

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:

- To increase a person's preparation for initial entry into the accounting profession;
- To aid in preparation for accounting certification exams;
- To improve the chance of promotion in an existing accounting career or to facilitate changing career paths; and
- To provide economical continuing education opportunities for accounting professionals.

The Master of Accounting program is fully accredited by AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Mission Statement Michael J. Coles College of Business

Our Stakeholders: Students, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, local and regional governments, faculty and staff, the public, the university, the professions.

Vision: The Coles College of Business will provide high quality, applied business and managerial education in a collegial, ethical, and nurturing intellectual climate.

Mission: Our Mission is the recognition, creation and dissemination of valuable applied business and managerial knowledge to all our present and prospective stakeholders.

Distinctive Competencies: Collaboration, continuous learning, creativity, goal stretching, iconoclasm, innovation, niche provider, resource leveraging, responsiveness, technological sophistication.

Responsibilities:

To Students: Impart relevant knowledge while engendering inquiry and cultivating intellectual curiosity. Facilitate learning about relevant tools and techniques through collaborative teamwork, innovative pedagogy, and sophisticated technology. Provide cutting-edge knowledge of organizations, their processes, and their interactions in an international marketplace. Offer an array of appropriate and useful courses at locations and times which accommodate a diverse student body.

To Faculty and Staff: Attract, select and retain talented faculty and staff. Treat individuals with dignity, fairness, and respect. Provide opportunities for learning, self-development, training and career progression. Foster a climate supportive of diversity, intellectual creativity, inquiry and the quest for knowledge.

To Businesses and Other Organizations: Anticipate and supply the needs of these organizations for knowledge, as well as for informed, skilled, and well-trained work forces capable of providing the leadership to face the challenges of a technology-driven, global economy.

To Governments and the Public: Utilize societal resources efficiently and effectively in the pursuit of our goals.

To the University: Support the University's mission and commitment to providing a quality education within an open, supportive, multicultural and nondiscriminatory teaching and learning environment.

To the Professions: Uphold professional standards and norms of conduct, advance the respective professional disciplines and exceed the expectations of the affiliating academies.

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

1. Baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited in a manner accepted by Kennesaw State University.
2. Minimum cumulative adjusted grade point average (GPA) of 2.80 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Minimum total score of 500 (verbal, quantitative, and analytical) on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT). (Test requirements may be waived for applicants who have earned an advanced degree from an institution accredited in a manner acceptable to Kennesaw State University.)
4. Consideration is given to the applicant's academic record, scores on the GMAT, professional résumé, and GMAT Analytical Writing Assessment results. Additional supporting documents may be required.
5. When there is a conflict in the predictions 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, two letters of recommendation and a personal statement of objectives will be required to determine the appropriateness of an exception.
6. Valid Immunization Certificate for measles, mumps and rubella.
7. A score of at least 550 on the written TOEFL

or 213 on the computer-based TOEFL is required for all students for whom English is not the native language. International applicants must have their foreign credentials evaluated by an independent evaluation service. Course-by-course evaluations, equivalence to an accredited U.S. degree or number of years toward completion, and grade point average (GPA) equivalents are required.

Transfer Credit

Transfer credit is not accepted for any of the 36 hours of credit required for the MAcc degree, except under unusual circumstances, and then only with written permission of the MAcc program director, granted prior to acceptance of the credit.

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 a regionally accredited institution.
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.
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 a grade of "B" or better

in each of those courses. If a grade below "B" is received, the student must repeat the course until a "B" or better is received, and the student will not be allowed to proceed with the 8000-level accounting courses until this requirement is met.

Petition to Graduate

Each MAcc student must petition to graduate at least one semester prior to completion of program requirements. The student must contact the Graduate Business Office and request a petition. A petition will then be prepared and mailed to the student's home address.

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 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.

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.

Program Prerequisites

To begin graduate studies in the MAcc program, a student must have an appropriate academic background in the business disciplines in general and in accounting in

particular. A student usually can meet this requirement by having an undergraduate degree in business with a concentration in accounting from an accredited institution.

