



Accounting

Programs

- Accounting, M.P.A. *mpac*

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The Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) is the graduate degree offered by Bemidji State University's Accountancy Department. It is intended to provide graduates with advanced-level skills and understanding required to function effectively in the dynamic, technologically complex, and rapidly changing accounting environment of today, and to prepare students for the CPA exam. Successful graduates of the program will be able to apply analytic thinking methods to accounting scenarios using multidisciplinary concepts and tools; to communicate effectively in writing in a variety of accounting environments; to demonstrate advanced competence in auditing, financial accounting, business environment and concepts, business law, tax, and ethics; to manage data analytics projects; and to clearly define the role of corporate social responsibility in today's complex world.

MPA 4 + 1 Program Option

The MPA (4+1) program option enables undergraduate students of Accounting to be accepted, and potentially start the MPA Program while pursuing their accounting bachelor's degree. Students admitted into the MPA (4+1) Program may have a limited number of graduate level courses counted toward both the undergraduate and graduate degree taken during their senior year. Before enrolling in a course to be counted as both undergraduate and graduate credit (mixed credit), an undergraduate student must be accepted into the program and receive prior approval from the graduate program advisor/director and the respective college dean. A maximum of 12 credit hours may be taken as Mixed Credit. Students who are interested in the program apply for admission during the fall/spring of their junior undergraduate year, allowing the option of taking MPA courses during their senior year that can be counted as elective courses for the undergraduate degree. Full Time students take 3 to 4 classes per semester, while Part Time students take 1 to 2 classes per semester.

Regular MPA Option

This program option is for students who already have a bachelor's degree in accounting from an accredited college or university. The program can be completed either full-time or part-time. Full Time students take 3 to 4 classes per semester, while Part Time students take 1 to 2 classes per semester.

Program Admission Requirements for 4 + 1 program option: Accounting
Applicants for admission to the program will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. An undergraduate grade point average with minimum of 80 credit hours that is at least 3.0 in the accounting program at Bemidji State University, or approval by the acceptance committee.
2. Two letters of recommendation from professional individuals.
3. A one to two page letter of intent that states why the applicant is seeking this degree with a resume
4. TOEFL or IELTS scores for international applicants

Program Admission Requirements for Regular MPA

Applicants for admission to the program will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. A bachelor's degree in accounting from a regionally-accredited university or its equivalent, or approval by the acceptance

2. An undergraduate grade point average that is at least 2.75, or its equivalent
 - OR professional licensure in the US as a CPA, CMA, CIA, CFA, or CFP
 - OR an earned terminal degree (PhD, DBA, MD, JD, etc.) from an accredited institution.
3. Two letters of recommendation from professional individuals
4. A one to two page letter of intent that states why the applicant is seeking this degree and a resume
5. TOEFL or IELTS scores for international applicants

Comprehensive Examination

Upon completion of all required coursework, MPA students will be required to take a simulated Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam administered by Becker and obtain an average score of at least 60 on all 4 sections in order to graduate from the program. Students will be allowed to retake any section of the exam in order to increase the average score. Students will be able to replace any section of the Becker CPA exam sections with proof of a score on the actual exam. A program survey will be administered during the same timeframe.

Required Credits: 30

Required GPA: 3.00

I. CORE COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- ACCT 5100 Accounting Theory and Research (3 credits)
- ACCT 5150 Advanced Accounting Systems (3 credits)
- ACCT 5170 Governmental, Not-For-Profit, and Tribal Accounting (3 credits)
- ACCT 5320 Accounting Analytics (3 credits)

II. OTHER REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- ACCT 6110 Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) (3 credits)
- ACCT 6130 Auditing & Attestation (AUD) (3 credits)
- ACCT 6140 Business Law, Ethics & Tax Regulation (REG) (3 credits)
- ACCT 6150 CPA Discipline: (BAR), (ISC) or (TCP) (3 credits)
- MBA 5110 Business Analytics (3 credits)
- MBA 6135 Information Systems Management (3 credits)

Comprehensive Examination Upon completion of all required coursework, MPA students will be required to take a simulated Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam administered by Becker and obtain an average score of at least 60 on all 4 sections in order to graduate from the program. Students will be allowed to retake any section of the exam in order to increase the average score. Students will be able to replace any section of the Becker CPA exam sections with proof of a score on the actual exam. A program survey will be administered during the same timeframe.

Program Learning Outcomes | Accounting, M.P.A.

