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Master of Science in Accounting

The Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) degree is awarded upon satisfactory completion of a minimum of 30 credit hours and passing the end-of-program comprehensive exam. In the total plan of study a minimum of 21 credit hours of the course work must be completed in accounting/tax courses. Students, with the assistance and approval of the program adviser, may select other courses that reflect their interests.

Total Credit Hours Required

30 Credit Hours Minimum beyond the Bachelor’s Degree

Introduction

The Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) program prepares students for careers as professional accountants and consultants in public accounting, industry, financial institutions, and government & nonprofit organizations. The MSA degree, along with the appropriate prerequisite work from an undergraduate degree in accounting, helps satisfy the education requirements to become a licensed CPA in the state of Florida.

Curriculum

Please visit the Graduate Catalog to see the current curriculum for our program.

Timeline for Completion

This program can be completed on a full or part-time basis. The following is a sample schedule for completion of the program requirements on a full-time basis.

1st Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• ACG 6415 Advanced Accounting Information Systems (3 credits)</td>
<td>• ACG 6636 Advanced Auditing (3 credits)</td>
<td>• ACG 6305: Advanced Managerial Accounting (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TAX 5015 Advanced Tax Topics (3 credits)</td>
<td>• ACG 6805 Accounting Theory (3 credits)</td>
<td>• Restricted Elective 3 (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Restricted Accounting Elective 1 (3 credits)</td>
<td>• Restricted Accounting Elective 2 (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Restricted Elective 1 (3 credits)</td>
<td>• Restricted Elective 2 (3 credits)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Semester Total: 12 credit hours  Semester Total: 12 credit hours  Semester Total: 6

For the program’s required and elective course schedule, please consult with the Program Advisor.

Examination Requirements

The satisfactory completion of an end-of-program comprehensive written examination is required.

Graduate Research

UCF has three fundamental responsibilities with regard to graduate student research. They are to (1) support an academic environment that stimulates the spirit of inquiry, (2) develop the intellectual property stemming from
research, and (3) disseminate the intellectual property to the general public. Students are responsible for being informed of rules, regulations and policies pertaining to research. Below are some general policies and resources.

**Research Policies and Ethics Information:** UCF’s Office of Research & Commercialization ensures the UCF community complies with local, state and federal regulations that relate to research. For polices including required Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval when conducting research involving human subjects (e.g. surveys), animal research, conflict of interest and general responsible conduct of research, please see their website: [research.ucf.edu](http://research.ucf.edu) > Compliance.

**UCF’s Patent and Invention Policy:** In most cases, UCF owns the intellectual property developed using university resources. The graduate student as inventor will according to this policy share in the proceeds of the invention. Please see the current UCF Graduate Catalog for details: [graduatemcatalog.ucf.edu](http://graduatemcatalog.ucf.edu) > Policies > General Graduate Policies.

**Financial Support**

Students with qualifying assistantships or university-wide fellowships will receive financial packages that include an assistantship or fellowship stipend, tuition remission, and health insurance. Qualifying fellowships are accompanied by tuition waivers. Qualifying assistantships include single appointments of at least .50 FTE (20 hrs/week) or two appointments of at least .25 FTE (10 hrs/week). Tuition remission is in the form of either tuition waivers or tuition payments that cover in-state (resident) tuition. Non-resident students with financial packages are not charged out-of-state tuition or the non-resident financial aid fee.

For additional information about funding for graduate school, please visit [funding.graduate.ucf.edu](http://funding.graduate.ucf.edu).

**Key points about financial support:**

- If you are interested in financial assistance, you are strongly encouraged to apply for admission early. A complete application for admission, including all supporting documents, must be received by the priority date listed for your program under "Admissions."
- You must be admitted to a graduate program before the university can consider awarding financial assistance to you.
- If you want to be considered for loans and other need-based financial assistance, review the UCF Student Financial Assistance website at [finaid.ucf.edu](http://finaid.ucf.edu) and complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form, which is available online at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). Apply early and allow up to six weeks for the FAFSA form to be processed.
- For information on assistantships (including teaching, research, and general graduate assistantships) or tuition support, contact the graduate program director of your major.

For more information on scholarships for the discipline, visit the [College of Business Administration website](http://collegeofbusiness.ucf.edu).
For a listing of other student organizations associated with the business disciplines visit the Student Organizations webpage on the College of Business Administration website.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is UCF’s graduate organization committed to enrich graduate students’ personal, educational and professional experience. To learn more or get involved, please visit facebook.com/groups/UCFgsa/.

**Professional Development**

For information on career management, internship and job placement services for MBA and graduate business students visit the Office of Professional Development Website on the College of Business Administration website.

**Executive Development Center**

The Executive Development Center offers programs that range from broad-based professional development to topic-specific workshops. Distinguished UCF faculty and leading practitioners teach these certificate and non-degree programs that train participants in the areas of branding, finance, leadership, and strategy. For additional information, please visit https://business.ucf.edu/centers-institutes/executive-development-center/.

**Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning**

The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) promotes excellence in all levels of teaching at the University of Central Florida. To that end, they offer several programs for the professional development of Graduate Teaching Assistants at UCF.

