertise to flourish in a fast-paced, global marketplace. I invite you to explore this brochure to discover more about our dynamic program. Please contact us if you have any questions: msa@isenberg.umass.edu.

KERRI BOHONOWICZ

Isenberg MSA Alumna
MSA Director

Your MSA your way —
First-rate, flexible, fast.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
Master of Science in Accounting at
isenberg.umass.edu/msa

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Working with internationally recognized faculty in accounting and auditing, you learn to apply real-world solutions and practices through a progressive curriculum, team-based learning, small classes, and hands-on problem solving.

WHAT IT IS

Isenberg's 30-credit MSA degree equips you for all aspects of accounting and auditing, including tax implications, financial valuation, ethical standards, changing technologies, and professional speaking and writing. The MSA also prepares you to sit for the CPA exam while fulfilling your 150-hour education requirements for CPA certification in most states.

WHO IT'S FOR

Whether you are applying straight from an undergraduate program, switching your career focus, or already working in accounting, the Isenberg MSA provides you with the skills to stand out in a competitive industry. If you do not have an undergraduate degree in accounting, read about our unique Transitions program on page 12.

WHY IT'S A GOOD CHOICE

Globalization; a growing economy; and an increasingly complex tax, regulatory, and lending environment are boosting the demand for accountants and auditors. Plus, those with a master's in accountancy stand to earn considerably higher salaries than their bachelor's degree-holding counterparts, as much as 46% more on average.* At Isenberg, you gain the know-how and the industry connections you need — on your own timeline.

*According to a 2015 Georgetown University study

COURSEWORK

With a rigorous curriculum created by and for accountants, students acquire wide and deep knowledge in auditing, taxes, regulations, data analytics, assurance, and more, plus the skills needed to solve problems and apply these concepts in practical situations. A smart investment in your future, the Isenberg MSA is comprehensive, relevant, and responsive to student needs and the rapidly changing marketplace.

REQUIREMENTS

- 30 credits
- 6 required core classes (18 credits)
- 12 elective credits, including the option to take up to 6 credits from courses in Isenberg's acclaimed MBA program

CURRICULUM*

REQUIRED COURSES (3 CREDITS EACH):

- Ethics & Professional Responsibilities for Accountants
- Exploring Data Analytics for Accounting Professionals
- Taxes and Business Decisions
- Financial Statement Analysis
- Advanced Topics in Financial Reporting
- Advanced Audit

ELECTIVE COURSES (3 CREDITS EACH):

- Contemporary Issues in the Profession
- Accounting in Today's Business Environment
- Forensic Accounting
- Financial Management of Nonprofit Organizations
- Financial Accounting Theory & Research
- Fraud Investigation
- White Collar Investigations
- Taxation of Partnerships & LLCs

ELECTIVE COURSES (1 CREDIT EACH):

- Writing for Accountants
- High Impact Presentations
- Accounting Applications of Advanced Excel Tools

*Subject to change



“We design our classes based on what students will encounter in practice, and we provide them with the skills they need to offer guidance when companies make complex business decisions.”

— SEAN WANDREI, CPA, MST
Lecturer



WHAT SETS ISENBERG APART

EXPERT FACULTY

Isenberg's MSA faculty includes award-winning research scholars and industry experts who know what it takes to succeed in the business world. Thought leaders and industry practitioners with a global perspective, they infuse classrooms — both in person and virtual — with case studies, real-life experiences, and discussions that bring theory to life.

MSA faculty members are also gifted teachers and mentors committed to your success in and out of the classroom — and throughout your career in accounting. Isenberg keeps class sizes small so you receive individual attention and form strong bonds with faculty and peers.



“The faculty is unlike any other — they truly care about your success and their lessons carry on long after you leave the classroom. I’ve heard from many employers that they were impressed with the education I received, and that a degree from the Isenberg School of Management holds weight.”

— **KAYLA HELITZER, MSA '14**
Onyx Specialty Papers, Inc.

