



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON  
CAMERON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTANCY



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

The University of North Carolina Wilmington has long played a vital role in the economic and cultural life of the Cape Fear region. Founded in 1947 with an enrollment of 250, the university has grown to offer undergraduate and graduate degrees to a student body of more than 12,000 students.

The university offers an academically challenging atmosphere that combines the personal interaction with instructors of a smaller school with the resources of a major regional university. The university has built a strong academic reputation. For the past decade, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked UNCW among the top 10 public master's universities in the South.

The Cameron School has earned accreditation by the Association for Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business, placing it in the top 30 percent of business education programs in the nation. *The Princeton Review* lists the Cameron School of Business as one of the "Best 290 Business Schools" in its most recent edition.

# THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAM AT THE CAMERON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Accounting professionals form the backbone of any business enterprise.

They work in a profession that demands the most from its practitioners.

An accountant must possess technical knowledge,  
people skills and integrity.

Competition is fierce, but the rewards are high.

The Master of Science in Accountancy program (MSA) prepares you to compete and succeed in this highly demanding field. Our graduates enter the workforce equipped with the knowledge and skills needed in today's business climate. The nation's top employers recognize the high quality of our program, and almost all of our students find positions before graduation with an employer of their choice.

We stress a no-nonsense approach to your education. While some schools emphasize a broad range of choices, we believe that the best way to train professionals in the field of accounting is through a comprehensive, structured curriculum that covers both the theoretical and practical fundamentals of the profession.

Students completing the program's 32 semester hours choose courses concentrating in either Tax/Audit or Accounting Information Systems/Audit. After 10 months of full-time study, you will graduate from the program with the tools you need to pursue careers in auditing, information technology, corporate accounting, government accounting and many more fields. Completion of the program also helps fulfill the 150 hours of college credits required by the state boards of accountancy to become a licensed CPA as well as the foundation to sit for various professional exams, including the certified public accountant exam, certified systems auditor exam and the certified management accountant exam.



## FACULTY

Our faculty maintains a commitment to teaching and your future. Smaller class size and flexible office hours allow us to be accessible to all our students. Outside the classroom, our faculty are active researchers who publish frequently in their fields.

In the Cameron School's Faculty Fellows program, faculty are selected by firms based upon their research and service excellence. Currently, the department has three fellows - two Dixon Hughes fellows and an RSM McGladrey fellow.

## CURRENT MSA CLASS

59 students

Average GMAT: 562

Average undergraduate GPA on last 60 hours: 3.4

Undergraduate majors: accounting 59%, other 41%

“The MSA career placement program at Cameron allowed me to focus on my studies and not the stresses of a job search, while knowing I have a great job waiting for me after graduation.”

*John Hartman, MSA Class '08*

## CURRICULUM

The MSA program will challenge you with an academically rigorous education that builds the skills and knowledge you need to thrive in today's competitive business environment. The coursework provides you with the opportunity to work on individual and team-based assignments that not only builds a solid understanding of accounting principles, but also sharpens your presentation and interpersonal skills.

Students must complete a minimum of 32 semester hours of graduate coursework to earn the MSA degree. Twenty-three of these hours must be earned in the required core graduate accounting and business courses. In addition, students must complete seven semester hours of coursework in their selected specialization track and two semester hours of approved graduate electives. A minimum of 26 semester hours must be completed in residence at the Cameron School.

The core curriculum focuses on the practical and theoretical foundation you need to prepare for a career in auditing and financial accounting. This curriculum provides you with a comprehensive overview of subjects such as finance, international management and marketing professional services. The core curriculum includes:

- MSA 500 Professional Research
- MSA 505 Partnership Taxation
- MSA 508 Taxation and Business Decisions
- MSA 515 International Management and Strategy
- MSA 516 Systems Assurance
- MSA 518 Risk-based Auditing
- MSA 526 Advanced Financial Accounting
- MSA 527 Marketing Professional Services
- MSA 528 Consolidations and Financial Topics
- MSA 530 Management Decisions and Control
- MSA 540 Cases in Financial and Investment Management for the Accountant

The MSA program follows two academic tracks. The Tax/Audit track develops expertise in tax research and planning. The Accounting Information Systems/Audit track focuses on information technology and systems design. Both tracks provide an in-depth examination of auditing theory, procedures and tools needed by an auditor and prepare students for the CPA exam.

