

# M.S. in Accounting



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPA

Master of Science in Accounting

The Sykes College of Business draws together talented faculty, sophisticated technology and cutting-edge curriculum to provide students with the tools to succeed in a changing world. Highly qualified students of diverse ages and backgrounds receive advanced training in an array of disciplines from faculty members with a pulse on the business community. The M.S. in Accounting program is available in two formats, full time and part time, and offers day, night and weekend classes.

## Earn Your Credentials

The dynamic **M.S. in Accounting** program at the Sykes College of Business combines the benefits of a structured, technical program focused on preparing students for professional certification exams with unique opportunities for in-depth examination and real-world applications. The curriculum is designed to offer students depth and flexibility in career preparation, including courses in **financial and managerial accounting, taxation, auditing and accounting information systems**. Electives are offered in **not-for-profit or governmental accounting, advanced financial accounting, international accounting and federal tax accounting**.

The M.S. in Accounting program prepares graduates to:

- Understand the ethical and legal framework for analyzing, choosing and defending resolutions of practical situations that arise in the accounting profession;
- Understand the cultural, legal, economic and geopolitical forces that impact accounting transparency and reporting;
- Use and leverage technology in ways that add value to accounting activities;
- Consider evidence and apply judgment to understanding the nature of problems in accounting, and select appropriate analytic tools to solve those problems;
- Demonstrate competence in professional and technical accounting knowledge; and
- Give and exchange information within a variety of accounting contexts.

## Internationally Recognized Program

The Sykes College of Business is accredited by AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), the premier business accrediting organization.

The College is rated one of the “best business schools” by *U.S. News & World Report* (2012); one of the 294 best business schools in the world by The Princeton Review (sixth year in a row); and in the “Excellent Business Schools” category in the 2011 Eduniversal Worldwide Business Schools ranking.



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## FACULTY

Business faculty have achieved national and international reputations for academic and business success in their fields. 97 percent hold doctorates; 80 percent have practical business experience.



**Steven Platau, M.Acc., J.D.**

Professor of accounting Steven Platau specializes in professional liability and the malpractice of accountants and attorneys. At UT, he teaches federal taxes, business law and general accounting courses.



**Lisa Bostick, DBA, CPA, CFE**

Associate professor of accounting Lisa Bostick is a CPA and certified fraud examiner who has served as a public accountant, auditor and controller for nearly 20 years.



### State-of-the-Art Facilities

Within an 80,000-sq.-ft. facility, the Sykes College of Business offers state-of-the-art resources such as the Huizenga Family Foundation Trading Center, which provides Bloomberg Professional™ real-time trading information for hands-on financial management.

## Develop Your Skills

The M.S. in Accounting curriculum is designed to build specialized skills in communication, leadership, teamwork, ethics, technology, critical thinking and converging information. Each student in the program gains the practical knowledge and training to successfully tackle the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam or other professional accounting exams, and to excel in a career in public or private accounting.

Graduates consistently earn high scores on the CPA exam, which is a testament to both the caliber of students and the dedication of professors at the Sykes College of Business. Classroom studies closely mirror the subjects and material on the exam, and professors always challenge students to dig deeper into subject matters of particular interest to them.

Group projects, cutting-edge technologies, case studies and interactions with local businesses bring the real world into the

classroom and help students learn by doing. For example, in a business analysis and valuation course, students work in teams to create models for valuing businesses and present their findings to real business teams or mock boards of directors.

Students in a recent class worked on a model for Moffitt Cancer Center, thanks to a professor's professional connection. Members of the Moffitt team, including Ph.D. researchers, met directly with students on several occasions. The students did such high-quality work that Moffitt was able to use and apply the information they collected and presented.

The Sykes College of Business grooms M.S. in Accounting students to navigate the world of accounting with confidence. Graduates of the program emerge equipped with the specialized, technical skills in high demand in today's increasingly complex global business, financial and accounting environments.