WHAT SETS ISENBERG APART



FLEXIBLE, AFFORDABLE, AND VALUABLE

We've designed the Isenberg MSA to meet your needs — and provide an affordable, world-class education in the process. In fact, Value Colleges ranks our program highly on their list of Top 50 Best Value Online Master's in Accounting Degrees based on reputability, affordability, and return on investment.

Isenberg offers two options to complete your degree. The hybrid program allows you to take classes in person as well as some classes online. Our online option lets you fulfill all 30 credits from anywhere, any time.

We also understand that students have different demands on their lives. Our focused curriculum makes it possible for you to finish the program in as little as two semesters, or you can take classes as they fit into your lifestyle. You can begin the program in spring, summer, or fall.

“The flexibility of this program has made it possible for me to complete my coursework in under a year while studying for and taking the CPA Exam. I know this MSA program has put me one step ahead for my accounting career at PwC.”

— **COLLEEN LOUGHRAN, MSA '17**
Assurance Associate, PwC



WHAT SETS ISENBERG APART

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Whether you are an undergraduate looking to maximize your time at Isenberg, or a non-accounting major who would like to get started in the field of accounting, Isenberg has created programs to help you quickly and effectively launch your career.

Earn BBA and MSA Degrees

Want to get a jumpstart in the profession? Undergraduate accounting majors at Isenberg can combine the MSA degree with their undergraduate degree, earning both in four years plus a summer. This is a cost-effective and timely way to meet the education requirements for CPA certification. You will also be exempt from Isenberg's GMAT requirement.

