INTRODUCTION

The Department of Accounting at the Isenberg School of Management is widely regarded as a leading accounting program in the Northeast. The Department offers high quality educational programs to help qualified students prepare for careers in accounting and related management professions, and provides the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge that will help them become responsible citizens and leaders in their chosen professions. As you complete your studies, you will develop a base of knowledge in financial and managerial accounting, auditing, taxation and information systems.

More importantly, you’ll develop many of the skills that employers value highly – the ability to solve problems and think analytically, to speak and write effectively, to work in teams and to use computer systems. Furthermore, the Department helps its students pursue their career objectives by allowing them access to an extensive network of loyal alumni and friends.

The Department is committed to the advancement of both accounting practice and education. Members of its faculty have been recognized for teaching excellence by the Isenberg School of Management, the University, and by professional organizations.

Career Opportunities

Accounting is a field of study that opens doors in virtually every industry. If you look closely, you will find that there are elements of accounting in practically every business function. And when you finish your studies, you will have learned much more than accounting, as the study of accounting is a great way to learn about the way business works.

Accounting represents the language of business. One would find it impossible to cast an eye at the world of business without seeing accountants and their work. Whether working for the largest accounting firm in the world, or the smallest non-profit organization, accountants use their knowledge and skills to provide information and advice on many different issues. As members of certified public accounting firms, accountants take on a wide range of responsibilities. They may work on the financial statements of Fortune 500 companies, provide recommendations on how businesses can improve operating or control procedures, help small businesses raise capital, provide assistance on mergers and acquisitions, help to develop and install computer information systems, and give advice on a range of tax matters. In industry, accountants use their knowledge of costs to advise marketing and management teams on issues of pricing, or to prepare cost and profit analyses of products and services, and they provide business and personal tax and financial service know-how.

Career opportunities in accounting are far-reaching. Accountants are needed in every business, industry, and branch of government. Our graduates have followed diverse career paths, including public accounting, internal audit, management and tax consulting, and have served as treasurer, controllers and financial executives for many companies. In addition, some work with public agencies, such as the IRS and FBI; and others enter the private and not-for-profit sectors.
As an Accounting major at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, you will have access to recruiters from the most distinguished employers. Recent graduates have been placed at the following companies, to name a few:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Company Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Aronson, Finning</td>
<td>KPMG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BDO Seidman</td>
<td>Liberty Mutual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blum Shapiro</td>
<td>McGladrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlin, Charron &amp; Rosen</td>
<td>Meyers Brothers Kalicka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CliftonLarsonAllen</td>
<td>Morris &amp; Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deloitte</td>
<td>Novogradac &amp; Co</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DiCicco, Gulman &amp; Co</td>
<td>O’Connor &amp; Drew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edelstein &amp; Co</td>
<td>PKF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ercolini &amp; Co</td>
<td>PricewaterhouseCoopers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernst &amp; Young</td>
<td>Rucci, Bardaro &amp; Barrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeley &amp; Driscoll</td>
<td>Samet &amp; Co</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Thornton</td>
<td>StoneTurn Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H &amp; R Block</td>
<td>US General Accounting Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Revenue Services</td>
<td>Walter Shuffain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin P. Martin &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Wolf &amp; Co</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the scope of career opportunities may seem a little intimidating, there are resources available to assist you in attaining your career goals. The Isenberg School maintains its own placement office, offering career counseling, workshops on resume-writing and interviewing skills. In addition, the Department helps its students pursue their career objectives through an extensive network of loyal alumni and friends; and students may also get practical experience through one of many competitive internship opportunities available through the department, school, and university field experience programs.

**The Major**

While the Department does not offer formal concentrations, students may effectively achieve curriculum concentrations in the areas of public accounting, management accounting, information systems, and other areas of special interest, through careful course selection.

**Course Requirements for the Accounting Major:**

1. Required university freshman-sophomore program.
2. Required Isenberg School “core” courses.
3. Required courses in the Major:
   - ACCOUNTG 221 – Intro to Accounting I
   - ACCOUNTG 331 – Cost Accounting
   - ACCOUNTG 321 – Financial Reporting I
   - ACCOUNTG 322 – Financial Reporting II
   - ACCOUNTG 423 – Financial Accounting III

   (Continued on next page)
- ACCOUNTG 441 – Auditing
- ACCOUNTG 311 – Accounting Information Systems
- ACCOUNTG 371 – Individual Taxation
- Upper-Level Law (i.e., MANAGMNT 361 or 362 or ACCOUNTG 483)
- One Elective from the following courses:
  - ACCOUNTG 472 – Corporate Taxation
  - ACCOUNTG 482 – International Accounting
(Please see the Degree Requirements Check sheet)

Students wishing to graduate with **honors** must meet the requirements of the University and the Department. Please note that Commonwealth College has changed their requirements. Please see a Commonwealth College advisor for more details. Professor Pam Trafford serves as the faculty honors advisor.

Students planning to satisfy **certification requirements** for the *Certified Public Accountant* (CPA), the *Certified Management Accountant* (CMA), or in *Certified Data Processing* (CDP), should consult with a faculty advisor concerning specific education requirements. Please note that students who plan to seek professional designation (CPA, etc.) in a state other than Massachusetts should obtain information concerning education requirements from the appropriate state board of accountancy, prior to final selection of courses, to insure that specific certification requirements are met. For links to all state boards of accountancy see, www.nasba.org. Several states, including Massachusetts are now requiring 150 hours of education to qualify for the CPA certificate. Therefore, it is particularly important that you speak with an advisor if you have an interest in certification. The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants’ web site has an excellent summary of the new 150 hour requirement, www.mscpaonline.org. In addition the content and delivery system for the Uniform CPA Examination changed in early 2004. A description of the new exam can be found at this web site, www.cpa-exam.org.
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Shannon Petrin
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Joanne Hogan
Office Manager
jhogan@isenberg.umass.edu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
<th>Why you would contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Undergraduate Programs Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, William</td>
<td>206 545-3858</td>
<td>Undergraduate Academic counseling. Knowledgeable regarding Isenberg School and University Academic Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodriguez, Melvin</td>
<td>206 545-5610</td>
<td>Knowledgeable regarding undergraduate course enrollment and overrides. Questions regarding academic experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte, Christina/Assistant Director of Enrollment &amp; Student Success</td>
<td>206 545-5605</td>
<td>Isenberg Citizens First and International Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Meg</td>
<td>206 577-4408</td>
<td>Knowledgeable regarding undergraduate courses and requirements, as well as clubs and organizations at Isenberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aube, John</td>
<td>206 545-5610</td>
<td>Advisor liaison to the Accounting Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carey, Susan</td>
<td>206 545-5610</td>
<td>Knowledgeable regarding undergraduate courses and requirements, as well as clubs and organizations at Isenberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGrath, Heather</td>
<td>206 545-5610</td>
<td>Knowledgeable regarding undergraduate courses and requirements, as well as clubs and organizations at Isenberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizio, Shelby</td>
<td>206 545-5610</td>
<td>Knowledgeable regarding undergraduate courses and requirements, as well as clubs and organizations at Isenberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehead, Kymberly</td>
<td>206 545-5610</td>
<td>Knowledgeable regarding undergraduate courses and requirements, as well as clubs and organizations at Isenberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chase Career Center</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wegman, Nic</td>
<td>101 577-3156</td>
<td>Strategic management of Chase Career Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figueroa, Kim</td>
<td>101 577-0418</td>
<td>Questions regarding internships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salva, Melissa</td>
<td>101 545-5598</td>
<td>Questions regarding IsenbergWorks system and process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long, Marc</td>
<td>101 545-9898</td>
<td>Assist undergraduate students with career advising for professional-level internships and permanent career placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathison, Pamela</td>
<td>101 577-3163</td>
<td>Assist undergraduate students with career advising for professional-level internships and permanent career placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snyder, Rachel</td>
<td>101 545-9898</td>
<td>Assist undergraduate students with career advising for professional-level internships and permanent career placement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# REQUIREMENTS CHECK SHEET

*Applicable for students who declared Accounting Fall 2014 or later

## Accounting Courses (27 credits)

ACCOUNTG 221 is not factored into accounting major GPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 221 Principles of Financial Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Part of BBA core requirements</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 331 Cost Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 321 Financial Reporting I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 322 Financial Reporting II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 321</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 423 Advanced Financial Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(previously SCH-MGMT 523)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 441 Auditing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(previously SCH-MGMT 541) or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 491B Auditing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 311 Accounting Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. OIM 210 and ACCOUNTG 331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 371 Individual Taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG ELECTIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choose from list below</td>
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</table>

### Required Law Course (3 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANAGMNT 361 Contracts in Business Relationships or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANAGMNT 362 Law of Enterprise Organization or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTING 483 CPA Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. MANAGMNT 260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accounting Elective Requirement: choose one from below

*Please note that not all courses are offered every semester. In addition to the prerequisite courses, additional enrollment restrictions may apply; refer to SPIRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 472 Corporate Taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(previously SCH-MGMT 572)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNTG 482 International Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(previously SCH-MGMT 582)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Junior/Senior Year BBA Core (15 -18 credits)

Must have at least junior standing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FINANCE 301 Corporate Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. ACCOUNTG 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANAGMNT 301 Principles of Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MARKETING 301 Fundamentals of Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OIM 301 Intro to Operations Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. OIM 240 or RES-ECON 212 or STATISTIC 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCH-MGMT 310 Business Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANAGMNT 494BI Business Policy and Strategy or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANAGMNT 488 Strategic Management for a Sustainable World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. MANAGMNT 366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Must have senior standing

*Both courses fulfill the integrative experience requirement in senior year

### Breadth Requirement: Non-Business Electives (21 credits)

*One breadth requirement per semester may be taken Pass/Fail

*Only one Economics or one Resource Economics course may be used to satisfy this requirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANAGMNT 488 Strategic Management for a Sustainable World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prereq. MANAGMNT 366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graduation Requirements

- Complete at least 120 credits
- Maintain a cumulative average of at least 2.0 in your major and overall
- All required courses must be taken for a letter grade

### Student Responsibilities

- Review Academic Requirement Report on SPIRE
- Meet with an advisor regularly to review progress toward completing graduation requirements
- Keep track of requirements for any additional majors or minors
- Make sure all graduation requirements are fulfilled

### Also, please note that:

- All upper level accounting major course must be taken in the Accounting Department at UMass Amherst
- Meeting all of the course requirements for a major in Accounting does NOT ensure that you have fulfilled the educational requirements for the CPA exam; please check with the Accounting Department and visit the www.NASBA.org website for information about state-specific CPA requirements
FIELD EXPERIENCES

General Guidelines

A field experience is an experience in a practice environment, with faculty involvement, and which has academic content. A field experience is characterized either as a co-op (i.e., field experience with compensation) or an internship (i.e., without compensation). Students may earn academic credit for either, based on the academic content of the field experience. To earn academic credit, the student must demonstrate that the field experience involves academic learning, and has a logical relationship to the student’s course of study. (NOTE: Employment does not, in and of itself, constitute a learning experience sufficient to earn academic credit.)

