ACCOUNTING, B.S. (ALTOONA)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Altoona

Program Description

This major helps students prepare for careers in auditing and public accounting, industrial and managerial accounting, and in governmental and not-for-profit accounting. It also provides a sound background for students who plan to pursue graduate studies in accounting or related fields. Students who complete the prescribed courses and earn a Bachelor of Science degree will satisfy the academic requirements to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination. Graduates may also elect to pursue other professional certifications, including Certified Management Accountant (CMA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM).

What is Accounting?

Accountants develop and interpret financial data required for decision-making by managers, investors, regulators, and other stakeholders. To perform their functions, accountants must work with both numerical information and concepts, and they must be able to function effectively as individuals and in teams. Accountants work with people in their own specialized departments, and with users of financial information throughout their organization. Because of this close association with other parts of the organization, the accountant is in a unique position to develop a broad business perspective.

You Might Like This Program If...

• You are comfortable with numbers and interested in the messages and the information that they provide.
• You are organized and detail-oriented. You want to pursue a career in business or finance.

Entrance to Major

Entry to the Accounting major requires the completion of 8 entry-to-major courses: ACCTG 211\(^1\), ECON 102, ENGL 15\(^1\) or ENGL 30\(^1\), FIN 301, MATH 110\(^1\) or MATH 140\(^1\), MGMT 301, MKTG 301, SCM 200\(^1\) or STAT 200\(^1\); and a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average.

Additional information about this major is available in the office of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, School of Business at Penn State Harrisburg.

\(^1\) Course requires a grade of C or better.

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

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12 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses; 3 credits of GS courses; 6 credits of GQ courses.

Consistent with Senate policy, at least 24 credits of course work in the major and the capstone course must be completed in the respective College to earn the degree. No more than 60 credits should be from business and business-related courses.

Students wishing to fulfill the 150 credit-hour education option to become a CPA in Pennsylvania (which reduces the experience requirement for certification) are encouraged to enter Capital College’s Master of Professional Accounting program, or the Master of Business Administration program, or the Master of Science in Information Systems program subsequent to receiving their undergraduate accounting degree.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
• Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
• Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
• Arts (GA): 6 credits
• Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
• Humanities (GH): 6 credits
• Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
• Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
• Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.
Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Integrated B.S. in Accounting and M.B.A. in Business Administration
The School of Business Administration offers a limited number of academically superior Bachelor of Science in Accounting candidates the opportunity to enroll in an integrated, continuous program of study leading to both the Bachelor of Science in Accounting and the Master of Business Administration. The ability to coordinate as well as concurrently pursue the two degree programs enables the students to earn both degrees in five years. Specifically, as many as twelve of the credits required for the master’s degree may be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Program reduces the total number of credits needed to earn both degrees from 150 to 138.

Students in the IUG program must satisfy the requirements for both the Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Business Administration degrees. The total course load is reduced due to courses that can count towards both degrees. The first two years of the IUG program are identical to the first two years of the Bachelor of Science program. Students in the IUG program take six additional credits in their third year, and six fewer credits in their fourth year. The courses that count toward the Master of Business Administration degree requirements are included in the fourth year.

Student performance will be monitored on an on-going basis. In addition, a formal evaluation of student academic performance will be performed when the students have completed 100 to 105 credits, which is at the end of the first semester of the senior year for typical students in the program. Students who have not maintained a 3.0 GPA in their graduate courses will be put on probationary status with respect to the program.
IUG program. They will receive a warning letter regarding probationary status. Their ability to continue in the IUG program will be based on their academic performance in the last semester of their senior year.

Students have the choice of receiving the B.S. in Accounting degree at the end of the fourth year or waiting until the end of the fifth year to receive both degrees. Students who elect to receive the B.S. degree at the end of the fourth year will pay graduate tuition for courses taken in the fifth year; students opting to receive both degrees at the end of the fifth year will pay undergraduate tuition for all five years.