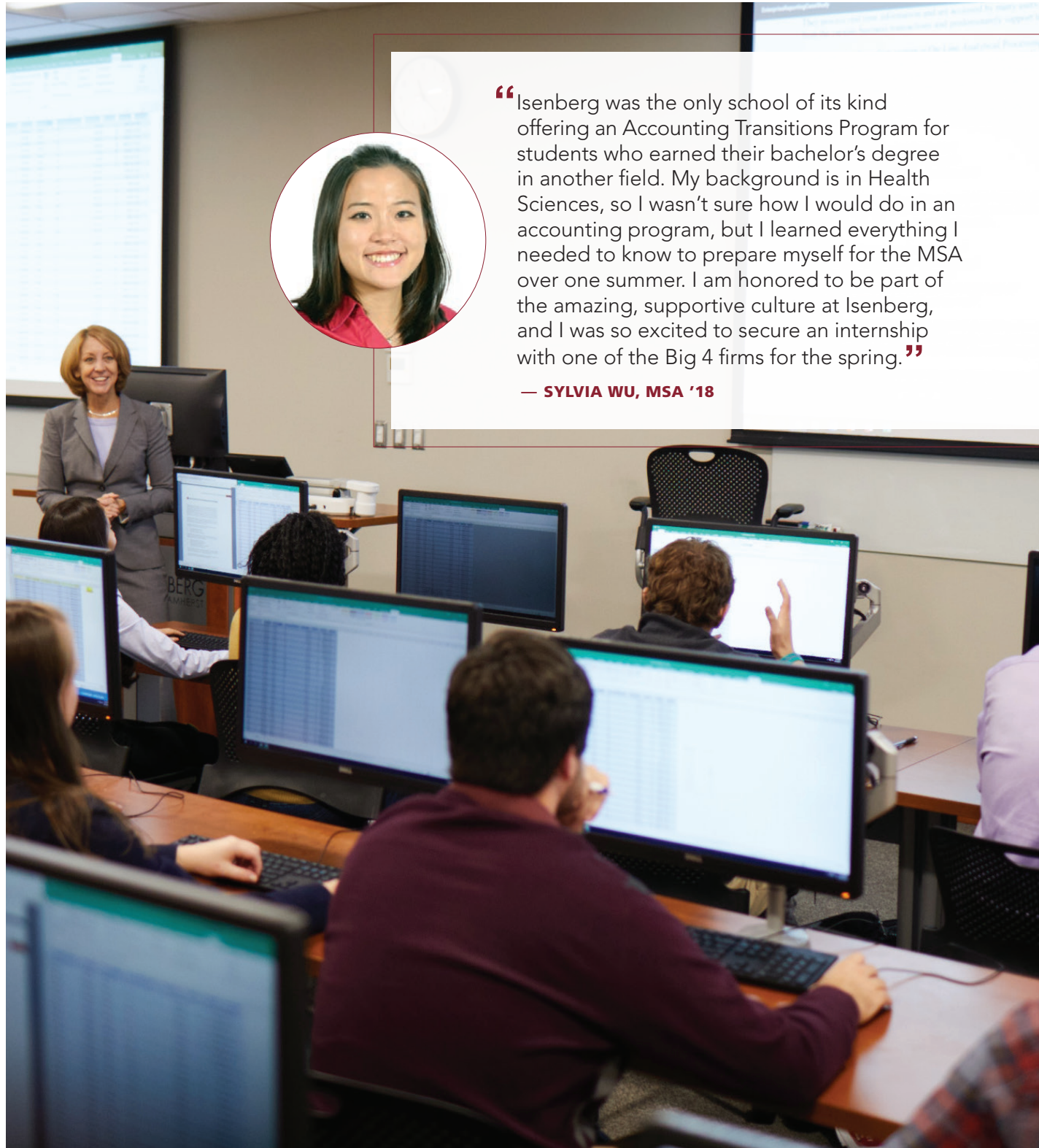
Transitions Program for Career Changers

The Accounting Transitions Program is available for students with non-accounting degrees who would like to enter this rapidly growing field. With our highly successful program, you can complete the MSA prerequisites online in only two semesters. Students who earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better gain entry to the MSA program and are exempt from taking the GMAT. Previous participants in the Transitions Program have seen the same professional results as our traditional students, securing both internships and job offers from top-notch firms.



“Isenberg was the only school of its kind offering an Accounting Transitions Program for students who earned their bachelor's degree in another field. My background is in Health Sciences, so I wasn't sure how I would do in an accounting program, but I learned everything I needed to know to prepare myself for the MSA over one summer. I am honored to be part of the amazing, supportive culture at Isenberg, and I was so excited to secure an internship with one of the Big 4 firms for the spring.”

— SYLVIA WU, MSA '18



FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS

The accounting field is booming. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that demand for accounting and auditing expertise will grow 10% from 2016 to 2026, compared with 7% for all other occupations. That's more than 140,000 new jobs. There has never been a better time to seek your master's in accounting. An Isenberg MSA will give you a head start in this thriving job market.

In addition, Isenberg's Chase Career Center will work with you to craft a personalized job-search strategy based on your individual strengths and career goals, prepare you for interviews, and leverage Isenberg's alumni and recruiter network.



PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Isenberg is a primary recruiting school for the Big 4 and a host of other leading companies:

- BDO USA, LLP
- BlumShapiro
- CliftonLarsonAllen
- Deloitte
- EY
- Grant Thornton
- KPMG
- Liberty Mutual
- Marcum
- PwC
- RSM
- Raytheon
- State Street
- CohnReznick

CAREERS IN ACCOUNTING

The MSA program prepares you for some of the highest-paying jobs in financial institutions, government, industry, nonprofit organizations, and public practice, including:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Controller
- Government Auditor
- Information Technology Accountant
- Internal Auditor
- Risk and Compliance Officer
- Tax Accountant

