Master of Science in Accounting

Expected Launch Date: September 2012

For more information, please contact:

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Features:
- High Quality / Affordable
- On Campus / Online
- Full Time / Part Time
UMass Lowell Manning School of Business

Mission Statement
The Manning School of Business prepares students for professional business careers in a global environment while serving as a hub of industry partnerships fostering regional economic development through education, research and outreach activities.

Master of Science in Accounting
The Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) program at UMass Lowell provides an economically affordable opportunity for qualified students to meet the licensing requirements to become Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) or to prepare for an accounting career in the corporate or government/nonprofit sectors. The MSA will prepare graduates to succeed in a competitive environment and a respected profession, one whose members continue to be in high demand from public accounting firms, financial institutions, industry, government agencies, municipalities, schools and hospitals, and charitable organizations.

Major Features
The MSA program at UMass Lowell offers several features that potential applicants will find very attractive.

- The cost of the program is less than half the cost of similar programs at private institutions, making it far more affordable.
- The online component of the program (most/all courses will be available online) allows students in distant areas, or students with demanding schedules, to take courses without making the time and travel commitment required by a classroom course.
- The program can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis, thereby allowing students to work if necessary while they attend school.

Target Audience
The primary audience for the MSA will be undergraduate Accounting majors who are seeking the required 30 credits beyond the bachelor’s degree to be licensed as a CPA or who wish to acquire an additional academic credential to be more competitive in the job market. A secondary audience is non-Accounting undergraduates who, after taking five prerequisite undergraduate courses (15 credits), will then complete the MSA in preparation for an Accounting career.

Admission Requirements
- GPA - Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (overall); comparable Accounting GPA.
- GMAT (500+); can be waived if the undergraduate GPA is at least 3.5 at an AACSB-accredited school and upon receipt of a recommendation by a faculty member; GMAT can also be waived for students in the UMass Lowell Plus 1 Program with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- Successful completion of all other University admissions requirements including three letters of recommendation and School of Business TOEFL minimums.
- Exceptions or modifications to the above will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- An internship or other relevant employment in the field is strongly encouraged, either before or during the program.

Academic and Graduation Requirements
Academic and graduation requirements are similar to those of the MBA program.

- No more than six course credits with grades below a B may be counted toward the MSA.
- No graduate degree will be awarded to any student whose overall cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0.
- Other policies, as contained in the UMass Lowell graduate catalog, will also apply as appropriate.
- The MSA program can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis.
- For a full-time student, the 10-course, 30-credit program can typically be completed in one calendar year (e.g., four courses in the fall, four in the spring, and two in the summer).
- Part-time students will obviously proceed at a slower and more varied pace (on average, about three years).
- The School will accept up to six graduate credits from other AACSB institutions on a case-by-case basis.
- On a case-by-case basis, the School will also allow students from other programs/schools to earn up to six credits in the MSA program.
Curriculum

For undergraduate Accounting majors, the MSA curriculum consists of 10 courses (30 credits), five in Accounting and five electives (two of which are recommended to be in Accounting); for undergraduate non-Accounting majors, this program is preceded by five undergraduate prerequisite courses (with grades of B- or better) representing key foundation material in Accounting. These prerequisite course credits will not count toward the MSA degree.

UMass Lowell MS Accounting Curriculum Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration Courses (5 courses required)</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60.601 Accounting Information for Management Decisions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.640 Corporate Financial Reporting I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.622 Globalization and Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.623 Relevant Accounting Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.621 Tax Effects of Business Decisions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal - Concentration Credits Required</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective Courses (5 courses required)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60.603 Accounting Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.655 Advanced Auditing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.602 Advanced Management and Sustainability Acct.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.641 Corporate Financial Reporting II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.645 Fraud Examination and Forensic Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.650 International Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.630 Taxation of Business Entities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various Other graduate elective courses (with approval of the MSA Coordinator) in Entrepreneurship, Finance, International Business, Management, Marketing, and MIS/OIS.</td>
<td>3 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal - Elective Credits Required</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum Summary

| Total number of courses required for the degree                       | 10      |
| Total credit hours required for the degree                           | 30      |

Prerequisite or Other Requirements:

- Students without an undergraduate degree in Accounting must complete five prerequisite undergraduate courses (15 credits), not listed above, before beginning the 30-credit MSA program.
- At least two of a student’s first four courses must be from the five Concentration Courses listed above.
- It is recommended but not required that at least two of a student’s Elective Courses (listed above) be in Accounting.
Faculty

The full-time School of Business faculty includes 10 Accounting and about 30 non-Accounting members, including Entrepreneurship, Finance, International Business, Management, Marketing, and MIS/OIS. See the list of full-time Accounting faculty at the end of this overview.

Accreditation

The UMass Lowell Manning School of Business undergraduate and graduate programs are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the most prestigious organization worldwide for the accreditation of business schools.

MSA vs. MBA

Currently, the national minimum requirements to be licensed as a CPA indicate that a student may sit for the CPA exam after earning 120 undergraduate credit hours (about 30 of which must be in specific areas) but may be licensed as a CPA only after earning an additional 30 credit hours, for a total of 150. A typical undergraduate college degree includes about 120 credit hours. Therefore, although there is some flexibility as to the content of the additional 30 credits, students interested in becoming CPAs must obtain the additional 30 credits either randomly or as part of an organized graduate degree program.

Most MBA programs offer only a limited number of courses in Accounting and, although this is an acceptable way to obtain 30 credits, many students look for programs that offer more Accounting courses, not only to help them complete the CPA licensing requirements, but also to enhance the skills that they can apply in their respective professional positions. The UMass Lowell MSA program fulfills that need. The MSA provides opportunities for additional coursework in Accounting, but it also allows students to elect courses within other School of Business departments to achieve a wider level of exposure and/or pursue a complementary area of academic interest (such as Finance, MIS, or Management).

UMass Lowell 2011-2012 Full-Time Accounting Faculty

Professor Monty Carter  
BS – Penn. State Univ.  
MBA – Univ. of Akron  
Ph.D. – Kent State Univ.

Assoc. Professor Janie Casello-Bouges  
BS – Northeastern Univ.  
MST – Bentley Univ.  
Ph.D. – UMass Amherst  
CPA - Massachusetts

Assoc. Professor Stephen Collins, Chair  
AB – Boston College  
MSA – Northeastern Univ.  
Ph.D. – Boston College  
CPA - Massachusetts

Professor Charles Feeney  
BSBA – Boston College  
MBA – Northeastern Univ.  
MST – Bentley Univ.  
LPD. – Northeastern Univ.  
CPA - Massachusetts

Assoc. Professor John Hamer  
BSBA – UMass Lowell  
MBA – Texas A&M Univ.  
Ph.D. – Texas A&M Univ.

Assoc. Professor George Joseph  
BCom. – Univ. of Calcutta  
MBA – Pittsburg State Univ. (KS)  
Ph.D. – Temple Univ.  
Charted Accountant - India

Professor Khondkar Karim  
BCom. – Univ. of Dhaka  
MCom. – Univ. of Dhaka  
MSA – Eastern Michigan Univ.  
DBA – Mississippi State Univ.  
CPA - Mississippi

Asst. Professor Yuansha (Annie) Li  
BA – Central Univ. of Fin. & Econ. (China)  
MS – Lancaster Univ. (UK)  
Ph.D. – Hong Kong Baptist Univ.  
CPA - China

Assoc. Professor Sherre Strickland  
BS – Lamar Univ.  
MBA – Lamar Univ.  
Ph.D. – Lamar Univ.  
CPA - Texas

Asst. Professor Stefanie Tate  
BS – Wake Forest Univ.  
Ph.D. – Michigan State Univ.  
CPA - Virginia

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