Field Experience Stipulations

- Field experience credits help satisfy the University’s 120 credit-hour requirement for graduation, however, these credits cannot be used toward fulfilling the 24 credit-hours of Accounting courses required for the Accounting major.
- Academic credit awarded by the Department of Accounting (i.e., ACCOUNTG 398) for a given field experience is limited to three credits.
- Academic credit awarded by the Department of Accounting (i.e., ACCOUNTG 398) must be graded strictly on a Pass (P) or Fail (F) basis (i.e., no letter grade, other than (P) or (F) will be recorded).
- Approval of the faculty sponsor should be obtained prior to undertaking the field experience.

Student Responsibilities

The student is fully responsible for identifying and completing arrangements for their field experience opportunity. Assistance with finding a Field Experience may be obtained through the Chase Career Center, RM 101. After arranging for a field experience opportunity, the student must:

1. Meet with the Field Experience Coordinator (ROOM 101) to obtain an ACADEMIC CONTRACT. Complete and sign your portion of the contract.

2. Prepare a proposal (1-2 pages, typewritten) detailing:
   a. the nature and scope of the field experience,
   b. the academic value of the field experience (i.e., how it involves academic learning and its logical relationship to the student’s course of study), and
   c. the method of evaluation for the student’s performance on the academic component
of the field experience. (NOTE: The method of evaluation must meet the satisfaction of the faculty sponsor. A range of alternatives is available, including data collection and analysis, or a library research report. Diaries, logs, or simple descriptive reports of the field experience [e.g., What I did this summer/semester.] are not sufficient bases for evaluation.)

Incomplete, or otherwise unsatisfactory proposals, will be returned to the student for further work.

3. With a proposal in hand, obtain a Department of Accounting faculty sponsor to supervise and evaluate the academic component of the field experience. Please note that the demands of supervising field experiences require each professor to limit the number of field experiences sponsored. In this way, students obtaining sponsorship can be assured of a thorough evaluation of their work. Discuss contact, evaluation methods, and credits assigned. Have faculty sign contact.

4. Return form to the Field Experience Coordinator (ROOM 101) for final signature.

5. Register for the course, ACCOUNTG 398, by submitting the approved Field Experience Contract to the Department office. On-line enrollment cannot be used.
   a. Departmental internship credits are administered through the department during the fall/spring semesters during the add/drop period.
   b. Departmental internship credits are administered through Continuing Education for the summer and winter session periods and are subjected to fees and pay increases accordingly.

6. Complete the field experience and the requirements specified in the Field Experience Contract.

Other Relevant Information

Occasionally, Accounting majors choose to complete a field experience based in a discipline other than accounting (e.g., finance, marketing, management, economics, computer science, psychology, etc.). In such an instance, the student: (1) is bound by the General Guidelines, Student Responsibilities and Field Experience Stipulations outlined above, (2) must obtain a faculty sponsor from the appropriate academic department, and (3) must register for the field experience credit through the department of the faculty sponsor.
INDEPENDENT STUDIES

General Guidelines

The Department offers students the opportunity to enroll for independent study credits. An independent study is designed to allow students to examine issues with greater breadth and depth than is feasible, normally, in regular course work. By its nature, the independent study is arranged and contracted between the individual student(s) and faculty. To earn academic credit, the student must demonstrate the academic content of the Independent Study and its logical relationship to his or her course of study.

Student Responsibilities

The student is fully responsible for defining the nature and scope of the independent study and for obtaining faculty supervision. The student must:

1. Arrange for faculty supervision. The identity of the faculty supervisor, and the nature of the independent study, should be clear from the start. It is advisable to discuss the prospects for completing an independent study with a particular faculty member prior to completing a full proposal. Most students choose to further examine issues or problems first introduced in a particular class, with a particular professor. However, on rare occasions, a student identifies a topic and arranges for supervision by a faculty member that they have not had in class. Please note that the demands of supervising independent studies require each professor to limit the number of independent studies supervised. In this way, students obtaining sponsorship can be assured that faculty will spend the requisite time on the project.

2. Prepare a proposal (1-2 pages, typewritten) specifying:
   a. the nature and scope of the independent study,
   b. the academic value of the independent study (i.e., how it involves academic learning and its logical relationship to the student’s course of study), and
   c. the method of evaluation for the student’s performance on the independent study.
   (NOTE: The method of evaluation must meet the satisfaction of the faculty supervisor. A range of alternatives is available, including, but not limited to, data collection and analysis, and a library research report.)

Incomplete, or otherwise unsatisfactory proposals, will be returned to the student for further work.
3. Complete and sign an Independent Study Contract specifying the nature and scope of the independent study and the basis for evaluation. The Independent Study Contract must be signed by the faculty supervisor and approved by the Department Chair and Academic Dean. Independent Study Contract forms are available from your faculty advisor, or the Department office.

4. Register for the Course, ACCOUNTG 396, by submitting the approved Independent Study Contract to the Department office. On-line enrollment cannot be used.

5. Complete the requirements specified in the Independent Study Contract.

**Independent Study Stipulations**

- Approval of the faculty supervisor, the Department Chair and Academic Dean should be obtained prior to undertaking the independent study.
- Generally, an independent study cannot be completed in lieu of an existing course.
- Independent study credits cannot be used toward fulfilling the requirements of your Accounting major.

**Other Relevant Information**

Occasionally, Accounting majors choose to complete an independent study based in a discipline other than accounting (e.g., finance, marketing, management, economics, computer science, psychology, etc.). In such an instance, the student: (1) is bound by the General Guidelines, Student Responsibilities and Independent Study Stipulations outlined above, (2) must obtain a faculty supervisor from the appropriate academic department, and (3) must register for the independent study credit through the department of the faculty supervisor.
STUDIES ABROAD, DOMESTIC EXCHANGES AND COURSES TAKEN AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES

General Guidelines

The University of Massachusetts has entered into agreements with universities, nationally and internationally, to facilitate student exchange. These programs often present exciting opportunities that serve to enhance the students’ academic life and program. The faculty of the Department of Accounting strongly supports and encourages students to study abroad, and/or to take advantage of domestic exchange programs, and will work with students to help assure that such arrangements are compatible with their program of study.

Students must understand, however, that participation in an international or national exchange program, or the choice to take courses at other universities (outside the framework of an exchange program), may present problems in meeting graduation requirements on a timely basis. Such arrangements require careful planning, and place added responsibility on participants to make certain that they will be able to complete their degree requirements on a timely basis. Students should plan early to ensure that courses critical to their major will not be missed while away. Be aware that without careful planning, participating in national and international exchange programs can result in extending the time required to complete a degree.

Student Responsibilities

The student is fully responsible for arranging studies outside of the University. Information concerning international and national exchange programs is available at the William S. Clark International Center (Hills South, fourth floor) and the National Student Exchange Program office (613 Goodell), respectively. General information concerning exchange programs is available at the Undergraduate Counseling Office (Isenberg, Room 206). Upon selecting a program, the student should gather information on courses available and develop a proposed plan of study.

The student should then:

1. Present the proposed plan of study to his or her faculty advisor for discussion.
2. Complete a Prior Approval Form (available at the Undergraduate Counseling Office or at either exchange program office), specifying the courses for which approval is sought.
3. Present the completed Prior Approval Form to the Department Chair and the Undergraduate Counseling Office for approval.
4. Go! Have a great time! (Don’t forget, complete your course work!)
Criteria for Approving Programs of Study Outside the University

The Department of Accounting very strongly discourages its majors from completing at other universities or campuses, the upper-level courses that will be used to fulfill the 24 credit-hours of Accounting courses required for the Accounting major. The Department Faculty believes strongly that, in order to achieve Accounting major status at the University of Massachusetts, these courses should be completed on our campus. Accordingly, the following hierarchy is followed, generally, in approving courses to be taken at other universities, or on other campuses:

- **Most Easily Approved**: General Education Requirements and General Electives.
- **More Difficult to Get Approved**: School of Management Requirements.
- **Most Difficult to Get Approved**: Upper-level courses that will be used to fulfill the 24 credit-hours of Accounting courses required for the Accounting major.

Final approval of courses taken at universities, or campuses, other than the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, rests with the Associate Department Chair.
Isenberg MS Accounting Program: The Smarter Way to Your 150

If you are a qualified student wanting to pursue CPA certification, you have the opportunity to fulfill the 150-hour educational requirement for certification in Massachusetts.

By earning both:
- a bachelor’s degree (BBA accounting major) and
- a Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) degree in
  only four years plus a summer.

You can achieve this by:
- getting a head start: meet now with an academic advisor to develop your academic plan
- declaring your major and beginning your major coursework as a sophomore
- completing your BBA degree in seven semesters (3.5 years), rather than eight
- entering the MSA program during your eighth semester (Spring semester of year 4), and
- completing your MSA degree during the ensuing summer

By completing this program of study, in only four years plus a summer, you will:
- earn both a Bachelor’s degree (BBA) and a Master of Science degree in Accounting (MSA)
- fulfill the 150-hour educational requirement for CPA certification
- launch your career with a “start date” in September, shortly after earning your MSA degree

With early planning, your program of study can include:
- a SIPP (Spring term, Year 3) or Summer (end of Year 3) internship and
- an international educational experience

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Traditional Four-Year BBA Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Fourth Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>SEM 1 and SEM 2</td>
<td>Fall SEM 3</td>
<td>Spring SEM 4</td>
<td>Fall SEM 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 credits</td>
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Four-Years Plus a Summer – Dual BBA and MSA Degrees

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<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Third Year</th>
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<td>30 credits</td>
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Isenberg School of Management

MSA
Forces such as technology and globalization have drastically changed the business world. More and more, businesses need the expertise that CPAs, as trusted business advisors, can provide. The CPA profession is also changing to ensure that CPAs of the future have the skills and knowledge needed to meet ever-changing client demands. Read on to find the answers to some commonly asked questions about the changing requirements for becoming a CPA in Massachusetts.

**What are the general requirements for becoming a CPA?**

All candidates for certification must meet specific educational requirements and pass the Uniform CPA Exam. In addition, experience in the practice of public accounting may be required, depending on your educational background.