## FACILITIES

Cameron School facilities include Cameron Hall and the Computer Information Systems (CIS) Building. Along with campus-wide WiFi Internet connections, the university provides access to numerous computing labs and networked classrooms. With its 300-seat auditorium, networked classrooms, multi-media labs and faculty offices, Cameron Hall serves as the administrative and educational center for the school.

The new CIS Building houses state-of-the-art classrooms, sandbox meeting rooms, computer laboratories and networked conference rooms. Our facilities give students hands-on access to the latest computing, networking and virtual meeting technology, including the Edward Jones Financial Lab's real-time Bloomberg stock feed.

## TAX/AUDIT

MSA 504 Federal Tax Research

MSA 510 Tax Planning Techniques

MSA 534 Accounting Practicum: Tax/Audit

The Tax/Audit track provides a foundation in tax research and planning; corporate and partnership taxation; and local, state, federal and international tax regulations and policy. The program finishes with a capstone project in which students research and implement a realistic tax scenario.

## ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS/AUDIT

MSA 522 Business Database Systems

MSA 524 Accounting Information Systems Analysis and Design

MSA 535 Accounting Practicum: Accounting Information Systems

The Accounting Information Systems /Audit track combines study of modern information technology and traditional auditing practices to prepare students to fill roles as systems designers and auditors. The program culminates with a client project to design, analyze and implement an IT solution that benefits a non-profit entity in the community.

## ELECTIVE COURSES

MSA majors must take two hours of elective graduate courses approved by the MSA director.

In addition, the department offers a Becker's CPA review course in the spring and summer semesters. Our faculty administer the course, which prepares students for the CPA exam dates in late winter and spring.

For more information on course descriptions, consult the UNC Wilmington graduate catalog at [www.uncw.edu/gradcatalog](http://www.uncw.edu/gradcatalog).

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Every January, students can experience Paris and London, two of the world's financial capitals and receive class credit (MSA 515). Students learn about European culture and politics, meet international executives, and tour corporate headquarters and financial landmarks.

## APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Our program is open to highly qualified applicants from any major. The program selects graduates who have strong backgrounds of educational and professional achievement evidenced by a combination of high undergraduate GPAs and GMAT scores, recommendations from employers and faculty members, and leadership activities. The program will consider other evidence of accomplishment and ability in deciding whether to grant admission.

The MSA program requires seven undergraduate business prerequisites. Five of these courses may be completed during the summer prior to the fall semester of the MSA program, and the remaining courses can be taken during the first year of the MSA program. Prerequisites may be transferred from other institutions at the discretion of the department. Required courses include:

- ACG 301 External Financial Reporting I
- ACG 302 External Financial Reporting II
- ACG 305 Advanced Managerial Accounting
- ACG 306 Accounting Information Systems
- ACG 404 Federal Income Taxes
- ACG 406 Audit
- FIN 335 Corporate Finance

As additional preparation for the MSA program, you may apply to the accounting internship program if you complete the required business prerequisites at UNCW. Internships are available in the spring and summer prior to the beginning of the fall semester of the MSA program. Participation in this internship ensures acceptance in the MSA program. Approximately 60 percent of the MSA students participate in the program. Internships are full-time and paid positions with regional and national firms located in North Carolina and across the United States.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

*Applications must include:*

- 1 Online application form at [www.uncw.edu/gradapplication](http://www.uncw.edu/gradapplication)
- 2 Official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate work
- 3 GMAT official scores less than five years old
- 4 Three letters of recommendation that address your ability to successfully complete a graduate-level program
- 5 A resumé

**Completed applications must be submitted by March 1.**

We encourage you to apply early, as admissions are competitive, and admission decisions often occur before the deadline.

