

# Master of Accounting

The Master of Accounting (MAcc) degree is a professional graduate degree program designed to help an individual meet the challenges of a career in accounting, whether public, private, or governmental. The program structure is flexible enough to serve these multiple objectives:

- Increase a person's preparation for initial entry into the accounting profession;
- Aid in preparation for accounting certification exams;
- Improve the chance of promotion in an existing accounting career or to facilitate changing career paths; and
- Provide economical continuing education opportunities for accounting professionals.

*All graduate and undergraduate business degree programs at Kennesaw State University are accredited by AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (<http://www.aacsb.edu>). The accounting degree programs also hold specialized AACSB accounting accreditation.*

## Mission Statement Michael J. Coles College of Business

The Coles College of Business strives to provide high quality, applied business education in a collegial, intellectually stimulating, and supportive learning and working environment. Committed to innovative pedagogy and continuous improvement, the college seeks to offer undergraduate and graduate programs of study that connect theory to practice, promote critical thinking, and engage students in active and collaborative learning. Predominantly serving working residents of metropolitan Atlanta and the broader Northwest Georgia region, we aspire to prepare our students to provide effective and ethical business leadership in an increasingly complex, technologically sophisticated and interdependent world. We select and retain a diverse and talented pool of faculty

and staff who uphold the professional standards of their respective disciplines. Consistent with our mission, Coles College faculty produce quality applied, discipline-based and learning and pedagogical scholarship. We treat individuals with integrity and respect. Faculty and staff are provided opportunities for training, development, and career enhancement.

Revised February 23, 2004

### **General Requirements for Admission to the MAcc Program**

Admission to the MAcc program is limited to holders of baccalaureate degrees in any field of study from an institution accredited in a manner acceptable to Kennesaw State University. Admission will be granted only to those persons showing high promise of success in graduate accounting study.

The Coles College of Business Graduate Admissions Committee determines the eligibility of each person who applies for admission to the MAcc program.

- Baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited in a manner accepted by Kennesaw State University.
- Minimum cumulative adjusted grade point average of 2.80 on a 4.0 scale.
- Minimum total score of 500 on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT).
- Minimum of two years of significant business experience is strongly desired.
- When there is a conflict in the indicators of success from the GPA and GMAT, exceptions may be made if the applicant's educational background, excellence in performance in outside activities, creativity and leadership, or accomplishments in business and professional activities are sufficient to indicate success in the program. At a minimum, a professional résumé, two letters of recommendation and a personal statement of objectives will be required to determine the appropriateness of an exception.
- See additional requirements for International applicants on page 19.

### **Transfer Credit**

Students may transfer nine semester hours of graduate courses taken at an AACSB accredited institution, provided the transfer hours are made prior to the last 27 hours of course work. Special hardship cases, such as job transfers, will be decided on an individual basis by the program director.

The transfer of credit for course work completed at another institution will be approved only under the following conditions:

1. The course was completed at an institution accredited by AACSB at the time of transfer.
2. A minimum grade of “B” was received in the course.
3. The course was restricted to graduate students only.
4. The content of the course corresponds to that of a course required or permitted in the student’s program at Kennesaw State University.
5. The credit to be considered for transfer will not be more than six years old at the time the student enters Kennesaw State University.

A request for consideration of transfer credit must be submitted to the director of the MAcc program by the student concerned during the first semester of residence here. The request must indicate the specific course(s) for which transfer credit is sought. A copy of the other institution’s transcript and a course description from the catalog must be submitted. A course outline may also be required.

### Grades

Expectations for satisfactory graduate level student performance are detailed in the Academic Policies section of this catalog.

In addition, those students who must take the undergraduate accounting prerequisite courses must obtain an average grade of “B” or better in those courses.

### Petition to Graduate

Each MAcc student must petition to graduate at least one semester prior to completion of program requirements. The student must visit <http://coles.kennesaw.edu/gbo> and select “Current Student Intranet,” and complete and submit the “Request for Petition to Graduate” form. The Graduate Business Office will prepare a petition and e-mail it to the student’s KSU e-mail account. Directions on filing the petition with the Office of the Registrar are included.

### Admission Criteria for Non-Degree Students

Accounting professionals seeking to take courses to meet continuing education requirements and others who wish to earn graduate credit by taking MAcc courses, but who do not wish to work toward a MAcc degree, may apply for admission as a non-degree/post-baccalaureate student. The requirements for admission to this status are:

1. Baccalaureate degree from a school accredited in a manner acceptable to Kennesaw State University, and
2. Minimum undergraduate adjusted grade-point average of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale.

In addition, any applicable course prerequisites must be met. Application is made to the KSU Office of Graduate Admissions using the same form and procedures as other applicants, as described in the catalog section on Graduate Admission Application Procedures. Degree-seeking students are given priority in scheduling and admission to classes.

### Changing from Non-Degree to Degree Status

Students who wish to work toward a MAcc degree should not enter as non-degree/post-baccalaureate students. Only in special circumstances will a student admitted as a non-degree/post-baccalaureate student be allowed to enter the MAcc program. In those rare cases where a student is subsequently accepted to the MAcc program, no more than nine semester hours completed as a non-degree/post-baccalaureate student may be applied toward the MAcc degree, and the decision of whether to allow those hours to be applied will be made on an individual basis by the MAcc program director. A student must submit a satisfactory GMAT score upon completion of nine semester hours in order to continue study in the MAcc program regardless of grades achieved in courses completed as non-degree.

### Readmission to the Master of Accounting

Any graduate student who has a break in attendance of one calendar year or more must apply for readmission to the MAcc program.

Students applying for readmission must meet all admissions criteria in place at the time of readmission. For details on readmitting, see Readmission to Graduate Study in the Graduate Admission section of this catalog.