**What is the education requirement for becoming a CPA?**

Candidates pursuing CPA certification in Massachusetts are required to have 150 credit hours of college-level education from a nationally or regionally-accredited college or university. Associate Degree/Community College courses must be transferred into a four-year bachelor’s degree program. Credits can be earned outside of an actual bachelor’s or graduate degree. Introductory accounting courses qualify to fulfill accounting course requirements.

**Do I need a graduate degree to become a CPA?**

NO, the only degree required for certification is a bachelor's degree. However, the skills and knowledge usually developed in a graduate program (e.g., Masters of Accounting, Masters in Tax, MBA, law degree) may be very useful in helping CPAs to meet client demands. For this reason, the Massachusetts Society of CPAs strongly encourages a graduate education.

**Does my college-level education need to include specific coursework?**

It depends; the requirements vary based on the highest degree you obtain.

If you obtain a master's degree in accounting from an AACSB accredited accounting program, or one approved by the Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy, you will not need to meet specific course requirements. Summary information is provided below. For further details, please see [http://www.capatrack.com/becoming_a_cpa/](http://www.capatrack.com/becoming_a_cpa/).

**Level 1.** If you obtain a Master’s degree in accounting from an AACSB accredited accounting program, or an accounting program that has been approved by the Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy, you will not need to meet specific course requirements.

**Level 2.** If you earn a graduate degree in accounting from a school that does not fall within Level 1, or if you earn a graduate degree in business administration or law, you will need 18 semester hours (27 quarter hours) of accounting at the graduate level or 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) at the undergraduate level, or an equivalent combination thereof. These courses must include coverage in financial accounting, audit, taxation, and management accounting. In addition, the degree must include or be supplemented by 24 semester hours (36 quarter hours) of business courses (other than accounting courses) at the undergraduate level or 18 semester hours at the graduate level, or an equivalent combination thereof.

**Level 3.** If your highest degree is a bachelor’s degree in business, your degree must include, or be supplemented by, 30 semester hours in accounting with coverage in financial accounting, audit, taxation, and management accounting. In addition, the degree must include, or be supplemented by, 24 semester hours in business courses other than accounting courses. These business courses shall include coverage in business law, information systems, finance, and coverage in at least one of the areas of economics, business organizations, professional ethics, and/or business communication.
Level 4. If your degree is not in business, your 30 semester hours in accounting must include at least three semester hours in each of the subject areas of financial accounting, audit, taxation, and management accounting; and your 24 semester hours in business must include at least three semester hours in each of the areas of business law, business information systems, professional ethics and finance. Business courses, other than accounting, in business management of organizations, economics, and/or business communications may be included for the business course requirements.

Can I sit for the CPA examination before I complete the 150 credits?

YES, you may sit for the exam if you have a bachelor's degree and at least 120 educational credits (180 quarter hours) that include 21 credits in accounting and 9 credits in business. These credits require coverage in certain subject areas as specified on http://www.cpatrack.com/cpa_exam/exam_regulations. If your bachelor's degree was awarded with less than 120 credits, you will need to take additional courses to reach 120 and there are NO exceptions. Anyone who sits for the exam before acquiring 150 educational credits will be required to complete an Academic Evaluation for Certification Report before applying for a Massachusetts CPA license. This is filed with CPA Exam Services for a fee of $100 and is available at www.NASBA.org.

Is there a time limit to meet the 150-hour certification/licensure requirement if I sit for the exam with 120 credits? **

YES. You must meet the educational requirements within 3 years from the time you receive your official letter of passing all four parts of the exam. If you don’t, you will need to retake all parts of the exam.

What is the experience requirement for CPA certification/licensure?

It depends on your level of education. With 150 credits, you need one year of public accounting experience; if your experience does not include 1000 hours in the report function, you will be issued a non-reporting license. With a graduate degree in accounting, business, or law, no experience is required for certification/non-reporting license.

Can I substitute non-public accounting experience to meet the requirement for certification?

Yes, the Board of Public Accountancy, in its discretion, may grant you credit for professional accounting experience while working in a position in private industry or government. To learn about the special conditions that must be met, please visit http://www.MSCPAonline.org/nonpublicexp.

What is a non-reporting license?

A non-reporting license allows you to use the CPA designation and perform all accounting services except signing off on financial statements.

How can I qualify for a full reporting license to allow me to sign off on financial statements?

You will qualify for a full reporting license after you complete twelve months of employment in a public accounting firm and obtain 1000 hours in the report function on full disclosure financial statements, of which not more than 300 hours may consist of full disclosure compilations. If you anticipate a future need to sign off on financial statements, you may choose to apply for a full reporting license when your initial non reporting license expires.
Additionally, the non-reporting licensee who wishes to accept a report engagement may qualify for a full reporting license if s/he complies with the provisions of 252 CMR 3.02(5). To do so, you will be required to provide official documentation to the Board of Public Accountancy that you have taken 80 hours of CPE in financial statement reporting within six months prior to accepting the report engagement.

Further, you will need to enroll with a qualified Report Acceptance Body prior to the issuance of the initial report and complete a quality review within nine months subsequent to the issuance of the initial report.

**How do I proceed after I have passed the exam and meet the education and experience requirements for certification/licensure?**

After you receive your official notification from CPA Exam Services that you have passed the CPA exam, you can download the application for certification/licensure from the Web site of the Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy, http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/pa.

**Once I’m certified, do I have to do anything to maintain my initial CPA license?**

Yes, every two years you will need to submit a license renewal application and fee to the Division of Public Licensure and provide evidence of completion of 80 hours (credits) of continuing professional education, which includes four credits in the area of professional ethics. In addition, every CPA is required to adhere to a code of professional conduct that helps to maintain integrity and dignity in the profession. Finally, CPAs who sign off on financial statements (or their firms) are required to undergo a peer review every three years.

**What if I move to another state? Will my license transfer with me?**

Reciprocity, or the recognition of your Massachusetts license in another state, is ultimately the decision of the licensing board in your new state. You will need to contact that state’s Board of Public Accountancy.

**Where do I find more information about becoming a CPA in Massachusetts?**

You can use the MSCPA’s student website as a clearinghouse for resources about the CPA exam and certification requirements. There, you will find links to download the exam application form as well as information about how to have your transcript pre-evaluated to determine if you meet the academic requirements, what you need to do if you attended a foreign university, etc. If you have specific questions about licensing requirements in Massachusetts, you should visit the Board of Public Accountancy Web site or contact the Board at:

Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, MA 02118
617.727.1806

**Should I join the Massachusetts Society of CPAs?**

The Society is the only professional organization representing CPAs in Massachusetts. Membership provides you with information, education, opportunities for professional growth and development, and a strong voice in front of the legislature and public. In short, the Society will help you to meet your career and personal goals as a CPA. There are various categories of membership available, including student and associate memberships. To receive membership information and an application, contact the Membership Department at 1-800-392-6145.

**Revisions to these regulations are being discussed. Please check back for an up-to-date version of these FAQs. We have attempted to highlight possible areas of change with an **
Massachusetts CPA Certification Requirements
Source: Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy Website (September 2013)

Requirements for CPA Certification/License in Massachusetts - Effective 1/01/07

To be eligible for a CPA certificate/license in Massachusetts, a candidate must complete at least 150 semester hours of college-level education and successfully pass the computer based CPA examination. Experience in the practice of public accounting may be required, depending on one's educational background. FAQs for the CPA Exam Candidate.

Beginning January 1, 2007, CPA candidates will be able to sit for the exam upon:

- completion of 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours) of university credit
- conferral of a baccalaureate degree
- completion of 21 semester hours in accounting, to include coverage in financial accounting, management (cost) accounting, auditing, and taxation.
- completion of 9 semester hours in business, to include coverage in business law, finance and information systems.

To qualify for exam eligibility and CPA certification in Massachusetts:

- All educational credits must be completed at a nationally or regionally accredited college or university. Credits can be earned outside of a candidate's actual bachelor's or graduate degree.
- All credits earned at a two-year accredited school must be transferred into a four-year nationally or regionally accredited college.
- Credits earned in introductory accounting courses qualify to meet the required 21 semester hours in accounting if the above conditions are met.

The exact nature and number of specific courses you must complete to qualify for CPA certification/licensure is based on the highest level of education you have attained. These different levels are:

1. Graduate degree in accounting from an accredited college or university that has been approved by the Board of Public Accountancy.
2. Graduate degree in accounting from an accredited college or university that does not fall within the above level, or a graduate degree in business administration or law from an accredited college or university.
3. Bachelor's degree in business from an accredited college or university.
4. Bachelor's degree in any discipline from an accredited college or university.

A candidate can determine if he or she has met the educational requirements for certification/licensure by answering the following series of questions:
1. **Do you have a graduate degree in accounting from an accredited college or university that has been approved by the Board of Public Accountancy?**

View the list of Level 1 colleges and universities.

- **YES:** You have satisfied the educational requirements if your MSA is from a college on this list. You will not need to meet specific course requirements.
- **NO:** Proceed to the second question below.

2. **Do you have a graduate degree in accounting from an accredited college or university that does not fall within Level 1, or a graduate degree in business administration or law from an accredited college or university?**

Graduate degrees in business administration include such degrees as Master's in Business Administration (MBA), Master's of Science in Accounting Information Systems (MSAIS), Master's of Science in Finance (MSF), and Master's of Taxation (MST). Read further guidance on what constitutes a graduate degree in business.

- **YES:** To be eligible for certification/licensure, your degree must include, or be supplemented by, a specified number of hours of accounting and business courses.

**Accounting coursework**

You must have 18 semester hours (27 quarter hours) of accounting at the graduate level or 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) at the undergraduate level, or an equivalent combination thereof.* These courses must include coverage in financial accounting, audit, taxation, and management accounting. Coverage in these topic areas generally means that a course has been completed in the specified subject area, but a candidate may submit proof that the required subject areas have been covered in other courses. Find more information about what courses are acceptable as accounting courses and to learn how you can verify that you have obtained the required coverage in courses other than those in the specified topic areas.

**Business coursework**

You must have 24 semester hours (36 quarter hours) of business courses (other than accounting courses) at the undergraduate level, or 18 semester hours (27 quarter hours) at the graduate level, or an equivalent combination thereof.* These courses must be completed or accepted in transfer at a four-year accredited college or university. Find more information about what courses are acceptable as business courses.

- **NO:** Proceed to the third question below.
3. Do you have a bachelor's degree in business from an accredited college or university?

- YES: To be eligible for CPA certification/licensure, your degree must include, or be supplemented by, a specified number of hours of accounting and business courses.