If for any reason students admitted to the IUG program are unable to complete the requirements for the Master of Business Administration degree, the students will be permitted to receive the Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree assuming all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfactorily completed. If the students successfully complete courses listed in the recommended schedule, they will satisfy the requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree by the end of their fourth year.

**Admission Requirements**

To initiate the application process, students must submit a resume, a personal statement including career goals and how MBA will enhance their career goals, transcripts of courses taken outside Penn State, two letters of recommendation, with at least one from the School of Business Administration faculty, and a plan of study that integrates both undergraduate and graduate requirements. A graduate faculty adviser in collaboration with the Director of the MBA Program will help undergraduate candidates determine a sequence of courses that will prepare them for acceptance into the Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) degree program.

The number of openings in the IUG program is limited. Applicants to the IUG program must have completed a minimum of 60 credits. Typical students would apply after completing between 60 and 90 credits, that is, after the fifth semester and before the end of the seventh semester. In addition, the applicants must earn a minimum of cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and complete the following Entry to Major courses or equivalent: ACCTG 211, ECON 102, ENGL 15 or ENGL 30, FIN 301, MATH 110 or MATH 140, MGMT 301, MKTG 301 and STAT 200 or SCM 200.

To formally apply, students must submit a completed graduate school application. The students should mention in the notes section that the application is for the IUG program in Business Administration. The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission into the program; however, if students are interested in applying for a graduate assistantship, GMAT or GRE scores must be submitted by the end of the eighth semester.

Student applications will be evaluated based on their overall portfolio, in addition to the above requirements. In all cases, admission to the program will be at the discretion of the Graduate Admission Committee in Business Administration.

**Degree Requirements**

Students in the IUG program must satisfy the degree requirements for both Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Business Administration degrees. The total course load is reduced due to the maximum of 12 credits that can count towards both degrees. All courses counted for both degrees must be at the 500- or 800-level.

**Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and-out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

**Abington**

Feng Zhang  
Program Chair  
1600 Woodland Road  
Abington, PA 19001  
215-881-7829  
fzz34@psu.edu

**Berks**

Michael Simon  
Program Coordinator, Lecturer  
Gaige G335  
Reading, PA 19610  
610-396-6448  
mjs71@psu.edu

**Harrisburg**

Thomas Amlie, Ph.D.  
Program Coordinator  
Olmsted Building, E355  
Middletown, PA 17057  
717-948-6441  
tta2@psu.edu

**World Campus**

Undergraduate Academic Advising  
301 Outreach Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-3283  
advising@outreach.psu.edu

**Career Paths**

Because the Harrisburg area is the center of industry and economic development for south-central Pennsylvania, Penn State Harrisburg accounting students are provided with many opportunities to experience the world of business.

**Careers**

An accounting degree helps students prepare for careers in auditing and public accounting, industrial and managerial accounting, and in governmental and not-for-profit accounting. Students who complete the prescribed courses and earn a BS degree will satisfy the academic requirements to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination.
Graduates may also elect to pursue other professional certifications, including Certified Management Accountant (CMA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE ACCOUNTING PROGRAM
(https://harrisburg.psu.edu/business-administration/accounting/bachelor-science-accounting)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies
The Bachelor of Science in Accounting provides a sound background for students who plan to pursue graduate studies in accounting or related fields, including Penn State’s Master of Professional Accounting.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES
(https://harrisburg.psu.edu/business-administration/accounting/bachelor-science-accounting)

Contact
Abington
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7300
fzz34@psu.edu

http://abington.psu.edu/accounting

Berks
EBC DIVISION
Gaige Building
Reading, PA 19610
610-396-6448
mjs71@psu.edu

http://berks.psu.edu/bs-accounting

Harrisburg
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Olmsted Building, E355
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6139
cxs879@psu.edu

http://harrisburg.psu.edu/business-administration/accounting/bachelor-science-accounting

World Campus
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Olmsted Building, E355
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6139
tta2@psu.edu

https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-bachelors-in-accounting-degree/overview