\$57,500

**MSA graduate
average starting salary**

10,000

Accounting alumni

43,000+

Isenberg alumni in
82 countries

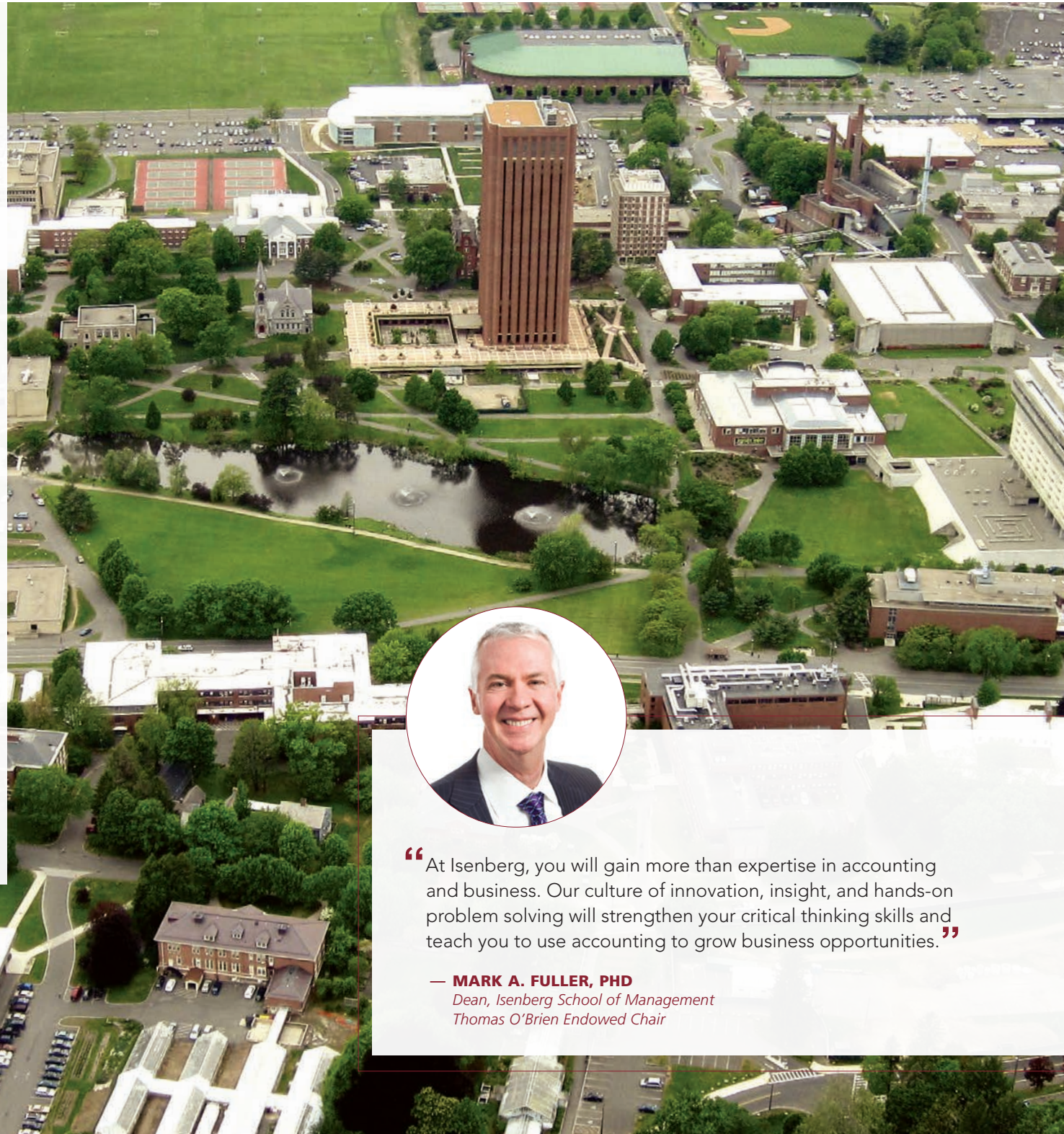
92%

Job placement rate for
MSA students

GET A DEGREE FROM ONE OF THE **BEST PUBLIC** BUSINESS SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

The Isenberg School of Management is part of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, one of the leading public research universities in the United States. It is also one of the top-ranked business schools in the country. Our student-focused environment, concentration on experiential learning, and exceptional career support allow students to achieve their goals.

In addition, Isenberg is accredited at the highest level by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). What does this mean for you? Your degree is monitored and held to a higher standard. Less than five percent of the world's 16,500 business schools have achieved AACSB International accreditation. Of those, only approximately 180 have also earned elite AACSB Accounting Accreditation, which allows our students to receive their CPA in almost any state.



“At Isenberg, you will gain more than expertise in accounting and business. Our culture of innovation, insight, and hands-on problem solving will strengthen your critical thinking skills and teach you to use accounting to grow business opportunities.”