**Accounting coursework**

You must have 30 semester hours in accounting at the undergraduate level.* The accounting courses must include coverage in financial accounting, audit, taxation, and management accounting. Coverage in these topic areas generally means that a course has been completed in the specified subject area, but a candidate may submit proof that the required subject areas have been covered in other courses. Find more information about what courses are acceptable as accounting courses and to learn how you can verify that you have obtained the required coverage in courses other than those in the specified topic areas.

**Business coursework**

You must have 24 semester hours (36 quarter hours) of business courses (other than accounting courses) at the undergraduate level.* These business courses must include coverage in the areas of business law, information systems, finance, and coverage in one of the areas of economics, business organizations, professional ethics, and/or business communication. Find more information about what courses are acceptable as business courses.

- NO: Proceed to the fourth question below.

4. Do you have a bachelor's degree in any discipline from an accredited college or university?

- YES: To be eligible for CPA certification/licensure, your degree must include or be supplemented by a specific number of hours of accounting and business courses.

**Accounting coursework**

You must have at least 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) in accounting courses at the undergraduate level.* These credits must include at least three semester hours in each of the subject areas of financial accounting, auditing, taxation, and management accounting. Find more information about what courses are acceptable as accounting courses.

**Business coursework**

You must have least 24 semester hours (36 quarter hours) of business courses (other than accounting courses) at the undergraduate level.* The business credits must include at least three semester hours in each of the areas of business law, business information systems, professional ethics and finance. Courses in business management of organizations, economics, and/or business communications may be included for the business course requirements. Find more information about what courses are acceptable as business courses.
• NO: You are not eligible for CPA certification/licensure.

*If you combine undergraduate and graduate courses to arrive at the required core accounting and business credits, please note:

Since a candidate needs 30 semester hours of undergraduate accounting courses or 18 semester hours of graduate accounting courses, each undergraduate hour equals 3/5 of a graduate hour, or conversely, each graduate hour equals 5/3 of an undergraduate hour.

Since a candidate needs 24 semester hours of undergraduate business courses or 18 semester hours of graduate business courses, each undergraduate hour equals 3/4 of a graduate hour, or conversely, each graduate hour equals 4/3 of an undergraduate hour.

**CPA Exam EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
*Source: Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy Website (Sept 2013)*

1. **What requirements must I meet to sit for the CPA exam as a Massachusetts candidate if I don't yet comply with Massachusetts' CPA certification requirements as stipulated in Section 2.07 of the State regulations?**

To be eligible to sit for the exam, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Have completed 120 semester hours (or 180 quarter hours) of credits from a nationally or regionally accredited college or university - Associate degree or Community College courses will be accepted only if transferred into a four-year bachelor’s degree program. **
- Have 21 accounting credits including coverage in
  - Financial accounting
  - Audit
  - Management accounting
  - Taxation

**Introductory or elementary courses can be counted toward the 21 credits.**

- Have 9 business credits including coverage in
  - Business law
  - Finance
  - Information Systems
- Have completed all requirements for the conferral of a bachelor's degree.

Note: To convert quarter hours to semester hours, multiply total quarter hours X 2/3. To convert semester hours to quarter hours, multiply total semester hours X 3/2.

2. **What if I am not sure if I meet the educational requirements to take the exam?**

CPA Exam Services (CPAES) will review your transcript of past and current courses to identify academic deficiencies. The fee is $50 and the review is advisory in nature. Visit this website and look under the FORMS section.
3. What if I satisfied some of my educational requirements at a school outside the United States?

You will need to have your educational credentials evaluated by the Center for Educational Documentation or NASBA. (This evaluation is not necessary if you studied a semester abroad as part of your program at a U.S. accredited college.)

Is there a difference between the educational requirements to sit for the exam and those to obtain CPA certification?

Yes, you need 150 educational credits for CPA certification in Massachusetts. Specific coursework depends on the highest degree you obtain. To view these requirements, please visit www.cpatrack.com/becoming_a_cpa/required.

4. Is there a time limit to meet the 150-hour certification requirement if I sit for the exam before attaining 150 credits? **

Yes, you have 3 years from the time you receive notice of passing all four parts of the exam to meet the educational requirements for CPA certification. If you don't, you will need to retake all parts of the exam.

5. Can I sit for the exam during my final semester before my baccalaureate commencement?

No, you cannot sit for the exam before the date your bachelor’s degree is conferred (this is the official graduation date that appears on your final educational transcript). However, you can sit for the exam before you actually receive your final transcript as long as you can provide the final transcript to CPA Exam Services within 90 days of taking the exam.

6. Can I apply for the exam before I complete my degree and/or required accounting and business courses?

Yes, in addition to your application, you will be required to complete a Certificate of Enrollment (COE) form as evidence that you are enrolled and that all courses and graduation requirements will be completed prior to the date that you sit for your first section. Before you schedule your exam appointment, be certain your final transcript will be available within 90 days and that the degree conferral date as it appears on your final transcript is before your exam date. (If you don’t know your degree date, check with the college registrar.)

Once the educational requirements have been met, an official transcript must again be submitted to CPA Exam Services (CPAES) to confirm degree conferral and/or satisfactory completion of courses. The final official transcript must be received by CPAES within 90 days of sitting for the first exam section. Failure to do so will result in the loss of any credit received for any part of the examination passed prior to providing the final official transcript.

7. Can I use credits earned as Independent Study to meet the accounting credit requirement?

Yes, as long as your college categorizes the course as an accounting course on your transcript. The credits cannot be used to meet any of the four required areas of coverage, i.e. audit, taxation, management accounting or financial accounting.
8. Can I use internship credits to meet the accounting/business requirements?

Yes, if the credits are recorded as semester hours on your college transcript. Only 3 credits toward the accounting requirement can be earned by an internship. None of the required subject area coverages, i.e., audit, tax, financial accounting, and management accounting can be accomplished by an internship; formal course instruction is necessary.

9. Can I take credits online?

Yes, however, the on-line course must be taken at an accredited, four-year college or university and the course has to be one that is offered within a degree-granting program (you do not have to be enrolled in the degree program). The college must provide you with a transcript upon completion.

10. Do I need to earn a minimum grade for my credits to count?

No, and credits earned in courses graded by pass/fail are accepted.

11. How do I know if some of the accounting and business courses I took meet the requirements? The course titles are a bit different.

If a course title does not clearly relate to the coverage area, you may need to submit a course catalogue, syllabus or letter from a professor detailing the coverage. Submit the course evaluation checksheet to describe the course coverage when you apply to sit for the CPA Exam.

12. How should I select my accounting and business elective courses?

It's a good idea to review the Content Specification Outlines for the CPA exam to be certain you choose courses that will contain the subject material that will be tested on the exam. Check out the CPA exam pages under “Become A CPA” on www.aicpa.org.

APPLYING FOR/SCHEDULING THE CPA EXAM

13. When is the examination given?

The exam is offered during the first two months of each calendar quarter – these months are referred to as “testing windows.” Testing is available in January & February, April & May, July & August, and October & November. Testing centers are usually open 6 days a week.

14. Must all four-exam sections be taken at the same time?

No, you may take any section of the exam in any testing window and in any order you wish. You will not be required to pass one section prior to applying for another. However, you may NOT take any single section twice in the same testing window.

15. Must the exam be taken in a computer-based format?

Yes, the exam is available only in a computer-based format.

16. Is the exam offered in different languages?

No, it is only offered in English.
17. **Is there a new CPA exam?**

Yes, a new Uniform CPA exam, known as CBT-e (Computer Based Test - evolution) went into effect on January 1, 2011. Changes include the testing of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the introduction of new task-based simulations and the transfer of communication skill testing to one section - Business Environment and Concepts (BEC). In addition, the scoring timeline will be shortened. For more information, check out the CPA exam pages under “Become A CPA” on [www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org).

18. **How do I apply for the exam?**

Applications are filed with CPA Exam Services (CPAES), a division of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) located in Nashville, TN. To obtain an application, go to [nasba.org](http://nasba.org) and select CPA exam and Massachusetts as the jurisdiction.

**First-Time Exam Candidate**

If you have never applied to the state of Massachusetts for any section of the examination or if you applied previously AND your application was denied as INELIGIBLE or INCOMPLETE, you must complete a first-time application found on [nasba.org](http://nasba.org).

**Re-exam Candidate**

If you have previously applied AND were found eligible to take any section of the CPA Examination for the state of Massachusetts, you are considered a re-exam candidate. You may register online at [nasba.org](http://nasba.org).

**International Candidate**

Before applying for the CPA exam, you will need to have your educational credentials evaluated by the [Center for Educational Documentation](http://www.centerford.org) or NASBA.

19. **How long does the application review process take?**

It depends on whether you are a first-time or re-exam candidate. The application review process for a first-time candidate who applies online and pays by credit card is approximately 2 weeks as long as all supporting documents have been received by CPAES. The review process for a re-exam candidate is five business days if you paid by credit card when registering.

20. **What is a Notice to Schedule or NTS?**

A Notice to Schedule or NTS is your notification of approval to take the exam sections for which you applied. Once you receive it, you may contact Prometric to schedule your exam appointment. It will expire in 6 months and if you are cannot take all the exam sections, you will NOT be able to extend it or receive a refund or credit.

The NTS is your “ticket” to enter the exam center and receive your scores online – keep a copy in a safe place. Verify that all information on the NTS is correct and that your name EXACTLY matches the name on the identification documents that you will use to check-in at the testing center. If the information is incorrect or the ID and NTS do not match, immediately contact CPAES (1.800.CPA.EXAM).

The NTS will be delivered by the preferred method you selected in your initial application — if you do not receive your NTS within the anticipated approval time, contact CPAES immediately.
21. **How do I schedule an exam appointment?**

Once you receive your Notice to Schedule (NTS) you will need to contact Prometric to schedule your testing dates. You can do this online at [www.prometric.com/cpa](http://www.prometric.com/cpa) or by phone at 800.580.9648. It is recommended that you choose the online option since this method will provide you with a written confirmation of your appointment. You must schedule a separate appointment for each exam section but it is not necessary to book your appointments all at once. To increase the likelihood of receiving your first choice of date, time and location, you should schedule at least 45 days before the desired date. Your NTS is valid for 6 months; if you do not take all sections for which you have been approved, you will forfeit your fees and will have to reapply.

22. **How much does it cost to take the exam?**

All applicants, both first-time and re-exam, are required to pay both an application fee and an examination fee each time they apply to CPAES. To view the fee schedule visit [nasba.org](http://nasba.org) and select Massachusetts as the jurisdiction. You must be prepared to take all sections for which you apply within 6 months from the date you receive approval. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of fees and the need to reapply.