## Master of Accounting

The Master of Accounting program is made up of four course groupings – business foundation courses, accounting prerequisites, core courses, and electives – for a total of 36 to 57 semester credit hours of undergraduate and graduate course work. All students complete 18 credit hours of prescribed core courses and 18 credit hours of accounting and tax elective courses. Some students, typically those without a bachelor’s degree in business or accounting, will have to complete up to 12 additional credit hours of foundation courses and accounting prerequisite courses. Applicants admitted to the MAcc program are advised in their acceptance letters which foundation requirements, if any, must be satisfied. All accounting prerequisites must be completed before MAcc accounting courses are begun.

### Foundation Requirements

Foundation requirements are the knowledge and skills of a broad set of business disciplines including accounting, business law, economics, finance, management, marketing, and statistics and math. Academic preparation in these disciplines is necessary prior to advanced study in business and accounting. A bachelor’s degree in business or accounting typically satisfies all foundation requirements. As an alternative, the Coles College of Business offers six two-credit-hour courses that collectively satisfy these necessary courses. The course(s) required are determined for each student based on a thorough analysis of prior academic course work transcripts.

This table summarizes the foundation requirements and options for satisfying them.

Foundation requirements are satisfied by successfully completing ...	... or by completing undergraduate course(s) with a grade of “C” or higher in ...	... which is the KSU equivalent of ...
GBA 6101-Accounting Foundations	Financial accounting and managerial accounting	ACCT 2001 and ACCT 2002
GBA 6102-Finance Foundations	Finance principles	FIN 3100
GBA 6103-Statistics and Math Foundations	Inferential statistics and algebra	ECON 3100 and MATH 1101
GBA 6201-Economics Foundations	Microeconomics and macroeconomics	ECON 2100 and ECON 2200
GBA 6202-Management Foundations	Management principles or organizational behavior	MGT 3100 or MGT 4160
GBA 6203-Marketing and Law Foundations	Marketing principles and business law and ethics	MKTG 3100 and BLAW 2200

Note: Undergraduate courses must be from an institution accredited in a manner acceptable to the Coles College of Business.

With courses scheduled in sequential five-week segments, it is possible to complete all six GBA 6000-series foundation courses in a single semester. Foundation requirements must be satisfied at the beginning of the MAcc program, typically within the first or second semester of study. Enrollment in 8000-level graduate courses is restricted until foundation requirements have been met. Grades and hours earned in the GBA foundation courses are included in computing graduate grade point average; however, none of the hours may be used to satisfy any portion of the core or elective requirements or to meet the 36-credit-hour minimum degree requirement. Admission to the MBA, MAcc, or WebMBA program is required to enroll in these courses.

### Accounting Prerequisites

Students must earn an average grade of B or better in these courses or they will have to retake any course with a grade below B. Students may not take any 8000-level accounting courses until they have satisfied this requirement.

#### Credit Hours

Required courses for KSU undergraduate students include:

ACCT 3100	Intermediate Financial Accounting & Auditing	3
ACCT 3200	Intermediate Managerial Accounting & Tax	3
ACCT 4100	Advanced Financial Accounting	3

ACCT 4150 Auditing and Assurance is strongly recommended especially for students who plan on taking ACCT 8400 Seminar in Auditing. *Descriptions of these undergraduate courses are in the KSU Undergraduate Catalog. <http://www.kennesaw.edu/academicaffairs/acadpubs/UCATINDX.html/>*

Acceptable courses for students from other institutions include three courses (nine semester hours) above the introductory accounting sequence (generally 3000- and 4000-level courses). These students should also consider ACCT 4150 Auditing and Assurance, which is strongly recommended especially for students who plan on taking ACCT 8400 Seminar in Auditing.

### Core Requirements

18

Core requirements are the knowledge and skills of the common body of business that, collectively, are essential to managing and leading organizations. Core requirements are satisfied by

(a) The following four courses are required of all students:

#### Credit Hours

ACCT 8000	Accounting Insights for Managers	3
ECON 8010	Resource Allocation and Decision Analysis	3
FIN 8020	Business Finance	3
MGT 8999	Strategic Management: An Integrative, Capstone Experience	3

Note: MGT 8999 is to be taken near or in the final semester of study. All 15 credit hours of other core courses and at least nine credit hours of elective courses must be completed prior to taking this capstone course. For permission to enroll, visit the Graduate Business Office web site at <http://coles.kennesaw.edu/gbo> Complete and submit the Request for MGT 8999 form before priority registration begins for the semester in which enrollment is planned.

AND

(b) Select any two of the following three courses:

MGT 8040	Managing the Value Chain	3
MGT 8050	Leading Work Behaviors, Effectiveness, and Change	3
MKTG 8030	Strategic Marketing	3

**ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS:** (6 courses) **18**

Elective courses are primarily to be selected from those courses with the ACCT prefix. However, with the approval of the accounting department chair, students wishing to emphasize in information systems may take up to two elective courses related to that area of study that are listed outside the ACCT sequence of courses. Such courses may be offered by the Coles College of Business (BISM prefix) or by the Master of Science in Information Systems program (MSIS; IS prefix). Permission to register for courses in the MSIS program must be obtained from the MSIS director. *Descriptions of information systems courses may be found under the Master of Science in Information Systems section of this catalog.*

Recognizing the diverse preparation needed for most accounting, auditing, and tax related careers, the Master of Accounting includes six elective courses. Students are encouraged to select those courses that will provide them the optimal preparation for their careers.

Students are encouraged to consult with academic advisors, faculty members, and work place associates as they decide on the elective courses that are “best” for them.

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 36-57****Master of Accounting Course Descriptions**

Course descriptions for all classes, including business foundation courses, all core electives, all core courses, and all accounting and tax electives, see the Career Growth MBA section of this catalog.