ACCOUNTING

Mihaylo College of Business and Economics

INTRODUCTION

Accounting is often referred to as "the language of business." Very generally, the accounting process is concerned with recording, classifying, reporting and interpreting the economic data of an organization. These data are important to users, who may include managers, investors and other interested groups. Accounting helps in decision-making processes by showing how resources have been used and where commitments have been made, by judging performance, showing the implications of following different courses of action, determining the effects of taxation and providing a level of assurance to investors. Reliable information in a dynamic business environment is necessary for sound decisions concerning the allocation of scarce resources. Thus, accounting plays a very significant role in our social and economic systems.

Programs in accounting are designed for students interested in careers in public accounting, corporate financial management, industry, government or service organizations, and for students who intend to work for advanced degrees in accounting in preparation for teaching and research.

Cal State Fullerton has the only accounting program in Orange County separately accredited by the AACSB International at the undergraduate and graduate level. This assures a rigorous program, a well-qualified faculty, high standards for students and access to an extensive library system and computing facilities.

LEARNING GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following goals and learning outcomes have been established for students pursuing degrees in accountancy, business administration and taxation:

Problem solving and critical thinking skills
• Effectively use quantitative/analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking skills in a business situation

Interpersonal relations
• Motivate self and others to achieve group and organizational goals
• Diagnose and resolve conflict in group and organizational settings

Ethical awareness
• Demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues and responsibilities

Functional knowledge
• Understand and appreciate the principles and roles of each of the major business disciplines and the interrelationships of these disciplines within a strategic framework

Multicultural awareness
• Appreciate diversity and understand how workforce and market diversity challenge, benefit and influence the activities of the organization

DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Betty Chavis

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PROGRAMS OFFERED
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration
Concentration in Accounting
Joint Emphasis in Accounting and Finance
Joint Emphasis in Accounting and Information Systems
Master of Science in Accountancy
Master of Science in Taxation
Master of Business Administration
Concentration in Accounting

FACULTY
Information technology skills
- Use information technology to support business analysis and operations

Global awareness
- Understand the impact of the global economy and business environment

Economic and legal environment knowledge
- Demonstrate knowledge about the economic and legal environments in which business operates

Communications skills
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills to communicate effectively about business issues using written and oral communications

Teacher Credential Program Information
The Department of Accounting offers courses that may be included in the Single Subject Waiver Program in Business. Further information on the requirements for teaching credentials is contained in the Teacher Credential Programs section of this catalog.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
See "Business Administration Degrees, Accounting Concentration."

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTANCY (30 UNITS)
The curriculum for a master's degree in accountancy is designed for students with an undergraduate degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. In addition to nine units of required accounting courses, there are nine units of accounting electives, nine units in an area other than accounting, and a terminal research-project course. Students not holding an undergraduate degree in accounting or business are welcome to apply but will have additional requirements to satisfy as described below in the Curriculum section.

Most graduate courses in the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics require "classified MCBE status" and are open only to students with classified standing in the MBA, M.S. in Accountancy, M.S. in Taxation, M.S. in Information Systems, or M.A. in Economics programs.

Admission Requirements
Admission is competitive. Students must meet the CSU requirements for admission to a master's degree program. Please consult the Graduate Admissions section in this catalog for complete information. In addition, applicants will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Satisfactory score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Students must score in the top 50 percent on the verbal, quantitative and analytical writing areas;
2. A bachelor's degree with a major in business administration and a concentration in accounting (equivalent to the degree and concentration as offered at CSUF) with at least an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B). The degree must include calculus and software applications equivalent to passing MATH 135 and ISDS 265 with a "C" (2.0) or better. Courses in the major are to be no more than seven years old, and courses in the accounting concentration no more than five years old. Courses in the major (including the accounting concentration) must have at least a 3.0 (B) GPA, and courses with grades lower than "C" (2.0) must be repeated. Applicants who have a bachelor's degree in a field other than Business Administration with a concentration in accounting may be considered for admission. If admitted, such students will be required to complete additional courses or demonstrate proficiency as described in the next section (Curriculum);
3. A minimum score of 570 on the paper exam, or 90 on the internet based (iBT) TOEFL is required (for international students); and
4. A recommendation from the Accountancy Admissions Committee based upon a review of the above requirements, the student's "Statement of Purpose" and prior work experience.