23. **Is financial assistance available to take the CPA exam?**

Yes. The Educational Foundation of the Massachusetts Society of CPAs conducts a lottery in May of each year to award vouchers in the amount of $400 to assist with exam costs. To be eligible, you must sit for one or more exam sections between May 1 and April 30th. In addition, you cannot receive financial assistance from your employer in the form of payments/reimbursements of exam fees or review courses, or receive a bonus upon passing the exam. For more information, visit [www.CPAtrack.com/scholarships](http://www.CPAtrack.com/scholarships).

24. **Where do I take the exam?**

You may take the exam as a Massachusetts candidate at any Prometric testing center in the United States, its 5 jurisdictions, or an approved international site. In Massachusetts, sites are in Boston, Burlington, Lowell, West Springfield and Worcester.

25. **Is there a time limit for passing the four exam sections?**

Yes, you must pass all four exam sections within a rolling eighteen (18) month that begins on the testing date the first examination section is passed. If you do not pass all four (4) exam sections within the eighteen (18) month period, you will lose credit for each section passed outside the period and must retake that section(s). Applicants cannot retake a failed section(s) within the same testing window.

26. **What is the process to obtain special accommodations for the exam?**

Special accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) may be requested as part of the application process, via the [ADA Modification Form](http://www.prometric.com/cpa).

27. **What is the passing score?**

The passing score for each section is 75 on a 0-99 scale.

28. **How and when do I receive my scores?**

For more information, candidates are encouraged to review the CPA Exam Score Release Timeline FAQ found on the [AICPA’s exam site](http://www.aicpa.org).
PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

29. What can I do to prepare for the exam?

- Check out the "CPA Exam" section of thiswaytocpa.com and aicpa.org. Once there, you can:
  - Review the “Content Specification Outline” that details what will be tested on each section of the exam (a new CSO will go into effect on 1/01/2014.)
  - Review the policy on New Pronouncements.
  - Take the exam tutorial and sample tests.
  - Read your NTS carefully. For more details about what to expect at the testing site, refer to the Candidate Bulletin.

30. Are there review courses to better prepare me to pass the CPA exam?

Yes. Although the Society does not endorse one particular course, MSCPA members receive discounts with several providers. It is recommended that you select the program that best suits your learning style.

31. Is there a website that I can use as a resource for exam and certification information in Massachusetts?

Yes. The MSCPA's student Web site, www.CPAtrack.com is a valuable resource for exam and certification information as well as specifics about college programs, scholarships, internships and job opportunities. There, you will find links to relevant sites such as the American Institute of CPAs, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, and the Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy.

** Because revisions to the regulations for the CPA Exam are being discussed, please revisit CPAtrack.com for an up-to-date version of these FAQs. We have attempted to highlight possible areas of change with an **
The Annual Accounting Banquet will be held at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House Thursday, April 12, 2018

The Banquet is a wonderful way of closing the year by introducing family and friends to Accounting faculty, and others, with whom you have been working all year. It is a time to honor students, alumni, friends and faculty, and to have FUN!
DEPARTMENT AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIPS

THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE GIVEN OUT AT THE DEPARTMENT’S 2017 ANNUAL
ACCOUNTING BANQUET LISTING OF SCHOLARSHIPS IS UPDATED EACH SPRING

BARBARA BOGDAN AWARD—presented annually to the senior accounting major who best exemplifies Barbara Bogdan’s outstanding academic achievement.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS JESSICA LEIGH SACHS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP – presented to a sophomore and a junior accounting major that exhibits outstanding leadership qualities, academic excellence and a dedication to community service.

BLUM SHAPIRO SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - presented to a junior or sophomore accounting major from Massachusetts or Connecticut, who has excelled academically.

SHERYL L. ROSENBAUM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP – presented to accounting majors who exemplify Sheryl Rosenbaum’s spirit and sense of community.

RICHARD A. GOLDSTEIN ’63 LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP – presented to a deserving accounting major who is in good academic standing and has made a real difference in their community.

HAMMOND DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD – presented to a sophomore or junior accounting major who is in good academic standing, exhibits leadership skills and demonstrates a strong commitment to the Isenberg School of Management.

DRIVE SCHOLARSHIP – presented to an accounting major who has excelled academically, has worked throughout his or her academic career, and has overcome adversity.

KPMG CITIZEN/SCHOLAR AWARD—presented to a student in accounting who has excelled academically, and demonstrated significant commitment to community service.

ERNST & YOUNG PARTNERS IN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP—presented to a sophomore and a junior minority student in accounting for outstanding overall achievement.

DELOITTE ACCOUNTING EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP—presented to a sophomore student who is interested in accounting and who has been active in community service.

GRANT THORNTON MAKE A DIFFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP - presented to a sophomore intending to major in accounting or a junior accounting major in good academic standing and who has made a difference in his/her community.

RSM ISENBERG ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP - presented to a sophomore intending in good academic standing and of strong moral character.

EY ENTREPRENEUR SCHOLARSHIP – presented to an accounting student who not only has great ideas, but also the drive to make them a reality.

PWC ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP – presented to an accounting major with outstanding academic achievement.

BECKER PROFESSIONAL REVIEW SCHOLARSHIP—a course scholarship presented to an accounting major in recognition of superior academic achievement.
SULLIVAN BILLE PC SCHOLARSHIP— presented to sophomore accounting majors who are in good academic standing.

MARCUM Accounting Scholarship - presented to an accounting major with outstanding academic achievement.

ACCOUNTING FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP – presented to a junior accounting major who has excelled academically and transferred to the University from a community college.

LOWRY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP – presented to an accounting major who has excelled academically and shown significant effort to support their education.

JAMES D. FLYNN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP—presented to a deserving accounting major who is in good academic standing.

EDWARD BROWN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP – presented to an accounting major who has excelled academically.

MARK AND KATHRYN GROFFMAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP—presented to a deserving accounting major from Hampden County who is in good academic standing.

NANCY E. AMATO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - presented to a student in accounting who has a tireless work ethic, keen insight into accounting and a warm, engaging personality.

YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP – presented to an accounting junior or senior who excels academically and has demonstrated leadership qualities and a commitment to the Isenberg School and the Accounting Department.

JEFF’S SUPER AWESOME TAX-DEDUCTABLE THROW FROM THE ONE YARD LINE AWARD - presented to a deserving junior accounting major from Essex County who is in good academic standing.

TEMPESTA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP – presented to accounting majors who excel academically.

ARTHUR H. CARTER GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD—presented to a graduate student to recognize excellence in research.

ARTHUR H. CARTER GRADUATE TEACHING AWARD—presented to a graduate student to recognize excellence in teaching.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP – presented to MSA student to recognize excellence in the program.

CLASS of 2015 COMMEMORATIVE SCHOLARSHIP – presented to a charismatic accounting student that displays a fun-loving, personable nature while maintaining excellence in the program.
Student Activities

Accounting Association
accountingassociation.umass@gmail.com

The Accounting Association is a Student Affiliate Group of the Springfield Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants. The Accounting Association sponsors a number of programs during the year. The programs include career programs featuring speakers from various firms and organizations, visitation programs, as well as social events. As members of the Accounting Association, students participate in a number of the activities of the Springfield Chapter of the IMA. Professor Richard Simpson acts as Faculty Advisor to the Association.

The Accounting Association’s annual activities include trips to local businesses where members will spend some time talking to financial personnel to understand how the daily financial operations of the businesses run; and visits to UMass Amherst by accounting and tax professionals to give presentations about their professions and places of employment. A Bulletin Board for the Accounting Association is maintained on the basement floor of the Isenberg School.

2017-2018 Officers
Alison Donoghue & Thomas Giang - Co-Presidents
Amanda Rabideau & Austin Luke– Co-Vice Presidents
Lindsay Lodespoto - Treasurer
Kevin Cai – Secretary

Beta Alpha Psi
bapumass@gmail.com

A Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national scholastic and professional fraternity for financial information professionals, was established at the University in October 1975. The primary objective of the fraternity is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field. This includes promoting the study and practice of accounting, finance and information systems; providing opportunities for self-development and association among members and practicing professionals, and encouraging a sense of ethical, social, and public responsibility. Beta Alpha Psi was founded in 1919. There are presently over 230 chapters of this honor fraternity with over 200,000 members initiated since the fraternity’s formation including many prominent accountants in public practice, industry, and government. To be eligible for induction, students must have attained a cumulative grade average and a grade average in their upper-level courses in their major of at least 3.0, in addition to other requirements. Professor Catherine Lowry acts as Faculty Advisor to the fraternity.

Typical chapter activities of the fraternity are frequent professional meetings; sponsoring presentations by representatives from the Accounting profession, private industry, government, and not-for-profit organizations; volunteer tutoring for School of Management students; community service activities; and field trips. A bulletin board for BAP is maintained on the first floor of the Isenberg School.

2017-2018 Officers
Jackie Karol & Olivia Wright - Co-Presidents
Samantha Cohen - VP of Communications
Francesca Corsaro - VP of Finance
Logan DiCarlo - VP of Competitions
Suzanne Meincke -VP of Reporting
The Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) is a student run organization that works towards empowering and developing our members as leaders of character in every sector of the global market. Our mission is to provide students with internship opportunities as early as freshmen year, to seek advice from professional alumni who have become successful in their field, and to establish a network of peers that students can rely on for support. Membership is open to anyone who shares our values, mission, and principals.

2017-2018 Officers
Adrielle Almeida - President
Penelope Martin -Vice President
Andres Villeta - Marketing Director

The mission of the University of Massachusetts NABA Chapter is to increase awareness of all business internships, jobs and career opportunities to all members of NABA regardless of race. The Chapter is to do this to their best ability, while never forgetting to always give back to the community at every opportunity. The Chapter is to hold themselves to the highest standard, in the expectation that the Chapter will last for generations to come. Above all, the chapter is never to forget its humble beginnings, and to provide a welcoming community for members to work and interact together.

2017-2018 Officers
Tatiana Preval - President
Kimberly Reid -Vice President
Hannah Cole – Secretary
Berkley Davis – Treasurer/SCREP Chairperson
Frequently Asked Questions

◊ I want to take an accounting course, but the computer says it’s either oversubscribed or I’m ineligible. How can I get into the class?

**Oversubscribed Message:** Each section of a course has a set capacity. If enrollment reaches capacity, no additional students can register on-line. If you can’t add a course on your first few attempts, keep trying. Students frequently change their schedules, so a course that is oversubscribed when you try may not be later. If the course remains oversubscribed, visit the Accounting section of the Isenberg website to find the waitlist for all of the courses.

