The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program at Western Illinois University is designed to develop outstanding graduates who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to enter the accounting profession and meet future career challenges. The WIU Department of Accounting and Finance provides a student-centered environment that promotes academic excellence, professional and personal growth, a spirit of collegiality, and ethical and professional conduct. The faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and is engaged in research, service, and professional interactions to benefit the University, the accounting profession, and the community.

**Master of Accountancy**

Western Illinois University is one of only 181 schools worldwide to achieve accreditation by the AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – for its undergraduate and graduate programs in business and accounting. The degree builds upon the broad framework of the undergraduate degree in Accountancy. Graduate Accounting courses emphasize current accounting topics, critical thinking, case studies, accounting theory, and written and oral communication. Class sizes are limited to encourage close interaction between the professor and the student. In addition, the student is allowed to tailor coursework in accounting and business to meet his or her educational and professional goals. A program may be designed to prepare the student for an accounting career in public accounting, industry, government, financial management, or accounting education.

**Admission Requirements**

In addition to meeting the general admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies, admission to the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program requires a GMAT score of 500 or above, with scores at or above the 25th percentile in both the verbal and quantitative sections and a score of 4 or above on the written portion. An acceptable combination of undergraduate grade point average and total GMAT score is also required. Specifically, either 200 × GPA + GMAT must be at least 1,100, with a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75, or 200 × GPA + GMAT must be at least 1,150 with a minimum GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours (st) of undergraduate courses.

The GMAT requirement is waived for students with an undergraduate major in Accountancy, having an overall GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) from an institution with AACSB international accreditation. Applicants with a bachelor’s degree in business from an AACSB accredited institution, with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.60 or higher (on a 4.0 scale), will not be required to take the GMAT exam. International students must also have minimum scores of 550 PBT or 79 IBT on the TOEFL. All application materials and supporting documents must be received before an admission decision is made.

**MAcc Degree Requirements**

The MAcc program requires the completion of 30 sh, of which a minimum of 15 sh must be graduate-level Accounting courses. The challenging core curriculum consists of courses in financial, managerial, and international accounting, and auditing. In addition, several courses outside the discipline are required to provide the student with a diverse, integrated learning experience. These courses are available in, but not limited to, the areas of finance, management, economics, marketing, and information systems and decision sciences.

**Integrated BB/MAcc Accountancy Program (IAP)**

Western offers a unique Integrated Bachelor of Business/Master of Accountancy Program (IAP). The IAP is oriented toward preparation for careers in professional accountancy and is available for students currently enrolled in the undergraduate Accounting program at Western. The IAP is strongly recommended for students interested in a plan of study designed to gain eligibility to sit for the CPA exam. To be admitted to the IAP, students must have completed 60 sh or more, achieved junior-level standing in Accounting courses, and earned a minimum GPA of 3.25 in each of the following: cumulative undergraduate, overall major, and Accounting courses within the major. Students enrolled in the IAP are able to

- earn six graduate semester hours in their senior year
- waive the GMAT
- apply for special scholarships reserved for IAP students
- sit for the CPA exam upon completion of the program

Additionally, upon reaching graduate status, IAP students will receive special consideration for graduate assistantships, which provide a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver.

**Benefits of Achieving a Master’s Degree**

- According to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, “the additional academic work needed to acquire the technical competence and develop the skills required by today’s CPA is best obtained at the graduate level.”
Studies show that students who get a graduate education have a substantially higher rate of success on the Uniform CPA Exam.

MAcc degree holders receive starting salaries that are approximately 10 to 20 percent higher than the starting salaries of those with only a bachelor’s degree.

Today’s MAcc holders are successfully performing the roles of business advisors, consultants, CFOs, and CEOs. The U.S. Department of Labor expects accountants to experience growth in the coming years. The bureau’s 2014-2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook estimates 13 percent growth in accounting and auditing jobs from 2012 to 2022, adding that job candidates with professional designations, especially CPAs, should have the best prospects. Applicants who have a master’s degree in Accounting also may have an advantage.

According to the 2014 Salary Guide from Robert Half, when presented with the choice, employers are giving preference—and higher salaries—to professionals who have obtained specialized credentials. The CPA remains the most sought-after designation, and a master’s degree is commonly preferred for senior-level accounting and finance positions.

Accreditation
Western has earned accreditation in both business and accounting by the AACSB International, designating WIU as among the best business schools in the world. Less than one-third of U.S. business schools and only 15 percent of business schools worldwide meet the rigorous standards of AACSB International accreditation.

Assistantship Opportunities
The department has a limited number of graduate assistantships available that provide a tuition waiver and a monthly stipend during the fall and spring semesters, and a tuition waiver during the summer sessions. The graduate assistant’s duties range from providing assistance to undergraduate students in the accounting tutor lab to aiding faculty in grading and/or research projects.

Applications are available online at wiu.edu/grad/forms/assist.pdf.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Internship Opportunities
Internships often assist students in differentiating among career paths and provide students with the impetus to complete coursework with a clearer concept of the relationship between academic pursuits and professional development. MAcc graduates have been placed at firms including, but not limited to, John Deere & Co., Caterpillar, Deloitte, McGladrey & Pullen, CliftonLarsonAllen, BDO Seidman, and Accenture, after completing an internship with that particular firm.

Contact Information
For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact Susanna Pendergast, graduate coordinator, Department of Accounting and Finance, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1152, SD-Pendergast@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/accountancy.