Additional coursework may be required of admitted students who holistically satisfy the criteria but are weak in one of the above areas.

M.S. Accountancy Curriculum
Students admitted without a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (with a concentration in accounting) will be required to satisfy the following requirements either prior to or during their residency at CSUF.

1. All students admitted with a business degree with a concentration other than accounting must complete the following accounting prerequisite courses: ACCT 301A, 301B, 302, 307 and 308. These accounting prerequisite courses must be completed with at least a 3.0 (B) GPA, with a "C" (2.0) or better for each individual course. Courses with grades lower than "C" must be repeated. These requirements are in addition to the Study Plan as described below.

2. All students admitted with a bachelor's degree in a field other than Business Administration will be required to take (or demonstrate proficiency in) the following courses/academic topics either prior to or during their residency at CSUF: MATH 135 and ISDS 265; business foundation courses (ACCT 510, ECON 515, and MGMT 339); and accounting prerequisite courses (ACCT 301A, 301B, 302, 307, and 308). These courses must be completed with at least a 3.0 (B) GPA, with a "C" (2.0) or better for each individual course. Courses with grades lower than "C" must be repeated. These requirements are in addition to the Study Plan as described next.
Study Plan

At least 24 of the 30 units required for the degree must be at the 500 level. A 3.0 (B) GPA is required in study plan courses. Any study plan course with a grade lower than "C" (2.0) must be repeated.

Required Courses (9 units)

ACCT 502 Seminar in Accounting Theory (3)
ACCT 505 Seminar in Auditing (3)
OR ACCT 521 Seminar in Management Control Systems (3)
ACCT 506 Seminar in Professional Accounting Communications (3)

Electives in Accounting (9 units)**

Selected in consultation with and approved by the student's program adviser. At least one course, but not more than two, must be tax-related (denoted by an asterisk in the list below) for a maximum of six units in tax-related courses.

ACCT 503, 505, 507, 508*, 518, 521, 572*, 573*, 574*, 575*, 576*, 577*, 578*, 580*

Other Electives (9 units)

Selected at the 500–level in Economics, Finance, Information Systems/Decision Science, Management or Marketing, and approved by the student's adviser. Accounting courses may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

Terminal Evaluation (3 units)

ACCT 597 Project (3)

* Tax Course
** Only with approval of adviser/chair may courses at the 400–level be used to count toward these 9 units – up to a maximum of two 400–level courses.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

See "Business Administration Degrees, MBA."

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TAXATION (30 UNITS)

The curriculum for a master's degree in taxation is designed for students with an undergraduate degree in business administration or accounting. Students not holding such degrees are welcome to apply but will have to satisfy additional requirements as described below in the Curriculum section.

Most graduate courses in the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics require "classified MCBE status" and are open only to students with classified standing in the MBA, M.S. in Accountancy, M.S. in Taxation, M.S. in Information Systems, or M.A. in Economics programs.

Admission Requirements

Admission is competitive. Students must meet the CSU requirements for admission to a master's degree program. Please consult the Graduate Admissions section in this catalog for complete information. In addition, applicants will be evaluated based on the following:

1. satisfactory score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Students must score in the top 50 percent on the verbal, quantitative and analytical writing areas;
2. a bachelor’s degree with a major in business administration equivalent to the degree offered at CSUF with at least an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) and ACCT 308 (or an equivalent course or work experience). The degree must include calculus and software applications equivalent to passing MATH 135 and ISDS 265 with a “C” (2.0) or better. Courses in the major are to be no more than seven years old. Courses in the major must have at least a 3.0 (B) GPA, and courses with grades lower than “C” (2.0) must be repeated.