**Ineligible Message:** Departments may put eligibility restrictions on courses to control enrollments. For example, courses may be restricted to students with senior status, or require specific prerequisites. In order to get into a class for which you are ineligible, you obtain an override form and request permission from the instructor. Instructors may ask for additional information in order to prioritize a waiting list. Instructor permission does not guarantee enrollment into the course.

◊ I filled out an override form, and my professor signed it. Why haven’t I been added to the course?

The average student has a 19-credit limit on his/her course registration. If a student is already registered for 16 credits, then an override for an additional 3-credit course can be processed easily. However, if a student is already at 17 credits, then the override will not go through until the student either files for a credit overload with his/her Academic Dean (Room 206) or drops a course. Another reason may be that the class is at room capacity and the fire code will not allow more students. Students should also be aware that a hold may be put on their schedule by their academic advisor or by the Registrar’s or Bursar’s Office. Overrides cannot be processed until these holds are removed.

◊ I need to speak with the Chair of Accounting or my Academic Dean. Where do I go?

Professor Tim Mitchell (Associate Chair) of the Department of Accounting or Joanne Hogan (office manager) can assist you with any questions regarding the Accounting curriculum, prior approvals, graduation requirements, etc. Professor William Brown is the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Matters (Room 206, Telephone 545-5610). Common questions to her office concern Isenberg requirements, credit overloads, course changes after Add/Drop deadline, etc. If you are uncertain about whom to contact ask the office manager in the Department of Accounting will refer you to the appropriate person.
◊ How do I choose an advisor?

You will be assigned an advisor by the department. Notification of the assignment will be at the first advising meeting after you declare your major and will also be posted on SPIRE. At any point in time you may change your advisor by coming to the Accounting departmental office.

◊ I can’t connect with my advisor. Is there anyone else who can answer my questions?

Contact Prof. Mitchell (Associate Department Chair) or another member of the Accounting Faculty. Please do not rely on other students for counseling, as their interpretation of a requirement may not be correct. You are free to change your advisor at any time, just come to the department office.

◊ I think I have an exam tonight. When and where is it?

Department offices are not usually notified of exam dates, times, and rooms. Many faculty post this information on their web site, syllabus, or office doors, but if this has not been done, you must either locate your instructor or another student in the class.

◊ Are there any scholarships for Accounting majors and where can I get an application?

When the Accounting Department receives information about scholarships, faculty are asked to announce them in class and direct students to the Department Office where application forms will be kept. The majority of the scholarships are received by the Department at the end of the Fall semester or beginning of the Spring semester. The Department has a number of recurring scholarships for which all majors are eligible. See the list of Department Awards & Scholarships sheet in this handbook. Students apply online for these scholarships. You will receive email notification from the Undergraduate Office when the on-line application is available or check the Isenberg website at www.isenberg.umass.edu.

◊ I am going on exchange. Is there anything I need to do to take courses at another school in the U.S.? In another country?

Discuss your plans with your advisor as early as possible, and at least a semester or two in advance. S/he can help you decide which courses you should take while on exchange. Always check with the Associate Department Chair (Professor Mitchell) if you wish to take an Accounting course or with the Undergraduate Dean (Room 206) if you intend to take an Isenberg requirement at another school. To assure proper transfer of credits from your exchange program, you must complete a Prior Approval form (available at the Registrar’s Office, 213 Whitmore) prior to your exchange visit. If you plan to take part in the Study Abroad Program, it is important to check with the International Programs Office, Williams S. Clark International Center, 4th Floor Hills South for the appropriate forms.
I would like to take a course during the summer at a school near my home. What is the procedure to get credit?

When you have identified courses of interest, get as much information as you can about the courses (e.g., course description, syllabi, text used, etc.) from the relevant school. This will allow the Associate Department Chair to determine if it is equivalent to a course taught here. Obtain a Prior Approval form at the Registrar’s Office (213 Whitmore), bring it and any additional information to Professor Mitchell for his approval. Submit the signed approval form to the Registrar’s Office. WARNING: If the Prior Approval form hasn’t been filed, the credits will not be transferred to UMass, and the course will not appear on your transcript.

Which courses can I take at another school, either through an exchange program, or during the summer?

While there are no specific rules in this regard, general education requirements and non-Isenberg electives are approved most readily. Acquiring approval is more difficult for Isenberg required courses, and particularly for upper-level accounting courses.

What kinds of internships are available to accounting majors? Should I try to get one?

There are numerous internships available to our students, either through our Semester in the Profession Program (SIPP), or our program for summer internships. In addition to providing students with great work experience, virtually all internships in public accounting are well paid, and most result in an opportunity to obtain a career position. Numerous internships outside of public accounting are also available. For more information, see Kim Figueroa in the Chase Career Center, Room 101.

If I have an internship with an accounting firm or an accounting department within a company, can I get academic credit for it? Can I get credit for my on-campus, or part-time job?

Academic credit for internships or co-ops must be approved in advance. To be considered for credit, the experience must have a clear link to your academic program. To receive credit, the Department requires that an academic component be included in the experience (e.g., major term paper, internship seminar, etc.). A student must have a faculty sponsor for the internship or co-op. To obtain more information on the Departmental internship policy see the Field Experience sheet included with this packet.

How do I go about getting an internship or co-op? What do I have to do to get academic credit for it? Is there a Departmental Advisor for internships/co-ops?

The Isenberg School of Management has a Director of Internships & Co-Ops, Kim Figueroa. Her office is located in the Chase Career Center, Room 101, telephone 577-0418. She can provide you with information about internship and co-op opportunities. Any
internships or co-ops for which you desire to obtain credit must be discussed in advance with the Department Chair.

◊ **What is an Independent Study and how do I sign up for one? How many credits can I get for it and will it count toward required courses for the Accounting major?**

An independent study is reserved for the extensive study of a special topic of interest to you, or for a course, which the Department does not offer on a regular basis. You must first identify a faculty sponsor and meet with that sponsor to design a program of study. You must complete an Independent Study Contract form (available in the Department Office), signed by you, your faculty sponsor, and approved by the Associate Department Chair.

The contract must include a detailed project/course outline. The approved form is kept in the Department office to be used as support for submitting a grade and clearance for graduation. This process should take place at the start of the semester so that an override can be processed to add the course during add/drop period. Generally, (1) the independent study is limited to a maximum of three credits, and (2) such credits are not counted toward required courses for the Accounting major. Exceptions are granted if circumstances warrant.

◊ **What is a Practicum, and will it count toward required courses for the Accounting major?**

A practicum is a field experience or other non-course activity which qualifies for credit based upon prior approval of the Department. A practicum is a mandatory pass/fail course carrying variable credits. It will not count as part of the required courses for the Accounting major.

◊ **I have already completed all of the required courses for the Accounting major. Can I take an additional accounting course pass/fail?**

Yes.

◊ **Why do I have to take non-business electives in addition to completing the Gen Ed requirements? Which non-business electives should I take?**

The purpose of Gen Ed courses and non-business electives is to contribute to making our students “well rounded,” by allowing them to experience some of the many interesting disciplines across the campus. While you may choose certain electives because you think they will help you in your career (e.g., public speaking, interpersonal skills, computer science), you should take some non-business electives simply because you are curious about them and you want to learn more. Further, if a particular non-business field of study interests you, you might consider a minor in that area.

◊ **How many non-business electives do I have to take?**

The important point to remember is that all majors in the Isenberg School are required to complete at least 60 non-business credits - General Education and elective courses.
combined - in order to graduate. Once you have fulfilled your Gen Ed requirements, any additional courses taken with a Gen Ed designation will count as non-business electives.

◊ I want to take more than 19 credits this semester. What should I do?

Go to the [Undergraduate Programs Office’s website](http://www.isenberg.umass.edu/undergrad/For_Current_Students/Common_Forms/Credit_Overload/) and complete a course overload request form for approval of a credit overload.

◊ Where do I find my major GPA?

Go to your [Academic Requirements Report](http://www.isenberg.umass.edu/undergrad/For_Current_Students/Common_Forms/Credit_Overload/) on SPIRE and look under the section for major requirements.

◊ I think the grade my instructor gave me is incorrect. What should I do?

Speak to your instructor. There is the possibility of a miscalculation or that something was overlooked. If that is the case, then the instructor will process a Change of Grade form. If the instructor feels that the grade is correct and you are not satisfied with that decision, you should speak with the Associate Department Chair (Professor Mitchell) to discuss your circumstances.

◊ What are my career options if I don’t want public accounting?

There are many career options other than public accounting available to accounting majors. These include working in the accounting or finance area of private companies, working for a federal or state government agency (e.g., IRS examiner, FBI agent), and working as an accountant for a not-for-profit organization. For more information on these different careers, see the information included under the Undergraduate Program in Accounting heading on the Department’s Web site: [http://www.isenberg.umass.edu/accounting/Undergraduate/Jobs_Careers/](http://www.isenberg.umass.edu/accounting/Undergraduate/Jobs_Careers/)

◊ Data sheets for job interviews ask for my cumulative average in accounting. How is it calculated?

The following courses are included in the accounting major gpa:

- Accounting 321 or Sch-Mgmt 521
- Accounting 322 or Sch-Mgmt 522
- Accounting 311 or 312
- Accounting 441
- Management 361 or 362 or Accounting 483
- Two upper-level Accounting electives: 311*, 312*, 331, 361, 370, 371, 423, Sch-Mgmt 514, 575, 585, 591I (*Can count as an elective if not used to satisfy another requirement).

You can locate your major gpa on your academic advisement report on SPIRE under Section V. BBA in Accounting.
◊ **How do I know if I’m cleared to graduate?**

The Undergraduate Programs Office receives a list of students to clear for graduation approximately one month prior to the actual graduation date. The May graduation list is usually received around the end of April. It is at that time that each student’s record is carefully evaluated for Isenberg and Department requirements. If there is a question on a requirement, an email is sent from that Office to the student indicating the deficiency in question, and asking the student to come in to discuss it. To ensure that your requirements are met, you might try any or all of the following options: (1) **At the start of your senior year**, you should make an appointment with your advisor to plan your last two semesters. Unfortunately, some students wait until add/drop period is over or come in a week or two prior to graduation to find out if they are cleared and are quite upset when they find out that they are missing a requirement. (2) **Refer to your Academic Requirements Report.** It gives you a good indication of where you stand in terms of University, School, and Department requirements. If you are unsure of something, ask a faculty member or an administrator. (3) **Check with Diploma & Graduation Services in the Registrar’s Office, Room 209 Whitmore.** Their primary function is to work with students and departments to clear all seniors for graduation.

