

# Accounting, MAcc

**Specialization(s):** Professional Accountancy; Taxation; Personal Financial Planning

**Department:** School of Accountancy

**College:** Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

## Overview

### About This Degree

The master of accounting in the Huntsman School of Accountancy is designed for students who have the desire to elevate their professional opportunities. Most students in this program aspire to become Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and join the ranks of the most trusted and recognized financial services profession in the world. The MAcc program builds upon the undergraduate accounting curriculum to provide students with the enhanced ability to research, analyze, and communicate on various accounting and taxation issues.

The MAcc curriculum is focused on preparing students to become CPAs. Most states, including Utah, require CPA examination candidates to complete a 150-hour program of accounting study in order to sit for the exam. The master of accounting at USU is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and meets the educational requirements for all National Association of State Boards of Accountancy-affiliated state boards of accounting.

Accounting graduate students have earned a national top-10 ranking. USU ranked eighth in the nation for students who pass the CPA exam on their first try, according to the NASBA. Only three schools have ever been in the top 10 for two consecutive years. For the past several years, approximately 90% of MAcc graduates had accepted employment offers by the time of their graduation.

Additionally, a student accounting organization called Beta Alpha Psi has won the Superior Chapter Award for 32 consecutive years – the longest streak in the nation.

## Career Options

Graduates who pass the CPA exam work in the following areas:

### Professional Accountancy and Taxation Specializations

- The Big Four accounting firms as auditors, tax consultants, and public accountants
- Large regional accounting firms or local firms
- Government agencies

### Personal Financial Planning Specialization

- Financial planners

## What it takes

### Admissions Requirements

Applicants generally have undergraduate degrees in accounting or other business areas. The department will consider exceptions, but the student must fulfill the core requirements or equivalent of USU's undergraduate accounting program.

### Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on all sections of the GMAT
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

## Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following deadlines:

- Fall semester – July 1
- Spring semester – October 1
- Summer semester – March 1
- March 1 is also the deadline for financial assistance

## Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the MAcc by pursuing the following option:

- The **Plan C** option does not involve a thesis or a defense meeting and is comprised of coursework only.

## Financial Assistance

The department offers 16-18 scholarships based on the admissions criteria for the MAcc program. There are also approximately 10 teaching assistantships and 5-6 research assistantships. These [assistantships](#) are part time, requiring 10 hours of work a week for the department. Students are provided with a salary of \$1,600 and out-of-state students may receive a [tuition award](#) for the nonresident portion of tuition upon meeting the qualifications. These assistantships can be renewed for up to two semesters.

A variety of funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), and [travel support](#).

## Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Accounting**.

## Contact

### Advisor(s)

#### **Bonnie Villarreal**

Lecturer, MAcc Director & Advisor, Beta Alpha Psi Advisor

**Office:** BUS 518

**Phone:** (435) 797-3958

**Email:** [bonnie.villarreal@usu.edu](mailto:bonnie.villarreal@usu.edu)

### Faculty

#### **Jeffery Doyle**, PhD, University of Michigan

Associate Professor

**Area:** Financial accounting, capital markets

**Office:** BUS 512

**Phone:** (435) 797-2882

**Email:** [jeffrey.doyle@usu.edu](mailto:jeffrey.doyle@usu.edu)

#### **Rosemary Fullerton**, PhD, University of Utah

Associate Professor

**Area:** Cost accounting practices, accounting information systems

**Office:** BUS 514

**Phone:** (435) 797-2332

**Email:** [rosemary.fullerton@usu.edu](mailto:rosemary.fullerton@usu.edu)

**Vance Grange**, PhD, University of Texas – Austin  
Associate Professor  
**Area:** Financial planning, tax  
**Office:** BUS 505  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2702  
**Email:** [vance.grange@usu.edu](mailto:vance.grange@usu.edu)

**Richard Jenson**, PhD, University of Utah  
ATK Thiokol Professor  
**Area:** Accounting systems, business analytics  
**Office:** BUS 506  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2335  
**Email:** [richard.jenson@usu.edu](mailto:richard.jenson@usu.edu)

**I. Richard Johnson**, PhD, University of Wisconsin  
Professor  
**Area:** Financial reporting, real estate issues  
**Office:** BUS 516  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2337  
**Email:** [i.r.johnson@usu.edu](mailto:i.r.johnson@usu.edu)