Applicants with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than Business Administration may be considered for admission. If admitted, such students will be required to complete additional courses or demonstrate proficiency as described in the next section (Curriculum);

3. a minimum score of 570 on the paper exam, 230 on the computer-based, or 90 on the internet based (iBT) TOEFL is required (for international students); and
4. a recommendation from the MS Taxation Admission Committee based upon a review of the above requirements, the student’s "Statement of Purpose," and prior work experience.

Additional coursework may be required of admitted students who holistically satisfy the criteria but are weak in one of the above areas.

M.S. Taxation Curriculum

Students admitted with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than business administration and without equivalent prior coursework will be required to complete MATH 135, ISDS 265 and ACCT 308, with a “C” (2.0) or better; and also the following business foundation courses: ACCT 510; ECON 515, FIN 320 or 517, and MGMT 515. These courses must be completed with at least a 3.0 (“B”) GPA, with a “C” (2.0) or better for each course. These requirements are in addition to the Study Plan as described next.

Study Plan

At least 21 of the 30 units required for the degree must be at the 500 level. A 3.0 (B) GPA is required in study plan courses and over-all applicable coursework. Any study plan course with a grade lower than “C” (2.0) must be repeated with at least a “C” (2.0).

Required Tax Course (9 units)

ACCT 470 Tax Research, Practice and Procedures (3)
ACCT 572 Seminar in Taxation of Corporations and Shareholders (3)
ACCT 578 Seminar in Taxation of Partnerships (3)

Electives in Taxation and Related Fields (9 units)

Selected in consultation with, and approved by, the student's program adviser. Available courses include but are not limited to:

ACCT 408, 508, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 580
Other Electives (9 units)
Selected in consultation with, and approved by, the student’s adviser.
One course (3 units) in either economics or political science and two courses (6 units) in either business or non-business fields.
Terminal Evaluation (3 units)
ACCT 597  Project (3)

ACCOUNTING COURSES
Courses are designated as ACCT in the class schedule.

201A  Financial Accounting (3)
Accounting concepts and techniques essential to the administration of a business enterprise: analyzing and recording financial transactions; accounting valuation and allocation practices; preparation, analysis and interpretation of financial statements; international accounting issues.

201B  Managerial Accounting (3)
Prerequisite: ACCT 201A with a "C" (2.0) or better. Introduction to managerial accounting; product costing; budgetary control and responsibility accounting; analysis and techniques for aiding management planning and control decisions; basic income tax concepts for planning business transactions.

301A  Intermediate Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 201B and completion of all lower-division business administration core courses with a "C" (2.0) or better in each course. Corequisite: BUAD 301. Accounting theory; preparation of income statements, balance sheets and statements of accounting theory; preparation of income statement, balance sheets and statements of cash flows, and comprehensive income; IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards); present value concepts; assets, liabilities and stockholders' equity; revenue recognition and investments.

301B  Intermediate Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: "C" (2.0) or better in ACCT 301A and BUAD 301. Accounting theory; IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards); present value concepts; assets, liabilities and stockholder equity; pensions; leases; earnings per share; financial statement analysis; accounting changes and error analysis.

302  Cost Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 201B and completion of all lower-division business administration core courses, each with a "C" (2.0) or better. Corequisite: BUAD 301. Accounting information for management of manufacturing and service enterprises; cost records; cost behavior and allocation; product costing and inventory valuation; flexible budgeting; standard costs; responsibility accounting; cost planning and control; and operating decision analysis.

307  Accounting Information Systems (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 201B and completion of all lower-division business administration core courses, each with a "C" (2.0) or better. Corequisite: BUAD 301. Organization and implementation of information technology for the collection, organization, and presentation of accounting information with an emphasis on enterprise resource planning systems.

308  Concepts of Federal Income Tax Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 201B and completion of all lower-division business administration core courses, each with a "C" (2.0) or better in each course. Corequisite: BUAD 301. Federal income taxation relating to federal tax system; federal income taxation relating to individuals, corporations, partnerships, fiduciaries, and Federal estate and gift taxes.