## Real-World Applications

History shows that the accounting field is a stable, rewarding profession. Accounting major graduates become an integral part of business management teams and leaders in organizational decision-making processes. All organizations, whether large or small, rely on accountants to record and report the activities of the business.

Accountants and auditors work throughout public accounting, private industry and government. Diverse career paths include auditing, tax and management consulting, financial accounting and reporting, management accounting, internal auditing, financial analysis and treasury/cash management, as well as fraud/forensic accounting. Less than 10 percent of accountants and auditors are self-employed.

Graduates of UT's M.S. in Accounting program consistently **secure excellent positions** across the country. They enjoy successful careers in a range of disciplines including corporate accounting, government accounting, business taxation, personal financial planning, investment analysis, forensic accounting and more. They secure positions in public and private

**Katie Shald '09**  
**B.S. and M.S. in Accounting**  
**Audit Senior,**  
**Deloitte, LLP**

"The UT accounting program cannot be beat. It not only prepared me academically for the CPA exam, but also helped build the path to a promising career. Thanks to the quality of the professors, a well-planned curriculum and my internship experience at Santana, Byrd & Jaap, P.A., and Deloitte & Touche, LLP, my undergraduate and graduate accounting degrees from UT are priceless."

corporate organizations such as GTE, Coca Cola, the American Cancer Society and others, and in public accounting firms such as Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG and Ernest & Young.



### alumni profile

#### CPA License and Graduate Studies

Most accountant and auditor positions require a CPA license. Florida and 40 other states require a fifth year of education beyond the undergraduate level to qualify to sit for the CPA examination. Students can complete this requirement through UT's M.S. in Accounting program.

With a qualifying GPA, UT undergraduates are not required to take the GMAT entrance exam, which is an admissions requirement for all other prospective master's degree students.

Employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow by 22 percent by 2018 — much faster than the average for all other occupations.

(Department of Labor Statistics)



**Glyn Hunter '11**  
**B.S. and M.S. in Accounting**  
**Assurance Associate, PricewaterhouseCoopers**

Born in Liverpool, England, Glyn Hunter traveled far to attend UT as a basketball player and accounting major. After earning a bachelor's degree in three and a half years, he completed the M.S. in Accounting program in one and a half years — all the while setting records on the basketball court. UT prepared him to secure a position with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and now Hunter is working his way through the CPA exam with high hopes for the future.

"UT provides an ideal environment for learning and gaining the experience to move ahead. I was pushed and challenged in my classes and assignments, and gained so much from it. I'm looking forward to my next challenge as an accounting professional."

### Career Advancement

Graduate students and alumni have free, lifetime access to a variety of tools and networks to help advance their careers. This includes HIRE-UT, a specialized online resource exclusively for UT students and alumni. HIRE-UT posts job openings from companies looking for well-qualified candidates.

UT's strong relationships with local and global companies bring a wide range of possibilities for current graduate accounting students and alumni looking for new opportunities. Because of their overwhelmingly positive experiences with hiring UT students and alumni over the years, many of these companies keep coming back to HIRE-UT. One of the distinctive characteristics of a UT education is the built-in network of active alumni and links to the local and international business communities.

### Community Service

As part of a tax class, accounting students have a chance to volunteer in helping low-income taxpayers complete and file tax returns through the IRS VITA program. This valuable exchange offers mutual benefits to both students and clients. Students gain firsthand experience solving problems for people who need help with their tax returns.

### Scholarships

Each year the Sykes College of Business awards graduate assistantships to select first-year students with outstanding academic and professional credentials. Graduate assistantships cover tuition for up to 36 credit hours over four semesters and provide a stipend. Recipients work 20 hours a week conducting research and applying concepts they are learning in the classroom.



### About UT

The University of Tampa is a medium-sized, private university offering more than 140 areas of undergraduate study and 10 graduate programs. Richly diverse, UT is the school of choice for approximately 7,000 students from across the country and around the world.

Visit [www.ut.edu/graduate](http://www.ut.edu/graduate) for more information about UT and the Sykes College of Business.