A student without an undergraduate business degree in accounting may be accepted to the MAcc program but will have to complete the program prerequisite courses listed below that have not previously been taken. All courses are three -semester hours each. **All program prerequisites in accounting must be completed before MAcc accounting courses are begun.**

Master of Accounting

Accounting Foundation Courses:

The MAcc curriculum is developed on the assumption that students will bring certain preparatory knowledge into the 8000-level courses. For those students who do not have the appropriate business foundation knowledge and skills, the Coles College offers several alternatives: (1) the student may take one or both integrated, team-taught courses, GBA 6100—Analytical Business Applications and/or GBA 6200—Exploring Contemporary Business, specially designed only for students admitted to the MAcc/CGMBA Programs, (2) the student may take approved undergraduate courses (listed below) in functional areas of business, or (3) the student may take an Advanced Standing Exam to exempt a course. Arrangements for these examinations must be made through the Graduate Business Office. Credit earned for program prerequisites, including GBA 6100 and GBA 6200, do not count toward the 36-hour minimum program requirement and may not be used to fulfill any graduate core or elective requirement.

Credit Hours

| | |
|-----------|--|
| ACCT 2100 | Introduction to Financial Accounting (3) |
| ACCT 2200 | Introduction to Managerial Accounting (3) |
| BISM 2100 | Business Information Systems and Communication (3) |
| BLAW 2200 | Legal and Ethical Environment of Business (3) |
| ECON 2100 | Principles of Microeconomics (3) |
| ECON 2200 | Principles of Macroeconomics (3) |
| ECON 3100 | Business Statistics (3) |
| FIN 3100 | Principles of Finance (3) |
| MGT 3100 | Management and Behavioral Science (3) |
| MKTG 3100 | Principles of Marketing (3) |

Program prerequisites in accounting:

Accounting prerequisites for undergraduate courses completed at KSU:

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

For undergraduate courses completed at other institutions:

Three courses (nine semester hours) above the introductory accounting sequence (generally 3000- and 4000-level courses).

The MAcc program consists of 36 semester hours of course work in three areas:

Credit Hours

CORE COURSES (All are required)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| | | 18 |
| 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 |

ELECTIVES (Select any two of the following:) 6

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MGT 8040 | Managing the Value Chain (3) |
| MGT 8050 | Leading Work Behavior, Effectiveness, and Change (3) |
| MKTG 8030 | Strategic Marketing (3) |

ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION ELECTIVES: (6 courses**) **18**

Select six graduate accounting courses (8000 level, with the ACCT prefix)

** 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 or by the Master of Science in Information Systems program (MSIS). Permission to register for courses in the MSIS program must also be obtained from the MSIS director.

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.

We encourage students 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

Master of Accounting Course Descriptions

The figures shown after the course number and title of the course signify the number of class hours per week, the number of laboratory hours per week, and the semester hours of credit for the completed course. Thus, the entry 3-0-3 denotes three hours of class, zero hours of laboratory, and three hours of credit.

All program prerequisites in accounting (ACCT 3100, 3200, 4100) must be completed with a grade of "B" or better before beginning MAcc accounting core or elective courses.

ACCT 8000. Accounting Insights for Managers. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

This course provides managers with an overview of key accounting issues, with an emphasis on concepts, tools, and international perspectives that will provide direct benefits in the workplace. Areas covered include reporting performance to stakeholders outside the entity, using accounting information inside the entity to make decisions and control behavior, and ensuring the reliability of accounting information

ACCT 8100. Theory of Business Reporting. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA program.

A study of financial accounting theory, including current and future business reporting models.

ACCT 8110. Advanced Business Reporting. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: ACCT 8100.

A study of complex business reporting topics, e.g., accounting for post employment benefits, stock compensation, and an examination of financial statement analysis techniques.

ACCT 8220. Studies in Advanced Managerial Accounting. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: ACCT 8000 or equivalent.

A study of current issues and approaches to solving comprehensive problems in the area of managerial accounting.

ACCT 8230. Studies in Accounting Information Systems. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: ACCT 8000 or equivalent.

Current issues in the area of accounting information systems including an overview of contemporary information systems technology management.