401  Advanced Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 301B with a "C" (2.0) or better, BUAD 301. Business combinations; meaning, usefulness and methodology of consolidated financial statements; investments in non-subsidiary affiliates and corporate joint ventures; consolidated financial statements for overseas units of U.S.-based multinational companies; translations of foreign currencies, derivatives.

402  Auditing (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 301B, 302, 307, each with a "C" (2.0) or better, and BUAD 301. Auditing standards and procedures used by financial and operational auditors. Management information and computer systems, internal control, audit evidence, professional responsibilities and legal liabilities, standards of reporting financial information.

403  Accounting for Governmental and Nonprofit Entities (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 301B with a "C" (2.0) or better, BUAD 301. Fund accounting as applied to governmental and nonprofit entities; state and federal governments, municipalities, hospitals and universities. Budgets, tax levies, revenues and appropriations, expenditures and encumbrances, various types of funds, and accounting statements.

405  Forensic Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 307 and 301B with a "C" (2.0) or better. Methods to prevent and detect fraud. Current cases dealing with accounting fraud, and appropriate methods to prevent or detect fraudulent behavior.

408  Problems in Taxation (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308 with a "C" (2.0) or better and BUAD 301. Federal income tax as it applies to corporations, partnerships, fiduciaries, and federal estate and gift taxes as they apply to taxable transfers.
420 Advanced Cost Accounting (3)
Prerequisite: ACCT 302 with a “C” (2.0) or better. Advanced topics in accounting: strategic profitability analysis; cost allocation and resources; quality and Just-In-Time Inventory; and investment decisions and management control.

422 Internal Audit and Control (3)
Prerequisite: senior standing for accounting majors; departmental permission for other undergraduates and all graduate students. Survey of internal auditing principles and concepts. Intended for students who are interested in internal auditing.

445 Valuation Concepts and Topics for Accountants (3)
Prerequisite: ACCT 301B with a “C” (2.0) or better. Conceptual framework for valuation. Application of framework in a number of settings likely to be encountered as accounting professionals.

460 Seminar in Financial Statement Analysis (3)
Prerequisite: ACCT 301B with a “C” (2.0) or better. Analysis of demand and supply forces underlying the provision of financial statements; distributional, cross-sectional and time series properties of financial statement numbers; financial decision-making processes and the uses of financial statement information for decision making.

463 Financial Controls for Entrepreneurs (3)
Prerequisites: entrepreneurship concentration only; ACCT 201B, FIN 320. Accounting system design for new ventures, including budgeting, purchasing, collections, payroll taxes, safeguards against error and embezzlement, financial reports, cash management, and banking relationships. Casework, research and fieldwork with selected local businesses. Not applicable for graduate degree credit.

470 Tax Research, Practice and Procedures (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308 with a “C” (2.0) or better, BUAD 301. Methodology of tax research, including case studies; the management of a tax practice; administration procedures governing tax controversies; rights and obligations of taxpayers and tax practitioners.

495 Internship (1-3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 301A, 302, BUAD 301, each with a “C” (2.0) or better; a concentration in accounting, consent of the department internship adviser, 2.5 GPA and one semester in residence at the university. Planned and supervised work experience. May be repeated for credit up to a total of six units. Credit/No Credit only.

499 Independent Study (1-3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301, senior standing and approval of department chair. Open to qualified undergraduate students desiring to pursue directed independent inquiry. May be repeated for credit. Not open to students on academic probation.

502 Seminar in Accounting Theory (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 301B, classified MCBE status. Effects of professional, governmental, business and social forces on the evolution of accounting theory.

503 Seminar in Contemporary Accounting Problems (3)
Prerequisite: classified MCBE status. Current issues in financial reporting, including pronouncements by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Topics will change as new issues in accounting emerge.