- **GTA Training (mandatory for employment as a GTA):** This training provides information and resources for students who will be instructors in a two-day workshop. The seminars cover a variety of topics, including course development, learning theories, lecturing, and academic freedom. Those interested in additional training can also attend an optional training session that normally follows the mandatory training.

- **Preparing Tomorrow’s Faculty Program:** This certificate program (12-weeks) consists of group and individualized instruction by Faculty Center staff and experienced UCF professors. Textbooks and materials are provided. The same training as well as information regarding language immersion and tricks and cultural awareness as a way of knowing what to expect from American students.

For more information fctl.ucf.edu/ > Events > GTA Programs or call 407-823-3544.

**Pathways to Success Workshops**

Coordinated by the College of Graduate Studies, the Pathways to Success program offers the following free development opportunities for graduate students including workshops in Academic Integrity, Graduate Grantsmanship, Graduate Teaching, Personal Development, Professional Development, and Research. For more information and how to register, please visit graduate.ucf.edu/pathways-to-success/.

**Graduate Research Forum**

The Graduate Research Forum will feature poster displays representing UCF’s diverse colleges and disciplines.
The Forum is an opportunity for students to showcase their research and creative projects and to receive valuable feedback from faculty judges. Awards for best poster presentation in each category will be given and all participants will receive recognition.

The College of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Association invite all UCF students, community, and employers to attend the Graduate Research Forum. For more information, visit graduate.ucf.edu/researchforum or contact researchweek@ucf.edu.

**Graduate Excellence Awards**

Each year, the College of Graduate Studies offers graduate students who strive for academic and professional excellence the opportunity to be recognized for their work. The award categories include the following:

**Award for Excellence by a Graduate Teaching Assistant** – This award is for students who provide teaching support and assistance under the direction of a lead teacher. This award focuses on the extent and quality of the assistance provided by the student to the lead instructor and the students in the class. (Not intended for students who are instructor of record.)

**Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching** – This award is for students who serve as instructors of record and have independent classroom responsibilities. The focus of this award is on the quality of the student’s teaching and the academic contributions of those activities.

For the nomination process and eligibility criteria, see graduate.ucf.edu/awards-and-recognition/.

**Other**

Students should take opportunities to present a poster or a topic of research at a conference. To obtain financial support to present at a conference (other than through your program) or to engage in comparable creative activity at a professional meeting, visit graduate.ucf.edu/presentation-fellowship/.

For information about the Council of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) thesis and dissertation awards, see their website: csgs.org/ > Awards.

For grant-proposal writing resources: uwc.cah.ucf.edu.

**Job Search**

UCF’s Career Services department offers a wide range of programs and services designed to assist graduate students. These services include evaluation and exploration of career goals, preparation for the job search and job search resources. To learn more, visit career.ucf.edu/.

The Office of Professional Development in the College of Business Administration offers career management, internship and job placement for graduate business students. For information visit business.ucf.edu/centers-institutes/office-of-professional-development/.

The Kenneth G. Dixon School of Accounting offers an Internship Program to provide to the student an educational enhancement through professional practical experience. An internship is a three-credit accounting or tax elective in the student’s graduate program. Questions should be directed to the internship coordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Altiero Poziemski.

Office: BA I - 444  
Phone: 407.823.4420  
E-mail: altiero@ucf.edu
For information on career management, internship and job placement services for MBA and graduate business students visit the [business.ucf.edu/centers-institutes/office-of-professional-development/](http://business.ucf.edu/centers-institutes/office-of-professional-development/) page on the College of Business Administration website.

### Forms

- **College of Graduate Studies Forms and References**
  A complete listing of general forms and references for graduate students, with direct links, may be found here.
- **Graduate Petition Form**
  When unusual situations arise, petitions for exceptions to policy may be requested by the student. Depending on the type of appeal, the student should contact his/her program adviser to begin the petition process.
- **Traveling Scholar Form**
  If a student would like to take advantage of special resources available on another campus but not available on the home campus; for example, special course offerings, research opportunities, unique laboratories and library collections, this form must be completed and approved.

### Useful Links

- [Accounting MSA Website](#)
- [College of Business Administration Website](#)
- [College of Graduate Studies](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Bookstore](#)
- [Campus Map](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- [Delta Sigma Pi](#)
- [Financial Assistance](#)
- [Golden Rule Student Handbook](#)
- [Graduate Catalog](#)
- [Graduate Student Association](#)
- [Graduate Student Center](#)
- [Housing and Residence Life](#)
- [Housing, off campus](#)
- [Kenneth G. Dixon School of Accounting](#)
- [Knights Email](#)
- [Learning Online](#)
- [Library](#)
- [NID Help](#)
- [Pathways to Success](#)
- [Recreation and Wellness Center](#)
- [Register for Classes](#)
- [Registrar](#)
- [Shuttles Parking Services](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Thesis and Dissertation (ETD)](#)
- [UCF Global](#)
- [UCF IT](#)
- [University Writing Center](#)
Graduate Faculty

Asterisk = has previous committee experience, which qualifies the person to serve as chair, co-chair or vice chair.

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