1. Graduates will be prepared for advanced and managerial entry into careers in the accounting field.
2. Graduates will be prepared to sit for the national CPA exam.
3. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to analyze complex business situations and ethical obligations in a realistic accounting environment.
4. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to prepare and finalize a data analytics project.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate advanced competence in financial accounting skills.
6. Students will be able to research and analyze concepts and standards for financial statements and audits, including international standards.
7. Students will demonstrate the ability to use SEC coding, XBRL, an Enterprise Resource Planning (EPR) System, and advanced excel skills.

Accounting Courses

ACCT 5100 Accounting Theory and Research (3 credits)

Selected contemporary and international issues in financial accounting, with an emphasis on reading and interpreting professional accounting literature to prepare financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This course is designed as an overview of professional literature on financial accounting for majors in professional accountancy. Also appropriate for controllers and others interested in the application of GAAP. Prerequisite(s): Accounting Bachelor's degree.

ACCT 5150 Advanced Accounting Systems (3 credits)

This course provides an in-depth coverage of advanced accounting information systems topics that will be critical for future accounting professionals. These include the use of data analytics in accounting for management support, auditing engagements, internal control tools, etc., and advanced excel skills like pivot tables and lookups. Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into the Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA) program.

ACCT 5160 Business Communication (3 credits)

This course is intended to provide students with increased knowledge and communication competencies in a business setting. The course is divided into three sections, which allows students to analyze data and present recommendations to a simulated investing business committee. Students will execute higher-level excel functions, produce professional business correspondence based on excel data, and prepare and deliver individual and group presentations applicable to their findings. Overall, this course emphasizes the importance of professional communication used in business settings.

ACCT 5170 Governmental, Not-For-Profit, and Tribal Accounting (3 credits)

This course provides exposure to accounting for governmental and not-for-profit organizations. Topics to be covered: Accounting and financial reporting for state and local governmental entities and how to apply the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) principles to those entities; Budgeting and evaluation processes; Not-for-profit entities; Budget and performance measurement; Regulation and Taxation. Students will also research the issues unique to tribal accounting. Graduate Prerequisites: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or admissions into the MPA program.

ACCT 5302 Strategic Cost Management (3 credits)

Strategic cost management integrates cost information with strategy. Key cost drivers will be identified for essential activities in organizations (both manufacturing and service) processes. Appropriate strategic cost management framework will be applied to reduce costs in key areas on which organization success depends. Cost management systems and management controls systems are applied to strategy. The application of instruments and models of strategic cost management will result in a more realistic presentation of the amount of costs and achieving more efficient and effective operations.

ACCT 5320 Accounting Analytics (3 credits)

This course provides an understanding of the use of statistical and quantitative models to effectively manage and utilize information for the purpose of auditing, taxation, and business decision-making. Concepts covered include data analysis and visualization, comparison of software for internal controls testing, statistical inference, and estimation. Students will use analytics software such as Access (including SQL), Tableau, Power BI, Teammate, IDEA, or other software for computer-assisted auditing and tax analysis techniques. Altrix, Sas Studio, or other similar software may also be used. Competency in Microsoft Excel is required. Prerequisite(s): Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or admission into the MPA program.

ACCT 5405 Income Taxes II (3 credits)

The federal income tax laws and regulations concerning taxable income and computation of tax as they affect corporations, estates, and trusts. This course covers the complexity of tax law affecting business entities, gifts, and estates. VITA participation will also be expected.

ACCT 6110 Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) (3 credits)

Conceptual framework and structure of accounting theory, including study of selected Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) statements and other professional literature. Prerequisite(s): Accounting Bachelor's Degree or instructor consent.

ACCT 6120 Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) (3 credits)

An in-depth study of business environment and concepts adapted to current business conditions. Prerequisite(s): Accounting Bachelor's Degree or instructor consent.

ACCT 6130 Auditing & Attestation (AUD) (3 credits)

Planning the auditors engagement with clients, evaluating internal controls, obtaining and documenting information, reviewing engagements, evaluating information, and preparing communications. Prerequisite(s): Accounting Bachelor's Degree or instructor consent.

ACCT 6140 Business Law, Ethics & Tax Regulation (REG) (3 credits)

The advanced study of ethics and professional responsibility, business law, Federal tax procedures and accounting issues, Federal taxation of property transactions, and Federal taxation for individuals and entities. Weekly case studies included for topics of study. Prerequisites: Accounting Bachelor's Degree or instructor consent

ACCT 6150 CPA Discipline: (BAR), (ISC) or (TCP) (3 credits)

This course prepares students for their discipline choice for the CPA Exam.

All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY

1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE

1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE

1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR

1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION

1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP

1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH

1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS