

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Why should I choose ETSU for my M.Acc.?

ETSU's M.Acc. program not only is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), but also is accredited by the premier business school accrediting agency, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Less than a third of US business schools and only 20% of business schools worldwide meet the rigorous standards of AACSB. Additionally the accounting programs at ETSU have a separate accounting accreditation.

How many courses are there in the M.Acc. program?

The M.Acc. program includes 6 core accounting courses (18 credit hours), 3 core business courses (9 credit hours), and two electives (6 credit hours) for a total of 11 courses or 33 semester credit hours.

When are the courses offered?

The M.Acc. courses are offered in the late afternoon (4:00 – 7:00 pm) and evening (7:00 – 10:00 pm). ACCT 5110 and ACCT 5610 are offered in the Fall semester. ACCT 5010 and ACCT 5427 are offered in the Spring semester. ACCT 5510 is offered in the Summer semester. ACCT 5890 is offered every semester. The business core courses are offered almost every semester.

How long does it take to complete the M.Acc. program?

Students who go to school full-time usually take 9 hours per semester. Students who work full-time usually take 3 to 6 hours per semester. The time to complete the program depends on your work schedule and the number (if any) of foundation courses required. Taking two courses per semester, the program may be completed in six semesters, about two years.

Exactly what courses are required for the M.Acc.?

Eleven courses are required to complete the M.Acc. (excluding any foundation courses needed). Nine of the courses (27 hours) are required core courses, and two of the courses (6 hours) are electives. The required core courses are as follows:

ACCT 5010	Seminar in Financial Accounting I
ACCT 5110	Seminar in Managerial Accounting
ACCT 5427	Federal Income Taxes II
ACCT 5510	Seminar in Accounting Regulations
ACCT 5610	Seminar in Auditing
ACCT 5890	Professional Accounting Experience
A Business Strategy Course	
BADM 5140	Data Analysis and Modeling
BADM 5220	Global Business

What is ACCT 5890, Professional Accounting Experience?

ACCT 5890 is the capstone course for the M.Acc. In the course, students prepare for professional certification. Most students prepare for the CPA exam. If a student already has his or her CPA, the student may prepare for the CMA or other professional exam. In order to enroll in ACCT 5890, a student must have taken all of the core courses or be taking them concurrently with ACCT 5890 and have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

What electives can M.Acc. students take?

M.Acc. students may take any business courses that are offered at the 5000 level. Generally, it is recommended that students complete ACCT 5410, Seminar in Tax Research. Students who want to take a non-business elective must receive prior permission from the College of Business and Technology's Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

What if I do not have an undergraduate major in business?

Non-business undergraduate majors may need to take up to eight foundation courses. Which, if any, foundation courses you need will be determined by the M.Acc. advisor based upon an analysis of your transcripts and the courses you have taken previously.

What are the foundation courses?

In order to help non-business undergraduate majors successfully complete the M.Acc., foundation courses are required in the areas in which a student does not have adequate preparation. The foundation courses cover the areas of accounting, economics, finance, management, marketing, statistics, quantitative methods, and legal and social environment.

How do I know if I need foundation courses?

The M.A. advisor will determine the number of foundation courses you need after an analysis of your transcripts.

How do the foundation courses relate to undergraduate business courses?

ACCT 5000, Essentials of Accounting, is the equivalent of two undergraduate accounting courses – principles of financial accounting and principles of managerial accounting.

ECON 5000, Essentials of Economics, is the equivalent of two undergraduate economics courses – microeconomics and macroeconomics.

ECON 5010, Essentials of Statistics, is the equivalent of two undergraduate statistics courses.

FNCE 5000, Essentials of Finance, is equivalent to an undergraduate course in business finance.

MGMT 5010, Essentials of Management, is equivalent to an undergraduate course in business management.

MKTG 5010, Essentials of Marketing, is equivalent to an undergraduate course in business marketing.

MGMT 5020, Legal and Social Environment, is equivalent to an undergraduate course in legal and social environment. (It is not equivalent to a business law course.)

MGMT 5030, Quantitative Methods, is to two undergraduate courses in decision science and production and operations management.

If I have to take several of the foundation courses, is there any way I can receive more than just academic credit for them?

The College of Business and Technology offers a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration. To receive the certificate, a student must apply for the GCBA program, be accepted, and complete five approved foundation courses.

We encourage students who did not major in business as undergraduates to apply for the GCBA in addition to the M.Acc. The GCBA does not require a GMAT score for admission. For more information about the GCBA, call us at (423)439-5314 or e-mail Pointer@etsu.edu.

What if I do not have an undergraduate major in accounting?

Students who do not have an undergraduate major in accounting may need to take accounting foundation courses in addition to any needed business foundation courses. The accounting foundation courses are as follows:

ACCT 5000 Essentials of Accounting (or ACCT 2010 and ACCT 2020, Principles of Accounting I and II)

ACCT 3010 Financial Accounting I

ACCT 3020 Financial Accounting II

ACCT 3110 Managerial Accounting

ACCT 3410 Federal Income Taxes
ACCT 4010 Advanced Accounting
ACCT 4310 Accounting Information Systems
ACCT 4610 Auditing Theory and Practice
ACCT 4717 Not-for-Profit Entity Accounting

How do I apply to the M.Acc. program?

All applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

You will need to complete an official application. The form may be found on the ETSU web site, or a paper copy may be obtained from the Graduate School or the College of Business and Technology Graduate Office in room 214 of Sam Wilson Hall.

The application materials include the following:

A completed official application

A personal essay of 150 to 300 words

A Residency Inquiry Form if claiming Tennessee residency

One official transcript of all previous undergraduate and graduate work, except previous coursework taken at ETSU

An official GMAT score report

Payment of the required nonrefundable application fee of \$25 for domestic students (\$35 for international students)

All materials should be submitted to the ETSU Graduate School at the following address:

East Tennessee State University

School of Graduate Studies

P. O. Box 70720

Johnson City, TN 37614-1710

What do I include in the personal essay?

In your essay, tell us about yourself, why you want to earn an M.Acc. and your plans for the future. The essay should be about one page long.

Do I need to include personal references with my application?

No. The M.Acc. program does not require personal references as part of the admissions process.

What are the deadlines for applications?

The M.Acc. program has rolling admissions. The preferred application dates for Fall semester are April 29 for international students and June 1 for domestic students. However, applications will be considered as received.

What are the admission criteria for the M.Acc.?

An applicant must meet the following admission criteria:

(200 X overall undergraduate GPA) + GMAT score must be greater than or equal to 1,050, AND the overall undergraduate GPA must be at least 2.5, AND the GMAT score must be at least 450.

I have an undergraduate GPA of more than 3.0. Do I still need to score at least 450 on the GMAT?

Yes, all students must score at least 450 on the GMAT regardless of undergraduate GPA.

What if I have an overall undergraduate GPA of less than 2.5?

In the event a student's overall undergraduate GPA is less than 2.5, the GMAT score and other evaluation of the student's grades MAY be considered. Such factors as grade trends, maturity, and work experience MAY allow the student to take some foundation courses before beginning the M.Acc. program.

How do I register for the GMAT?

The GMAT web site is <http://www.mba.com>. The web site contains information about the GMAT and how to register for the exam.

What does the M.Acc. program cost?

Currently graduate tuition for business courses is approximately \$388 per credit hour for domestic students. Out-of-state students pay \$834 per credit hour. Tuition and fees may change, so check the ETSU web site for current information.

What if I need financial aid?

Financial aid is handled by the ETSU Financial Aid Office. You may contact them at (423) 439-4300.

A limited number of Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Scholarships are available on campus. Within the College of Business and Technology, an application is required. Please contact the CBAT Graduate Office in room 214 of Sam Wilson Hall for an application. You may contact us by mail at East Tennessee State University, College of Business and Technology, Graduate Studies, P. O. Box 70699, Johnson City, TN 37614 or by phone at (423)439-5314.

Exactly what are Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Scholarships?

A Graduate Assistantship waives your tuition (but not fees) each semester and pays you \$750 each month for the eight months of the academic year. In return, you will work for the university 20 hours per week doing such activities as grading papers, helping professors with their research, data entry, and other jobs.

A Tuition Scholarship waives your tuition (but not fees) each semester. In return you work for the university 8 hours each week of the academic year.

What if I have more questions?

Dr. Gary Burkette is the M.Acc. advisor. He may be reached by phone at (423) 439-4432 or by e-mail at Burkette@etsu.edu. If you have questions and are unable to reach Dr. Burkette, please call (423) 439-5314.