ACCT 8270. Accounting and Legal Issues in International Business. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

An introduction to accounting, control and legal issues unique to the planning, execution and evaluation of international business activities.

ACCT 8300. Seminar in Valuation of Closely Held Businesses. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: ACCT 2100, 2200 or equivalents; ECON 2100, 2200 or equivalents; FIN 3100 or equivalent.

An examination of the principles of business valuation, with an emphasis on the valuation of non-publicly traded, closely-held entities, including both corporate and non corporate businesses.

ACCT 8400. Seminar in Auditing. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to either the MAcc or the Career Growth MBA, or completion of an undergraduate course in auditing, or permission of the instructor.

A study of financial audits, assurance services, and internal audits. Emphasis is on current developments.

ACCT 8510. Tax Research and Procedure. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair or completion of one undergraduate tax course.

An introduction to the U.S. federal tax system, including research processes, tax practice, and procedural issues. This course is intended to strengthen students' problem solving and communication skills in a tax research setting. Electronic tax research services are used in the search for applicable tax authority.

ACCT 8520. Corporate Taxation. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair or completion of one undergraduate tax course.

A study of the federal income taxation of corporations and shareholders. Topics covered include corporate contributions, distributions of shareholders, stock redemptions, and corporate liquidations.

ACCT 8530. Taxation of Flow-Through Entities. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair

or completion of one undergraduate tax course. An advanced study of the federal income taxation of flow-through entities, including partnerships, S Corporations and Limited Liability Companies. Topics include contributions and distributions from a flow-through entity; reporting of profits, gains and losses; complete and partial liquidations; and the partnership special allocation rules.

ACCT 8540. Taxation of Property Transactions. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair or completion of one undergraduate tax course.

A course that focuses on the federal income taxation of owning, operating, and disposing of property. The course examines the income tax consequences of investing in real estate and other types of property, and offers, among others, an in-depth study of the passive activity loss rules, cost recovery methods, characterization and timing of gains and losses, and the nonrecognition rules governing involuntary conversions and like-kind exchanges.

ACCT 8550. Estate and Gift Taxation. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair or completion of one undergraduate tax course.

A study of federal estate and gift tax laws involved in inter vivos and testamentary transfers of property. Tax-planning techniques designed to minimize transfer taxes and ensure the orderly transfer of assets to succeeding generations are explored, as are the use of outright and charitable gifts, trusts, and generation skipping transfers.

ACCT 8560. International Taxation. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair or completion of one undergraduate tax course.

A course examining the income tax consequences of foreign income for U.S. taxpayers and of U.S. income foreign taxpayers. Topics covered include the foreign tax credit, Subpart F income, controlled foreign corporations, and sourcing rules.

ACCT 8570. Selected Topics in Taxation. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair or completion of one undergraduate tax course.

An intensive study of selected topics of current interest, which might include, among others, advanced corporate taxation, state and local taxation, deferred compensation, and accounting periods and methods.

ACCT 8900. Special Topics in Accounting. 1-3 (Repeatable).

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA, permission of instructor, and approval of program director.

Selected contemporary topics in accounting of interest to faculty and students.

ACCT 8940. Directed Studies in Accounting and Taxation. 1 to 3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA and approval of instructor and department chair prior to registration.

Special topics of an advanced or specialized nature not in the regular course offerings.

ACCT 8950. Special Projects in Accounting. 1 to 3 (Repeatable).

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA, permission of instructor, and approval of program director.

Special projects for students who wish to pursue advanced work on a particular subject in a specialized area.

ECON 8010. Resource Allocation and Decision Analysis. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

An overview of models and techniques that guide a manager's decisions regarding resource allocation. Topics include economic profit and value creation, optimization techniques, analysis of costs, transfer pricing, choice under uncertainty, foundations of risk management, real options, revenue management, statistical estimation of demand, and models of strategic decisions.

FIN 8020. Business Finance. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

The study of financial management as it affects the value of the firm in a competitive business environment. The course focuses on capital investment strategies, cost of capital, rate of return, capital replacement, valuation, and risk taking. The emphasis is on how finance theory translates into practice.