◊ **How do I change my graduation date?**

Any student can change your graduation information through SPIRE, under Graduation > Graduation Data and clicking on “Change expected graduation term”. You can also change your diploma name and diploma address here.

◊ **I received a letter stating that I cannot graduate because I have not fulfilled my department requirements. Why didn’t anyone notify me sooner?**

At any time you can access your Academic Requirements Report on SPIRE to check your degree requirement progress. At the time a student chooses a major, an advisor is assigned. Each semester, students are encouraged to meet with the Academic advisor prior to registering for their next semester courses. Faculty members post counseling sheets on their office doors for students to sign up for an appointment. The Accounting Department does not have the resources to notify students far in advance to prevent potential problems. Students must assume primary responsibility in their graduation process. Students are welcome and encouraged to see their advisor any time they have the need.

◊ **There is an error on my Academic Requirements Report. Where do I go to get it corrected?**

If you have questions regarding the School of Management requirements, go to the Undergraduate Program Office(Room 206). Questions regarding Accounting Department requirements should be referred to the Accounting Department Office.
I only need one course to graduate. Do I have to come back to the University for an additional semester or is there some way I can take the course near my home?

Select a course at a college in your area and get a detailed description (especially important if you are trying to take an Accounting course). Submit this information to the Department Chair. If the course is approved, obtain a Completion of Senior Year in Absentia form at the Registrar’s Office, 209 Whitmore. Complete this form, and have it signed by the Department Chair and Academic Dean. It serves as an agreement between the student and the University to grant the degree when the course has been completed and the credits transferred.

If I’m not in Beta Alpha Psi, can I still go to their presentations? Do I have to wear a suit to the presentations?

Any student may attend a BAP event. Some events require professional attire, but others do not. For further information see the bulletin board maintained by Beta Alpha Psi located outside Room 130 Isenberg School.

What is the Annual Accounting Banquet all about, and why should I go if I’m not getting an award?

The Annual Accounting Banquet is an annual event sponsored by the Accounting Department at an elegant facility for all its students and faculty to enjoy an evening in a relaxed atmosphere. School administrators attend, as well as a number of alumni and representatives from accounting firms, private industry, and accounting organizations.

Many recruiters attend to meet with their new hires and talk to students who will be in the job market in the near future. A number of students have arranged job interviews and obtained internships during the social hour. Students are encouraged to bring along family members to meet their friends and faculty. The highlights of the evening are the buffet and dessert table as well as entertainment by the faculty. When you receive your invitation in the spring, we hope that you will join your friends and faculty for a fun evening.

Does the Accounting Department offer or recommend a CPA review course? How do I find out where and when they are held?

The Department does not offer a CPA review course. There are many excellent courses available to students. The Massachusetts Society of CPAs website contains this list of CPA Review Exam Courses:

- Kaplan CPA Review, [http://www.schweser.com](http://www.schweser.com), 1-800-272-2329
How do I go about sitting for the CPA exam? Where can I get an application and what are the deadlines?

Beginning April 5, 2004, the Uniform CPA Examination will be delivered in a computerized format at over 300 Prometric test centers across the United States. The exam will be offered up to six days a week, during two out of every three months throughout the year. To take the CPA Examination, a candidate must apply to the board of accountancy from which he or she is seeking a CPA certificate. Application forms and information may be obtained from the respective state board of accountancy. Visit www.nasba.org and select CPA exam and Massachusetts as the jurisdiction or contact information for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is:

Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy
239 Causeway Street
Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 617-727-1806
Fax: 617-727-0139
http://www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/pa

The Massachusetts Society of CPAs provides an excellent web site that includes information on careers in accounting and the specific requirements for taking the CPA exam in Massachusetts. Contact information for the Society is:

Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, Inc.
105 Chauncy Street 10th floor
Boston, MA 02111

Toll free: 1-800-392-6145
Phone: 617-556-4000
Fax 617-556-4126
http://www.mscpaonline.org

I’ve heard that there is now a 150-hour requirement for CPA certification. What is the 150-hour requirement? Does it mean that I will have to complete 150 semester hours to graduate as an accounting major?

It’s an education requirement to qualify for CPA certification. In Massachusetts, after July 1, 2002, you will be required to have completed 150 semester hours at the college level to be certified as a CPA in the state of Massachusetts. The 150-hour requirement has nothing to do with the requirements for a bachelor’s degree. The BBA degree with a major in accounting will continue to require 120 semester hours.
◊ **What if I intend to sit for the CPA exam in another state, or to accept a career position at an office located in another state?**

Certification requirements vary from state to state. You are subject to the regulations of the state in which you become certified and practice. You should become aware of the requirements of that state. Regulatory authority lies with State Boards of Accountancy. You can access the web sites of all of the State Boards through the Department’s Website (http://www.isenberg.umass.edu/accounting/CPA_Examination/). If you have any questions, speak with your advisor.

◊ **How can I complete the Massachusetts 150-Hour requirement while at UMass?**

The Department offers a Master of Science in Accounting Program for qualified students, designed to accommodate the needs of individuals first entering the accounting profession. Courses are offered in-residence during a summer session (15 credits) and online during the fall and spring semesters. Thirty credits are required to earn the degree. Students must complete the four three-credit courses offered during the summer. The remaining credits needed for the degree can be selected from among the other courses and modules. Students preferring a fast-track can complete the degree in as few as seven months.

◊ **Do I have to complete a master’s degree in order to meet the 150-hour requirement?**

No. While there are certain advantages to meeting the 150-hour requirement by completing a master’s of accountancy degree, an advanced degree is not required. There are several ways to complete the requirement. Please see the Massachusetts CPA Requirements Sheet included in this packet, and consult with your faculty advisor.
SAMPLE DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY FORMS
# ACADEMIC CONTRACT

COMPLETED CONTRACTS ARE DUE TO OUR OFFICE BEFORE ADD/DROP ENDS. RETURN ALL COPIES.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Spire ID#</td>
<td>Organization Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credits Completed</td>
<td>Cum GPA</td>
<td>Expected Grad Date</td>
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<td>(City) (During your internship) (State) (Zip)</td>
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<td>Email</td>
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<td>(City) (State) (Zip)</td>
<td>On site supervisor</td>
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<td>Supervisor Phone</td>
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<td>Supervisor email</td>
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<td>Start Date / End Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Schedule</td>
<td>Days of Week/ Time of Day (i.e. Tu, Th, 9 - 2)</td>
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## 1. Academic Proposal

(to be completed by student--READ REVERSE CAREFULLY) Attach additional pages as needed.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Registered</th>
<th>Department &amp; Course #</th>
<th>#Credits</th>
<th>Schedule #</th>
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II. Credit Confirmation

(to be completed by faculty sponsor(s)--SEE REVERSE)

I support the proposal and agree to sponsor this student for:

<table>
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<th>Semester Registered</th>
<th>Department &amp; Course #</th>
<th>#Credits</th>
<th>Schedule #</th>
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Directions for Completing the Academic Contract

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

I. Academic Proposal (to be completed by the student)

The Academic Contract should clarify the academic content and expectation of the placement for the student, faculty and agency supervisor. Your faculty sponsor must approve the academic content of your placement and will assign certain academic projects for you to complete to demonstrate what you have learned. We suggest you discuss your proposal with your sponsor before completing the contract.

Include the following information in your proposal:

1. What do you want to learn and how will this relate to your academic discipline? What courses will relate to your field experience?
2. What type of experience are you seeking? In what types of activities do you hope to participate?
3. Describe your proposed academic projects (for example: research paper, journal, portfolio). Be as specific as possible.

II. Credit Confirmation (to be completed by Faculty Sponsors)

Faculty award University credits for the integration of the field experience in the workplace with the academic training received from the traditional academic curriculum.

In order to register for credits associated with Field Experience, students must be in good standing (minimum Cum GPA 2.0) and have 45 credits toward graduation at the start of their placement.

Students may earn from 1 to 18 academic credits. Credit arrangements vary among departments. University policy does not allow more than 18 of the minimum 120 graduation credits to be associated with a field experience. This includes any course registered under a 298, 398, or 498 course number. The Faculty Senate requires all students to register for Practicum numbers for all credit. (Senate Document 82-040). The choices are:

1. Department Practica:
   Most academic departments offer one or more practica under course numbers 298, 398, 498. All 298 numbers are mandatory Pass/Fail; higher numbers may be Pass/Fail or graded by department choice. Departments specify the number of credits available, up to a maximum of 15. The faculty sponsor must be a faculty member of the department they are authorizing credits for. Semester credits are registered by the department.

2. University Practicum 298Y:
   University Practicum 298Y credit is non-departmental. It applies toward graduation credit, butdoes not satisfy University General Education requirements and does not normally satisfy departmental requirements. UMass 298Y is a mandatory Pass/Fail course. Semester credits are registered by Career Services.

   If UMass 298Y credits are elected, the faculty sponsor's department chairperson or liaison with the Field Experience Program must also sign the academic contract.

The faculty sponsor(s) must assign the course number(s). A faculty signature is required for each course number assigned.

Summer and Intersession credits are registered through Continuing Education. Registration materials will be given by the Field Experience representative when the Academic Contract is submitted. Payment must be made directly to Continuing Education, is calculated on a per credit basis, and is subject to Continuing Education deadlines.
INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACT
Isenberg School of Management
This is NOT a University Registration Form

Independent Study courses should be academic course work only.

Instructions:

1. Please fill out ALL information requested below. Type all responses and attach them to this form. The responses are the product of discussions with the instructor who has agreed to supervise the Independent Study effort.

2. After all signature approvals are obtained, distribute one copy to the supervising instructor, one to the Department Head, and retain one copy for your records. Changes in this contract may be renegotiated but final approval must be granted by the Instructor, Department Head and the Academic Dean.

3. Bring the signed copy of this form to the Department Office (Accounting room 359)

4. All Independent Study courses for credit must be approved by the Department Head and the Academic Dean.

5. The number of credits that may be earned for an Independent Study vary from one to six. Usually these courses are worth three credits, however only in an unusual case should the credit hours granted exceed three.

Please type or print clearly

Subject: ___________________ Catalog Number: _______________ Class Number: _______________

Name: ___________________ Major: ____________ Credits: _______________

Spire ID Number: _______________ Semester: ___________________

Email Address: ____________________________

Sponsoring Instructor: ____________________________________________________________

Attach on a separate sheet of paper, complete answers to the following questions:

1. What is the nature and scope of the Independent Study? Specifically, what topics are to be covered and what resource materials (textbooks, articles, etc.) are required?

2. How (written exams, term paper, etc.) are you going to be evaluated? Explain fully.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

Student: ___________________ Date: ___________________

Instructor: ___________________ Date: ___________________

Department Head: ___________________ Date: ___________________

Academic Dean: ___________________ Date: ___________________
PRIOR APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER COURSE WORK

This form is to be used by students who wish to take credit(s) at another institution and transfer them to UMass Amherst to meet degree requirements. This form is NOT to be used by Seniors who wish to complete any part of their senior year in absentia. See the back of this form for more instructions.

Name_________________________Student ID Number_________________________Major_________________________Exp. Grad. Term_________________________

Mailing Address_________________________Phone_________________________

Courses will be taken at ___________________________Semester & year courses will be taken ___________________________

Entrance (Matriculation) Term ___________________________City and State ___________________________

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Carefully and completely read all information on the back of this form.
2. Review your Academic Requirements Report to confirm outstanding requirements, then discuss your plans with Transfer Credit Staff (213 Whitmore, 545-0555, press option 2).
3. Take this form to your department and obtain authorized signature(s) for any course you want to use to satisfy your major and/or college requirements.
4. Submit the completed form (including all signatures) to the Undergraduate Registrar’s Office, 213 Whitmore Administration Building.
5. When you have completed the course(s), forward an official transcript from the college/university to:
   RECORDS AREA, Undergraduate Registrar’s Office, 213 Whitmore Administration Building, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-8250.
   Courses must be completed with a grade of “C-” or better to be transferable.

6. Important Notes: UMass policies governing repeated courses do not apply to courses taken at other institutions. No UMass residence credits are awarded for transfer work. Also, grades for transferred courses are not computed into the UMass GPA.

This section must be completed by the student. This section must be completed by Transfer Credit Services. Student Group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPT. (at other school)</th>
<th>COURSE NUMBER (at other school)</th>
<th>TITLE OF COURSE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
<th>TRANSFER EVALUATED GEN ED</th>
<th>GEN ED NOTE*</th>
<th>UMASS EQUIVALENT DEPT/CRSE</th>
<th>TRANSFER EVALUATOR APPROVAL</th>
<th>WILL FULFILL MAJOR RQMT</th>
<th>WILL FULFILL COLLEGE RQMT</th>
<th>EQUIVALENT UMASS COURSE FOR MAJOR/ COLLEGE RQMT</th>
<th>ACCEPT FOR ALL IN FUTURE TOO?**</th>
<th>SIGNATURE OF FACULTY ADVISOR OR COLLEGE OFFICIAL APPROVING SUBSTITUTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

* This Gen Ed can be satisfied with one 4-unit course or two 3-unit courses. Since this course carries 3 units, it only satisfies part of the requirement.

** Put a Y in this column if this transfer course should be accepted routinely in future for this requirement, so you won’t need to approve the exception again.
PRIOR APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER COURSE WORK
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

Is This the Correct Form for You?

Don't use this form:
- for international exchange programs during the fall or spring semesters. Contact International Programs Office, Hills South (fourth floor), to obtain an International Prior Approval Form.
- if you are a senior completing your final requirements or any portion of your senior year in absentia (at another school). Contact the Diploma & Graduation Services in the Registrar's Office, 213 Whitmore, to obtain a Prior Approval for Completing Senior Year in Absentia form.
- if you will be taking the courses through UMass Amherst Continuing and Professional Education or the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. In most cases, that work will automatically be incorporated into your undergraduate record at UMass.
- if you've been dismissed. Dismissal voids this form. You must be reinstated by the Committee on Admissions and Records before any course work can be posted to your UMass record.

How to Obtain Credit for Transfer Courses

1. Obtain course and schedule information from the college/university you are interested in attending. Decide which courses you wish to take and check that they will be offered when you plan to take them. Write down the complete course numbers and their department names, as you will need this information in the next step.
2. Review your Academic Requirements Report to confirm outstanding requirements, then discuss your plans with Transfer Credit Services (213 Whitmore, 545-0555, press option 2).
3. Complete and submit a Prior Approval Form before registering for course work. (See notes above about whether this is the correct form to use.)
   - Read the instructions on the front carefully to identify how to fill in this form and to whom it must be submitted for approval.
   - After your Prior Approval Form has been reviewed and signed by the appropriate individual(s), it should be forwarded to the Registrar’s Office, 213 Whitmore.
4. When you complete the courses, forward an official transcript for that course work to the Registrar’s Office. Your Prior Approval Form will be compared to the transcript. If they match, and your course grade is “C-“ or better, the transfer credit will be added to your UMass Amherst record, provided you have not already been awarded the maximum number (75) of transfer credits.

GENERAL TRANSFER CREDIT GUIDELINES

How is Credit/Gen Ed Awarded?

1. A course is generally transferable if it is:
   a) offered at a school that has regional academic accreditation at the post-secondary level (consult other school’s catalog), and
   b) similar in scope and content to a course offered at UMass Amherst, and
   c) completed with a grade of "C-" or better.
2. Gen Ed is generally awarded to:
   a) introductory courses which are broad in scope and offered at the Freshman and Sophomore levels.
   b) courses which have equivalents at UMass which carry Gen Ed designations.

Courses not usually transferable include technical, vocational or skills courses (e.g., auto engine repair, personal financial management, computer keyboarding) and co-ops. Any internship or practicum needs extensive documentation and special review by the student’s UMass major department.

Important Notes:

1. R1 - Courses with a UMass Amherst equivalent of MATH 011 may be taken to satisfy the R1 requirement, but the credits are not transferable toward graduation from UMass Amherst.
2. Quarter hours and other credit systems will be converted to semester credits using the appropriate conversion factor.
3. Students matriculated in Fall 2010 or later have some Gen Ed requirements that must be satisfied with one 4-unit or two 3-unit courses. Consult your Academic Requirements Report to confirm your requirements.
PRIOR APPROVAL FOR COMPLETING SENIOR YEAR IN ABSENTIA
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

This form should be used when a student intends to complete his/her final degree requirements (or do any portion of his/her senior year) at another institution, including any other UMASS campus, or with CLEP credits.

IMPORTANT: Read the guidelines (next page).

PLEASE NOTE: COMPLETION OF THIS FORM DOES NOT GUARANTEE GRADUATION. STUDENTS MUST CHECK THEIR GRADUATION STATUS WITH THE DIPLOMA & GRADUATION SERVICES STAFF IN THE REGISTRAR’S OFFICE PRIOR TO REGISTERING FOR IN ABSENTIA COURSEWORK.

1. Are you planning to complete your degree requirements in absentia through: □ CLEP credits □ Transfer Credits □ Both

2. _______ Graduation credits at UMass at start of this program of study

3. _______ Total credits you will earn in absentia (If school is on quarter hrs, 1 Qtr = .66 Credits; Northeastern Qtr = .75 Credits)

4. _______ Total credits (add your answers to 2 & 3)

5. _______ Present Cumulative Average

6. College/University where course(s) will be taken:
   Name: ____________________________
   Address: __________________________

7. Dates for proposed study:
   From: ____________ To: ____________

8. Do you expect to graduate after completing the course(s) listed below? ____ yes ____ no

9. □ Check here if you will be attending this college/university through an approved UMass Exchange Program.

10. On the left section of the chart below, list the course(s) you plan to take at this college/university for transfer back to UMass for inclusion in your program of study. Note that you must earn a grade of C- or better for the course to transfer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT EQUIVALENT</th>
<th>FOR THIS STUDENT ONLY</th>
<th>GENERAL UMASS EQUIVALENT</th>
<th>ADMISSIONS GEN ED APPROVAL</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

   The student completes this section

   The department completes this section, if course is to be counted towards major/school requirements

   The Transfer Evaluator in Admissions will complete as needed

11. Now take this form to your department and school for review of your status and completion of the charts above and below. When completed, the back copy of this form will be returned to you for your records. Have a good semester in absentia!

   This section to be completed by the student’s department and, as appropriate, by the college. If the student has multiple majors, the second major should add their annotations and signature to the charts above and below.

   Department Requirements (check one):
   □ Have been satisfied previously.
   □ Will be satisfied by completion of courses initialed above.
   □ Will remain to be satisfied after completion of courses above.
   Student is not cleared to graduate.

   Signature of Authorized Faculty: ____________________________ Date: ____________

   College Requirements (check one):
   □ Have been satisfied previously.
   □ Will be satisfied by completion of courses initialed above.
   □ Will remain to be satisfied after completion of courses above.
   Student is not cleared to graduate.

   □ BS degree □ BA degree

   Signature of Academic Dean/Advisor: ____________________________ Date: ____________
PRIOR APPROVAL FOR COMPLETING SENIOR YEAR IN ABSENTIA

GUIDELINES:

1. This form can be used only after a student has accrued 90 or more credits and should be used in conjunction with an End of Semester Withdrawal Form, unless attending an approved UMass Exchange Program.

2. All courses taken at other institutions, including any other UMass campus, must be approved by the major department and the academic dean. If there is any change in the proposed program of study, a revised prior approval should be submitted with all appropriate signatures. In some circumstances, the Admissions Office Credit Evaluator or the Office of International Programs may also need to approve the program.

3. To be awarded UMass credit for a transfer course, the student must earn a grade of "C-" or better; however, the grade will not be computed into the student's cumulative average here. If the course is a repeat of a course already taken, the credit will count only once. Also, we are not obliged to accept any course that has not been approved through the prior approval process.

4. Reminder for transfer students: A minimum of 45 credits in residence is required for a degree from UMass Amherst. Thirty of these credits must have been taken on the Amherst campus in an undergraduate degree-granting program (not Continuing Education or Stockbridge School).

5. Though credits from most official exchange programs will count as residence credits and their grades will not be figured into the average, there are some exceptions. The exceptions are: Oviedo Italy, Siena Italy, Salamanca Spain, Oxford England, and ICHA-Brig/HRTA Switzerland.

6. It is the student's responsibility to see that an official transcript of all work completed elsewhere is sent to UMass. You will not receive transfer credit without the transcript; this will block your graduation if you need credit for the courses to graduate.

RECORDS AREA
Undergraduate Registrar's Office
213 Whitmore Administration Building
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-8250
USA

7. As they complete their sections of this form, departments and the academic dean should retain a copy of this form. When all approvals on this form are completed, the Registrar's Office will provide a copy to the student.

8. Before submitting this form, please verify the status of your degree requirements in SPIRE.