— **MARK A. FULLER, PHD**

*Dean, Isenberg School of Management
Thomas O'Brien Endowed Chair*

Our state-of-the-art
facilities encourage
innovation and
experiential **learning**.



In 2016, construction of the new 70,000 sq. ft. Business Innovation Hub began at Isenberg. The \$62 million project will add new classrooms, labs, student spaces, and faculty offices to the school's existing facilities. It's due to open for business in spring 2019.



LIFE AT UMASS AND IN THE PIONEER VALLEY

The UMass Amherst campus is home to a multicultural community in the scenic Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. The area is well-known for its outstanding quality of life, including a varied arts and culture scene, abundant outdoor recreation, and a unique entrepreneurial lifestyle. The town of Amherst is continuously voted one of America's best college towns and is within easy access to some of the country's most vibrant cities, such as Boston and New York.



CAMPUS

Isenberg's location provides an ideal environment for our students. Our building is in the center of UMass' attractive pedestrian campus, affording easy access to the library, our award winning dining options, and a multitude of activities. In addition, UMass Amherst is part of the renowned Five Colleges Consortium, along with Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, and Smith College. Each school has a library with distinctive collections and students have open borrowing privileges. A free bus system links the Five Colleges to the surrounding towns.



FOOD

Whether it is at small cafés, artisan bakeries, or farm-to-table restaurants, the sidewalks of Amherst — and the surrounding towns — are lined with options for grabbing a quick bite or lingering over dinner. The Pioneer Valley is home to more than fifteen microbreweries and wineries.



UMass Amherst is ranked #1 for best campus food

— The Princeton Review, 2017



RECREATION

The Amherst area is known for both its picturesque scenery and vibrant seasons, from colorful autumns to snowy winters. Hikers, bikers, skiers, and snowboarders are never more than a half-hour from their next adventure. On campus, the 120,000-square-foot UMass Recreation Center features two pools, tennis courts, weights, fitness classes, an indoor jogging track, a wellness center, and more.



CULTURE

Long home to artists, musicians, and academics, the Amherst area continues to attract forward-thinkers, fueling a unique entrepreneurial culture. What's more, the area is known for a top-notch music and arts scene. Catch outstanding performances at venues like the Calvin Theater and the UMass Fine Arts Center as well as at Mass MoCA and Jacob's Pillow in the Berkshires. Stay local for the weekend or make a quick trip to see the sights of New York City or Boston.



BUSINESSES

A number of top companies have made our region home to their corporate headquarters, such as EMC, MassMutual Financial Group, United Technologies Corporation, and Yankee Candle, resulting in opportunities for Isenberg students including networking events, consulting projects, and more. In addition, UMass has partnered with Harvard University, Cisco, and others to launch the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center in nearby Holyoke.

ADMISSIONS

Isenberg seeks the best and brightest. MSA candidates are evaluated based on academic history, GMAT results, evidence of motivation and aptitude for graduate-level work, and professional experience.

QUALIFICATIONS

The MSA program is designed for students who have an undergraduate degree in accounting. The degree must include or be supplemented by courses that provide a solid foundation in accounting and business. In general, this requires 18 semester hours in accounting and 24 semester hours in business-related courses. See our website for a list of prerequisites. No degree in accounting? You can apply to complete the MSA prerequisites through our Transitions Program. Details on page 12.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed application
- Personal statement
- Resume/CV
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- Official GMAT or GRE scores (waivers may apply; see website for details)
- Proof of English proficiency via TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE-Academic. International applicants only. Visit umass.edu/gradschool/admissions/international-students.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Students are encouraged to apply by the priority deadlines below. Applications received after the priority deadlines will be considered on a rolling, space-available basis. International students are encouraged to submit well in advance of the stated deadlines.

Priority Deadlines

Fall semester:
February 1, then rolling

Spring semester:
October 1, then rolling

Summer semester:
February 1, then rolling

HOW TO APPLY

isenberg.umass.edu/msa-apply

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

isenberg.umass.edu/msa-advising

CONTACT US

413.545.7690

msa@isenberg.umass.edu

isenberg.umass.edu/msa



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UMassAmherst

Isenberg School of Management

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