GBA 6100. Analytical Business Applications. 6-0-6.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

This class provides the non-business undergraduate with foundation business knowledge and skills in analytical (numbers and research) areas

necessary to enter and successfully complete the core MAcc and Career Growth MBA programs. It conforms to the AACSB accreditation requirements by innovatively integrating business information to cohort learning teams. It provides for faculty team coordination and delivery in classroom settings as well as using distance or distributed learning online approaches.

NOTE: Credit hours earned for this course do not count toward the 36-hour minimum program requirement and may not be used to fulfill any graduate core or elective requirement.

GBA 6200. Exploring Contemporary Business. 6-0-6.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

This class provides the non-business undergraduate with foundation business knowledge and skills in domestic and global economic environments of organizations, creation and distribution of goods and services, and human behavior in organizations, and other areas necessary to enter and successfully complete the core MAcc and Career Growth MBA programs. It conforms to the AACSB accreditation requirements by innovatively integrating business information to cohort learning teams. It provides for faculty team coordination and delivery in classroom settings as well as using distance or distributed learning online approaches.

NOTE: Credit hours earned for this course do not count toward the 36-hour minimum program requirement and may not be used to fulfill any graduate core or elective requirement.

GBA 7095. International Internship. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Completion of at least 18 hours of 8000-level MAcc courses, must be approved by the graduate business office and the coordinator of cooperative education/internships (KSU Career Services); no internship work can be completed in the student's country of legal residence or country of origin.

A supervised three-hour credit work experience of one academic semester with a previously approved business firm or governmental agency substitutes for one accounting elective. A research paper is required to receive credit. The course will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory S/U basis.

MGT 8040. Managing the Value Chain. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

The objective of this course is to learn how to maximize the overall value to the customer for the least cost possible. The value is the difference between what the final product (or service) is worth to the customer and the effort the system expends in filling the customer's request. Successful value chain management requires several decisions relating to the flow of information and products or services. Decisions fall into these three categories: (1) value chain strategy, (2) value chain planning, and (3) value chain operations. The topics include competitive scope and the value chain, the value chain and organizational structure, product/process design, capacity/inventory management, location/distribution management, quality, forecasting, shop control, cost evaluation, and their interrelationships.

MGT 8050. Leading Work Behavior, Effectiveness, and Change. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

This course explores some of the many ways in which human behavior affects how one manages and leads and ultimately how it affects individual, group, and organizational performance. The course will examine behavioral issues from both the macro level and the micro level with three principal areas of focus:

- Individual and organizational effectiveness
- Organizational behavior—what people think, feel, and do in organizations
- Leading organizational change

A conceptual understanding and knowledge of the applied consequences of these issues are requisite to understanding business matters as diverse as employee discipline policies, career development, marketing and promotion strategies, and the economics of the firm. The principal areas will be examined with a thorough grounding in theory yet with a focus on how the associated knowledge and skills may be applied to develop better managers, leaders, and global citizens.

MGT 8999. Strategic Management: An Integrative, Capstone Experience. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Completion of graduate core and one-third to one-half of electives and permission from the Graduate Business Office. Course is designed to be the final experience in the MAcc program.

An integrative capstone course designed to provide an executive viewpoint of strategy formation and management of an enterprise. Teaches how to audit and analyze complex situations

to determine the firm's strategies for long-run survival and growth in competitive markets. Examines techniques for analysis of environmental conditions and trends, opportunities and threats, resource strengths and limitations. Suggests how to plan, implement, and control organizational efficiency and effectiveness at both the strategic and operational level.

MKTG 8030. Strategic Marketing. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAcc program or the Career Growth MBA.

Development of marketing strategies and programs and their application in firm's decision-making. Examination of the impact of marketing strategies on firm's financial performance. Cases, competitive marketing simulations, and marketing plan developments will be used for application experience.

Descriptions of information systems courses may be found in this catalog under the Master of Science in Information Systems section of this catalog. Descriptions of the undergraduate courses that are prerequisites for MAcc students without an undergraduate accounting degree may be found in the KSU Undergraduate Catalog.

