Master of Science in Accounting (MSA)

Overview

The MSA program offers you a broad base of knowledge about accounting and business theory and practice, tailored for students who wish to meet Illinois’ 150 credit-hour requirement for the CPA. The MSA curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students with or without undergraduate preparation in business or accounting. The MSA core courses provide students with a balanced, rigorous, and in-depth exposure to the building blocks for a well-educated accountant with an advanced degree in financial accounting, managerial accounting, auditing, income taxation, and research methodology.

Credit hours required: 30-67

Program of Study

A two-phase structure enables students from business and non-business backgrounds to progress conveniently toward degree completion with a minimum of redundant courses.

Phase I

If a student’s undergraduate degree is in business but not in accounting, the student is required to take the following five accounting courses.

- ACTG-301 Cost Accounting ........................................... 3 cr.
- ACTG-307 Auditing Theory and Problems ....................... 3 cr.
- ACTG-310 Federal Income Tax (Individual).................... 3 cr.

Total ................................................................................. 15 cr.

Business Courses

If a student’s undergraduate degree is not in business, the student is required to fulfill the above Accounting requirements plus the following 22 hrs. of Business Courses:

- MATH-167 Business Calculus .................................... 4 cr.
- ACTG-400 Fundamentals of Accounting ......................... 4 cr.
- (or ACTG 201 and ACTG 202) ........................................ 6 cr.
- BLAW-400 Legal Environment of Business................... 2 cr.
- (or BLAW 285) ............................................................. 3 cr.
- (or FINA 300) ............................................................. 3 cr.
- ECON-401 Fundamentals of Business Economics ............ 4 cr.
- MKTG-400 Fundamentals of Marketing ......................... 2 cr.
- (or MKTG 350) ............................................................. 3 cr.
- MNGT-400 Managing Organizations ........................... 2 cr.
- (or MNGT 370) ............................................................. 3 cr.
- MNGT-401 Business Statistics .................................... 2 cr.
- (or MNGT 368) ............................................................. 3 cr.

Total ................................................................................. 22 cr.

Phase II

Phase II consists of 30 semester hours beyond the above requirements.

- ACTG-407 Auditing Theory and Practice ....................... 3 cr.
- ACTG-412 Accounting for Planning and Control .......... 3 cr.
- ACTG-421 Current Topics in Financial Accounting ........ 3 cr.
- ACTG-430 Research Methodology in Accounting .......... 3 cr.
- ACTG-440 Tax Research and Procedure ....................... 3 cr.
- Accounting Electives .................................................. 6 cr.
- Non-Accounting Electives ......................................... 9 cr.

Total ................................................................................. 30 cr.

Subject to change. See current University catalog for up-to-date information and full, definitive descriptions of all the electives and degree requirements.

Admissions

The Admissions Committee evaluates applications on the basis of (1) transcripts of all prior undergraduate and graduate course work; (2) your performance on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT); (3) a one-page typewritten statement of Career Goals and Objectives; (4) two letters of recommendation; and (5) any other evidence, such as work experience or professional certificates, that will help the committee assess your qualifications. To be considered for full admission to graduate business programs, you should have a GMAT score of at least 450, or equivalent GRE score, and an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). Conditional admission may be granted to students whose GMAT score or undergraduate GPA are lower than these thresholds but who are otherwise well-qualified. The GMAT requirement may be waived for students with a graduate degree, active professional certificates, or significant managerial experience. International students must, in addition, score 550 or higher (213 computer-scoring) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), supply an evaluation of transcript materials by Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., and must satisfy visa requirements.

Attending Northeastern

- Classes are offered conveniently to accommodate professionals working full-time;
- Students may attend either part-time or full-time;
- Current in-state graduate tuition is less than $400 per credit hour (tuition & fees);
- Financial support: Financial aid (loans), merit tuition scholarships, and graduate assistantships are often available to help fund your graduate education.

Contact Us

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Newsweek magazine has named Northeastern Illinois University the Sixth Best Investment among all universities in the nation and number one in Illinois.