

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Master of Science in Accountancy

Do I need an accounting undergraduate degree to start the MSA program? If not, what are the prerequisites, and where can they be completed?

No, the MSA program is open to students with all undergraduate degrees. However, six core accounting courses must be completed at a four-year university or college before beginning the MSA program. The courses are intermediate financial accounting I, intermediate financial accounting II, accounting information systems, U.S. taxes, external auditing and advanced cost/managerial accounting. All six courses can be taken online asynchronously at UNCW the summer before the fall start of the MSA program.

Is the MSA program offered face-to-face or online? Night classes? Semester-long courses?

The MSA program is face-to-face, with all courses offered during the day. It follows a quarter calendar, with courses offered in the fall 1, fall 2, spring 1 and spring 2 quarters.

Is the MSA program a full-time or part-time program, and how long does it take to complete?

Both full-time and part-time options are available in the MSA program. Students following the full-time path will complete the 30 credit-hour program over nine months (fall 1, fall 2, spring 1 and spring 2 quarters). Students following the part-time path can complete the 30 credit-hour program over two or three years, depending on how many courses are taken each quarter.

What concentrations or tracks does the MSA program offer?

The MSA program offers two tracks: tax services and assurance, analytics, and systems advisory (AAA). All MSA students take 21 credit-hours of core accounting coursework, 2 credit-hours of electives, and 7 credit-hours in either the tax services or AAA track.

How do you prepare students for the CPA exam?

CPA exam guidance is provided throughout the MSA program with the goal of having students take two sections while in the program and two sections the summer following graduation. The MSA program will ensure that all students who do not have Becker CPA Exam review material provided by their future employer will have access, at no additional cost, to the Becker program. The auditing section of the Becker program will be provided in the fall and the remaining sections in the spring. While in the program, students are strongly encouraged to sit for the auditing (AUD) section during winter break and then sit for either financial accounting (FAR) or regulation (REG) in the spring.

Will the MSA program help me get a job?

The MSA program's average placement rate is over 95% with job-seeking students being placed in the past three years! While we can't guarantee placement, we've had a continued success rate and do everything we can to prepare and assist our students for career success.

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Which firms recruit UNCW MSA graduates?

All Big-Four firms (Deloitte, EY, KPMG, and PWC), most national and regional firms (e.g. BDO, CliftonLarsonAllen, CohnReznick, Forvis, RSM), and many local firms hire students from the MSA program. Opportunities in industry, non-profit and governmental entities are also available to MSA students.

What is the starting salary for MSA graduates?

While starting salary varies by location and accounting service line, the average starting salary for the MSA Class of 2024 is \$69,000.

If I go to UNCW's MSA program, can I find a job in another state?

Yes, the MSA program can help you find employment at firm locations outside North Carolina. In the past few years, we have placed MSA students in Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Birmingham, Chattanooga, Charleston, Chicago, Nashville, Orlando, Seattle, Tampa, Washington, D.C., and West Palm Beach.

What is the cost of the MSA program?

Tuition and fees for students completing the MSA program following the full-time path (fall 1, fall 2, spring 1, spring 2) are \$12,670 for in-state residents and \$27,850 for out-of-state residents. Tuition and fees for students following the part-time path will vary depending on the number of courses taken each quarter and the number of quarters. Room, board and textbooks will add to the total attendance cost.

What financial aid is available?

The MSA program offers merit-based scholarships, graduate assistantships and a limited number of out-of-state tuition waivers.

Students may also complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov to be considered for federal aid, state need-based aid, and institutional need-based scholarships and grants.

Can I work during the program?

The MSA program is a demanding program that requires significant preparation time beyond the in-class meetings. If financially possible, the MSA program recommends full-time MSA students avoid working, except assistantship hours, while enrolled.

How do I apply, and what do I need to apply?

Applications are submitted through the UNCW Graduate School. In addition to the application, we require official transcripts, three letters of recommendation and your resume. We do not require GMAT test scores. Please visit our [webpage](#) for specific details on how to apply and the link to apply.