

Accountancy

Department of Accounting & Finance, College of Business & Technology



Accountancy: A Signature Program of Study

The Department of Accounting and Finance is proud to provide Accounting students one of Western Illinois University's Signature Programs of Study. The Accounting program is student-centered and promotes academic excellence, professional and personal growth, collegiality, professionalism, and ethical conduct. Western's Accountancy majors may elect to complete the four-year Accountancy program that will enable them to sit for the Certified Management Accountant (CMA), Certified Fraud Examiner, and other certification examinations. Additionally, qualifying students may elect to complete a fifth year of education and earn the Master of Accountancy degree that qualifies them to meet the 150-hour requirement to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. Finally, WIU students who qualify to enter the Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Program in Accountancy may begin their graduate studies in their senior year.

The undergraduate Accountancy program is available in Macomb and the Quad Cities. In the Quad Cities, the program is delivered at the Riverfront campus and provides the region's community college transfer students the opportunity to complete their junior and senior year courses while earning a baccalaureate degree.

Accounting for a Successful Career

A degree in Accountancy from WIU's Signature Program in Accountancy prepares students for their first job and allows them to develop the knowledge and skills needed to take advantage of subsequent career opportunities. WIU alumni have careers as consultants, managerial accountants, auditors, tax specialists, financial planners, forensic accountants, controllers, financial analysts, and chief financial officers. The Accountancy degree provides an excellent background for graduate studies in law, accounting, and business. Students completing the Master of Accountancy degree have also obtained teaching positions after working in the profession or have pursued their doctoral degrees in Accountancy at major universities.

More than 40 regional, national, and international business entities regularly employ our graduates. Some of these entities include Accenture, BDO Seidman, Caterpillar, CliftonLarsonAllen, Deere & Company, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, the FBI, FS Growmark, the IRS, KPMG, McGladrey, and State Farm. Starting salaries for accountants and auditors, depending on firm size, range from \$41,000 to \$60,000. Starting salaries for graduates of the Master of Accountancy program are higher by approximately \$10,000. The Master's degree in Accountancy either is required for or facilitates promotion at many of our regular employers' firms.

Scholarships

Incoming freshmen in the Accountancy program with ACT scores of 25 or above receive a first-year award of \$1,000 in addition to any other scholarships earned. Up to 15 additional \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to Accountancy transfer students with an earned Associate's degree and grade point average of 3.5. In addition, the department awards over 30 scholarships to Accountancy majors each year at the Accounting and Finance Awards Banquet. Through the generous endowment funds and contributions of alumni and friends, the scholarships are awarded to students who are willing to meet the challenge to perform to the best of their abilities.

State-of-the-Art Accounting Education

Western is large enough to have outstanding faculty, an excellent library, and state-of-the-art computer equipment and technology but small enough so a student is not lost in a crowd. Accountancy students and their faculty mentors get to know each other in an environment that encourages a spirit of cooperation and the sharing of information and knowledge.

The Accountancy faculty are committed to excellence in teaching. Many hold doctoral or law degrees from universities, including the following: Florida, Iowa, Memphis, Mississippi State, Saint Ambrose, Saint Louis, Wisconsin–Madison, and Texas at San Antonio. Most of the faculty are professionally certified and engaged in research, service, and professional interactions.

The faculty understand the challenges and tremendous opportunities that today's professional accountants face. They strive to ensure that the students develop not only technical accounting skills but also the communication, computer, research, and analytical skills needed for career success. Working with advanced computer software, solving real-world business cases, writing reports and papers, and developing individual and team projects and presentations are all important elements of the program.



The excellence of the faculty and curriculum is recognized by the accreditation of all undergraduate and graduate programs in business by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. In addition, the department holds separate AACSB International accounting accreditation, a distinction awarded to only 181 accounting programs worldwide.

Professional and Personal Growth

The department provides students with numerous opportunities for leadership, teamwork, and collegiate competition, and it assists them with career planning and placement.

Our student organizations sponsor numerous professional and social activities. In addition to the Beta Alpha Psi chapters at each campus, the Student Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (SCIMA) in Macomb and the Society of Accountancy in the Quad Cities are actively involved in developing not only the students' professional skills but also in encouraging a commitment to community service. The QC student organizations provide free income tax assistance to qualified QC residents each year. The Zeta Beta chapter has been recognized as a "Superior Chapter" by the national Beta Alpha Psi organization for each of the last 26 years. In 2012, the IMA named WIU's student chapter (SCIMA) one of the top three chapters in the country for the seventh consecutive year. In addition, WIU became the first school to win the IMA's prestigious Clark Johnson Achievement Award twice with our innovative team building project.

Special Opportunities

Successful Western alumni and other practitioners often visit our campuses to discuss their own experiences and available career opportunities. Internships with a wide variety of businesses, accounting firms, and nonprofit organizations are available to interested students. Through the on-campus career fairs, students learn about the diverse job and internship opportunities open to Accountancy majors.

As the global business community grows, international travel and study programs are available to those who would like to acquire valuable cross-cultural experience and/or language skills. Students can go abroad for a semester or participate in short-term programs, ranging from two to six weeks. These experiences make our graduates more valuable to employers—a definite benefit in career advancement.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and individual appointments can be made on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Appointments with advisers, faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged separately during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. You may schedule your visit or tour online at wiu.edu/admissions by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU (742-5948) or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

Contact

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