505 Seminar in Auditing (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 402, classified MCBE status. Auditing theory and practices; professional ethics; auditing standards; Securities and Exchange Commission and stock exchange regulations; auditor’s legal liability; statement trends and techniques.

506 Seminar in Professional Accounting Communications (3)
Prerequisite: classified MCBE status. Compilation and composition of accounting reports and client presentations relating to accountants’ working papers, client engagement letters, management advisory reports and prospectuses.

507 Seminar in Accounting Information Systems (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 307 or equivalent; classified MCBE status. Case studies of computer-based accounting systems used by organizations such as universities, banks, industrial corporations and CPA firms. Accounting information, reports and internal controls.

508 Seminar in Tax Planning (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308; classified MCBE status. Substantive provisions of federal law; tax planning from a corporate viewpoint; case studies of the effect of federal tax law on business decisions.

509 Accounting for Information Technology (3)
Prerequisite: classified MCBE standing. Information processing procedures to support financial and managerial accounting processes, concepts and standards; preparation of financial statements and management reports; use of financial information for management decision making.

510 Financial Accounting (3)
Prerequisite: classified MCBE status. Accumulation, organization and interpretation of financial and quantitative data relevant to the activities of corporate business enterprises; analysis of financial reports; current regulatory reporting requirements with attention to business ethics and an understanding of global reporting issues.
511 Seminar in Managerial Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 201B or 510; classified MCBE status. Design and development of cost accounting systems; contemporary cost management concepts; measurement, analysis and use of accounting information for management decisions, with attention to ethical, global and environmental issues in today's corporate governance. Measurement, analysis and use of information contained in standard and various other cost systems for industry sectors such as manufacturing, distribution, service and retail.

518 Seminar in International Accounting (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 201B or 510; classified MCBE status. Comparative analysis of accounting principles and practices outside the United States; international financial accounting standards; current problems of international financial reporting, accounting planning and control for international operations; multinational companies.

521 Seminar in Management Control Systems (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 302 or 511; classified MCBE status. Integrative aspects of accounting, financial and quantitative data for managerial decision-making; long-term, short-term profit planning; budgetary control; cost analysis; financial analysis and planning; taxation; and transfer pricing.

572 Seminar in Taxation of Corporations and Shareholders (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308, classified MCBE status. Federal taxation relating to corporations; organizing, distributions, liquidations and reorganizations.

573 Seminar in Taxation of Property Transactions (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308, classified MCBE status. Federal taxation relating to sales, exchanges and other transfers.

574 Seminar in Taxation of International Business Operations (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308, classified MCBE status. Federal taxation relating to U.S. citizens and corporations with foreign source income and of foreign persons with U.S. source income; planning for foreign operations.

575 Seminar in Estate, Gift, Inheritance Taxes and Estate Planning (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308, classified MCBE status. Federal and California death taxes and the planning of personal estates.

576 Seminar in State and Local Taxation (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308, classified MCBE status. Application of interstate income allocations; multi-state tax compact; separate apportionment accounting; foreign country sourced income. California taxes as applied to businesses and individuals.

577 Seminar in Taxation of Employee Compensation (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308, classified MCBE status. Federal taxation relating to employee compensation including pensions and profit sharing, stock options, ESOPs, IRAs, Keoghs, maximum tax 5-year averaging, death benefits, group term life, etc.

578 Seminar in Taxation of Partnerships (3)
Prerequisites: ACCT 308, classified MCBE status. Federal taxation relating to partnerships, estates, trusts and other special entities.

580 Seminar in Taxation of S Corporations, LLCs and LPPs (3)
Prerequisite: ACCT 308. Tax consequences of electing and operating as a subchapter S corporation, including entity level taxes, distributions and computation of basis. Terminating the S corporation election and liquidations.

597 Project (3)
Prerequisite: classified MCBE status. Directed independent inquiry. Not open to students on academic probation.

599 Independent Graduate Research (1-3)
Prerequisites: classified MCBE status, approval of department chair and Associate Dean. May be repeated for credit. Not open to students on academic probation.