Graduate Programs in Accounting
“Penn State is excited to offer the Graduate Certificate in Accounting and the Master of Professional Accounting program through Penn State World Campus. Now, students who wish to pursue a degree in accounting are not hampered by location or other life commitments.

“These programs can provide you with more in-depth knowledge of accounting to enhance your career options, as well as prepare you for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination. If you have an undergraduate degree in accounting, the master’s degree can fulfill the 150 credit hours needed for certification as a CPA in Pennsylvania and most other states.”

—Tom Amlie, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Accounting
Program Director, Master of Professional Accounting
Graduate Programs in Accounting

Master of Professional Accounting

Graduate Certificate in Accounting

The 30-credit online Master of Professional Accounting program can prepare you for a career in auditing and public accounting, industrial and managerial accounting, and governmental and not-for-profit accounting.

This AACSB–accredited degree is designed for students who have completed an undergraduate degree in accounting (or equivalent) and who wish to satisfy the educational requirements for CPA licensure in Pennsylvania and most other states. Visit the ThisWaytoCPA website to view summaries of requirements by state.

The Master of Professional Accounting program is developed and taught by experienced Penn State faculty with an array of professional, research, and teaching backgrounds.

The 12-credit online Graduate Certificate in Accounting offers you the opportunity to learn auditing theory and practice and to develop skills in disciplines of your choosing, including taxes, decision making, cost management, financial statements, and reporting. The graduate certificate program may also provide an opportunity for you to acquire accounting credits if you are pursuing CPA licensure.

All courses in the certificate may be applied to the Master of Professional Accounting degree. Students in the graduate certificate program who wish to have their courses applied to the master’s degree must submit an application and be admitted to the master’s program. Upon your admittance to the master’s program, the courses in the graduate certificate that you have completed with a grade of B or better may be applied to the requirements for the master’s degree.
Curriculum for
Master of Professional Accounting

Overview

Accountants and auditors help organizations function efficiently, maintain accurate financial records, and pay the appropriate taxes. If you aspire to play an integral role in the financial success of a business or individual, Penn State’s online accounting program can help you gain the critical education you need—without setting foot on campus.

In this comprehensive 30-credit program, you will take ten 3-credit courses. The curriculum is carefully designed to include courses that explicitly address the content critical to your successful completion of the CPA exam.

Courses

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>Auditing Theory and Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 510</td>
<td>Business Tax Planning Theory and Practice</td>
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<td>ACCT 532</td>
<td>Accounting Information and Decision Systems</td>
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<td>ACCT 545</td>
<td>Strategic Cost Management</td>
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<td>ACCT 550</td>
<td>Professional Responsibilities and Ethics in Accounting</td>
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<td>ACCT 561</td>
<td>Financial Statement Analysis II</td>
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<td>ACCT 572</td>
<td>Financial Reporting I</td>
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<td>B LAW 444</td>
<td>Advanced UCC and Commercial Transactions</td>
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<td>P ADM 523</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCTG 803</td>
<td>Capstone Course: Forensic Accounting and Litigation Support</td>
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worldcampus.psu.edu/mpacc
Curriculum for
Graduate Certificate in Accounting

Overview
Penn State’s online Graduate Certificate in Accounting is a 12-credit program that uses problem-based learning to provide a strong foundation in accounting theory and practice. To earn the graduate certificate, you must complete the prescribed 3-credit course and 9 additional credits chosen from the list of elective courses.

Prescribed Course (3 credits)
ACCT 504—Auditing Theory and Practice

The elective courses are 3 credits each; select 9 credits from the following:
ACCT 510—Business Tax Planning Theory and Practice
ACCT 532—Accounting Information and Decision Systems
ACCT 545—Strategic Cost Management
ACCT 550—Professional Responsibilities and Ethics in Accounting
ACCT 561—Financial Statement Analysis II
ACCT 572—Financial Reporting I
B LAW 444—Advanced UCC and Commercial Transactions
P ADM 523—Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting

worldcampus.psu.edu/acctcert
Why Penn State?

Proven Leadership in Quality Online Delivery

Flexibility and Convenience

Penn State knows that as an adult student, you need flexible and convenient learning options. The online learning format offered by Penn State World Campus makes it possible to fit a graduate education into your life. Though courses have fixed start and end dates with assignment deadlines, you decide when to do your course work to meet those deadlines.

Reputation

Having a Penn State degree on your résumé is a great way to broaden your career options and prove to current and potential employers that you are a well-educated professional. No distinction will be made on your official Penn State transcript or diploma that your courses were completed online. Penn State is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and has an outstanding reputation as a research and teaching university.

AACSB Accreditation

Did you know that the AACSB accreditation is the highest recognition that a business school can receive? When recruiters and business leaders see the AACSB accreditation on your résumé, they will know that you’ve received a superior education from a program recognized as one of the best in the world.

Faculty Expertise

All of the courses in the online program are designed and taught by Penn State professors. The program’s faculty are known for their exceptional credentials, research, and industry experience, which help them understand your academic needs and career interests.

Learner and Technical Support

You will interact frequently with faculty and other students. Without having to set foot on campus, you will have access to many of the same support services that resident students enjoy, including advising, course scheduling assistance, library resources and databases, and technical support.
How to Begin

Admissions decisions for the Master of Professional Accounting and the Graduate Certificate in Accounting programs are based on the quality of the applicant’s credentials relative to those of other applicants. The decisions are based on a review of a complete application portfolio.

Application Materials

Graduate Certificate

- completed graduate school application
- official transcripts from all institutions attended
- TOEFL or IELTS score, if applicable

Master’s Degree

In addition to the application materials required for the graduate certificate program, you are also required to submit:

- GPA and test scores
- official GMAT or GRE score
- references
- résumé

Note: If your undergraduate degree is not in business or accounting, you should have completed the following minimum core of accounting course work (or its equivalent) prior to applying:

- Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making (generally Principles of Accounting I, covering financial accounting, and Principles of Accounting II, covering managerial accounting, at other universities)
- Federal Taxation I (covering individual taxation)
- Cost Accounting
- Intermediate Financial Accounting I
- Intermediate Financial Accounting II
- Auditing

To determine if you have completed the necessary course work to apply to the program, contact the program office at 717-948-6441 for a consultation.

For more information about these application materials, visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/mpacc
For More Information

Contact Us
pennstateonline@psu.edu
worldcampus.psu.edu
800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)
814-865-5403 (local and international)
814-865-3290 Fax

Student Services Hours
(inquiries and registration)
8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. ET Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Admissions Counseling Hours
8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Penn State World Campus
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