The Accounting Profession

Accounting is consistently listed among the top fields of opportunity in an increasingly challenging job market. Our program provides excellent classroom experiences and outside-of-class opportunities that give our graduates the very best preparation for success and a valuable edge in the job market. **Starting salaries are competitive and employers extend job offers and signing bonuses to some candidates well before they graduate.**

Accounting in today’s global business environment offers stimulating and challenging work that is constantly evolving. **Our graduates are prepared to work as team-orientated professionals with strong technical, leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills.**

Curriculum

The structure of the educational experience in the accounting program is progressive. Students advance in their studies from an initial exposure to the foundational business courses, known as “the business core,” as well as to the liberal arts, during the freshman and sophomore years. The business core includes courses in accounting, business law, economics, finance, management and organizational behavior, marketing, and quantitative analysis. During the junior and senior years, students focus more specifically on accounting coursework.

Upper-level accounting courses include:
- intermediate and advanced financial accounting;
- advanced managerial accounting;
- federal taxation and auditing; and

But that’s just part of the story.

Outside of Class

**Volunteer activities:** The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program provides students the opportunity to prepare tax returns for low and moderate income local residents. SBU students (all completing IRS certification) are the major source of tax preparers in the local United Way chapter’s two month VITA program.

Many accounting majors are also involved in Enactus and BonaResponds. Enactus (formerly SIFE) has offered educational programs in business and STEM to local schools and consulting type services to small businesses locally and in the Bahamas during an annual winter break trip. BonaResponds provides relief services to communities impacted by natural disasters and those in need in the local community.

**McQuade Center for Accounting Excellence:** As part of a $2 million gift to the School of Business by Citibank CEO and Bonaventure alumnus Eugene McQuade and his wife Peggy, this program provides accounting majors with special activities and experiences geared toward stimulating their awareness of the importance of ethics in the accounting profession and also enhancing their career and professional readiness for the field.

**Internships:** All “Big 4” (Deloitte, EY, KPMG, and PwC) and many regional (Bonadio, Chaimpou, and Insero) accounting firms actively recruit on campus for internships and full time positions. Major banks (Citi, Community, First Niagara, and M&T Bank) as well as Fortune 500 companies also recruit on campus. The McQuade Center offers internships where students work with faculty on educational and research projects.

**Accounting 5-Year Program**

The Accounting 5-Year Program is a full-time integrated program that begins during the junior and senior years of undergraduate studies. Students who successfully complete this program earn both a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the end of their fifth year.

**Professional Accountancy Track of the MBA Program (150 hours)**

150 hours are a common requirement to earn a CPA. The Professional Accountancy Track of the MBA prepares student for the CPA exam; our students have been very successful in this pursuit. Students apply to the Professional Accountancy Track in their junior year and beginning taking MBA classes in their senior year.