**Jack Peterson**, MBA, Utah State University  
Senior Lecturer  
**Area:** Financial accounting  
**Office:** BUS 510  
**Phone:** (435) 797-8352  
**Email:** [jack.peterson@usu.edu](mailto:jack.peterson@usu.edu)

**Jay Price**, BBA, University of Wisconsin  
Arthur Andersen Executive Professor  
**Area:** Financial, governmental, and business combinations  
**Office:** BUS 520  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2993  
**Email:** [jay.price@business.usu.edu](mailto:jay.price@business.usu.edu)

**Franklin Shuman**, MA, Utah State University  
Principal Lecturer  
**Area:** Financial, managerial, governmental, and business combinations  
**Office:** BUS 502 B  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2339  
**Email:** [frank.shuman@usu.edu](mailto:frank.shuman@usu.edu)

**Dale Siler**, JD, Golden Gate University  
Lecturer  
**Area:** Business law, tax  
**Office:** BUS 515  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2330  
**Email:** [dale@hao-law.com](mailto:dale@hao-law.com)

**Chris Skousen**, PhD, Oklahoma State University  
Assistant Professor  
**Area:** Accounting  
**Office:** BUS 504  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2429  
**Email:** [chris.skousen@usu.edu](mailto:chris.skousen@usu.edu)

**Clifford Skousen**, PhD, Golden Gate University

Interim Department Head of Management  
**Area:** International, managerial, and financial accounting  
**Office:** BUS 508  
**Phone:** (435) 797-2331  
**Email:** [cliff.skousen@usu.edu](mailto:cliff.skousen@usu.edu)

**Nate Stephens**, PhD, University of Arizona  
Assistant Professor  
**Area:** Auditing, corporate governance and internal controls over financial reporting  
**Office:** BUS 503  
**Phone:** (435) 797-8016  
**Email:** [nate.stephens@usu.edu](mailto:nate.stephens@usu.edu)

**Larry Walther**, PhD, Oklahoma State University  
Department Head  
**Area:** Financial accounting, business combinations  
**Office:** BUS 511  
**Phone:** (435) 797-8697  
**Email:** [larry.walther@usu.edu](mailto:larry.walther@usu.edu)

## Get Involved

### Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

**Financial Planning Association:** FPA is a leadership and advocacy organization connecting those who provide, support, and benefit from professional financial planning. FPA represents a promise of financial well-being, hoping to create a world where everyone thrives and prospers.

**Institute of Management Accountants:** IMA is the worldwide association for accountants and financial professionals working in business. It is committed to helping its members expand their professional skills, better manage organizations, and enhance their careers.

**Beta Alpha Psi:** BAP is a national accounting honors society. The Delta Omega Chapter at Utah State University has a renowned tradition of excellence with BAP; it holds the nation's longest succession of winning the Superior Chapter Award at 32 consecutive years. BAP's primary focus as an organization is on service and professional development.

### Labs, Centers, Research

**Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence:** This center aids students in the creation of new organizations that promote independence and self-sufficiency and make significant contributions to the communities in which they operate. Some of the resources offered include a lecture series, tools for assessing business opportunities, branding services, web design, programming, student competitions, mentoring programs, marketing tools, workshops on critical topics, corporate partners, and funding sources for new ventures.

**Entrepreneurship Research Group:** Founded in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, the Entrepreneurship Research Group is based on the notion of engaged scholarship and administered as a scholarly think tank. The Research Group is a nationally recognized consortium of university scholars, corporate leaders, and qualified undergraduate students dedicated to high-quality research experiences who contribute to the business profession.

**Huntsman Field Studies:** As part of the field studies experience, students and faculty work together to provide consulting for companies and non-profit organizations in exchange for a modest financial contribution to the school. The program typically provides a variety of consulting opportunities from which to choose, such as marketing research, supply chain issues, establishing lean management systems, organizational design, employee satisfaction surveys, international business, entrepreneurial projects, and corporate strategy.

**Partners in Business:** Partners in Business professional business seminars feature speakers from the cream of the business and academic worlds. Seminars cover current and compelling business issues and provide in-depth

training and continuing education for business professionals. Top-notch business students from USU are actively involved in coordinating seminars and running various aspects of the Partners program.

**Small Enterprise Education and Development Program:** SEED gives USU students an opportunity to work with people in developing economies. Students teach workshops about business principles, including tracking sales, and how to identify costs, manage cash, and develop a business plan. At the conclusion of the training, participants may be awarded funding by an external company. USU students continue to work with the funded businesses, helping them grow.