For more information, please visit [www.csb.uncw.edu/gradprograms](http://www.csb.uncw.edu/gradprograms).

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

Thanks to the support of our alumni and business partners, we offer a significant number of scholarships to accomplished students based on academic merit and need.

In addition, assistantships are offered. They are paid, part-time graduate positions working with Cameron School faculty and staff on organizational projects related to teaching and research.

Tuition is based on in-state and out-of-state status. For information on tuition and fees, visit the UNCW Graduate School Web site at [www.uncw.edu/tuition](http://www.uncw.edu/tuition). Financial aid is available in the form of loans, scholarships and on-campus employment. More information is available at [www.uncw.edu/finaid](http://www.uncw.edu/finaid).

## CAREERS AND PLACEMENT

Each year, graduates from the MSA program take positions at our nation's top corporations, non-profits, government agencies and academic institutions. Our graduates' history of success is the foundation for our department's strong reputation. This has allowed us to build an extensive network of business and alumni connections and to share this resource with our graduates.

Major accounting firms recruit on campus, including the Big Four international accounting firms, major national firms, regional firms and local practitioners. Various government agencies also recruit on campus. During orientation, Accounting Career Day showcases different career paths in accounting through panels of industry representatives. Our largest event, Meet The Firms, offers students the opportunity to meet with recruiters from national, regional and local firms.

Our faculty and career services staff provide you with the preparation you need to enter the professional world. We offer resumé workshops, one-on-one reviews and videotaped mock interviews.

Upon program completion, graduates meet the 150-hour requirement to become a licensed certified public accountant as well as the foundation to sit for various professional exams, including the certified public accountant exam, certified information systems auditor exam and the certified management accountant exam.

### Recent MSA graduate employers

BDO Seidman	Henderson, Foltz, Stafford & Company	N.C. State Auditor's Office
Deloitte	Hughes Pittman & Gupton	Pittard, Perry & Crone
Dixon Hughes	IBM	PPD
Ernst & Young	IRS	PricewaterhouseCoopers
GlaxoSmithKline	KPMG	RSM McGladrey
Grant Thornton	Lanier, Whaley, Craft & Co.	U.S. Army Audit Agency
Greer & Walker	McGladrey & Pullen	Williams Overman Pierce
	Murray, Blackburn & Rode	



## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The university hosts more than 170 student organizations. The Cameron School and the MSA program sponsor organizations aimed at enhancing your professional development, providing an outlet for community service and building personal connections with your fellow students and regional professionals.

### **Beta Alpha Psi (BAΨ)**

Since its founding in 1919, Beta Alpha Psi is a national scholastic honor society for financial and information systems professionals that builds connections between the best and brightest students and professionals at every level. With 300,000 members and 263 college and university chapters, Beta Alpha Psi's international network promotes a graduate's self-development through encouraging a sense of ethical, social and public responsibility.

As a member of Beta Alpha Psi, you can benefit by learning from leaders working in industry, government and public accounting. On campus, members of Beta Alpha Psi organize socials, conduct mock interviews and provide advice to fellow members.

Beyond the professional benefits, Beta Alpha Psi provides an outlet to serve your community as a volunteer. Whether building homes for Habitat for Humanity, raising money for the Relay for Life cancer run or tutoring fellow students, you can experience the fulfillment of improving your community through service.

### **MSA Association**

As a new graduate student in our department, you are welcome to join the MSA Association. Through a wide range of social activities, the association builds strong bonds among the program's students and provides a valuable avenue for building a social and professional network that will last long after graduation. The MSA Association stresses both fellowship and community service, providing members with multiple opportunities to benefit their community.

### **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program**

Once a year, you can donate your time to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. This innovative initiative benefits volunteers and the campus community. Volunteers gain professional experience in preparing tax returns while the community can take advantage of receiving free tax preparation assistance.

### **Accountancy & Business Law Department Advisory Board**

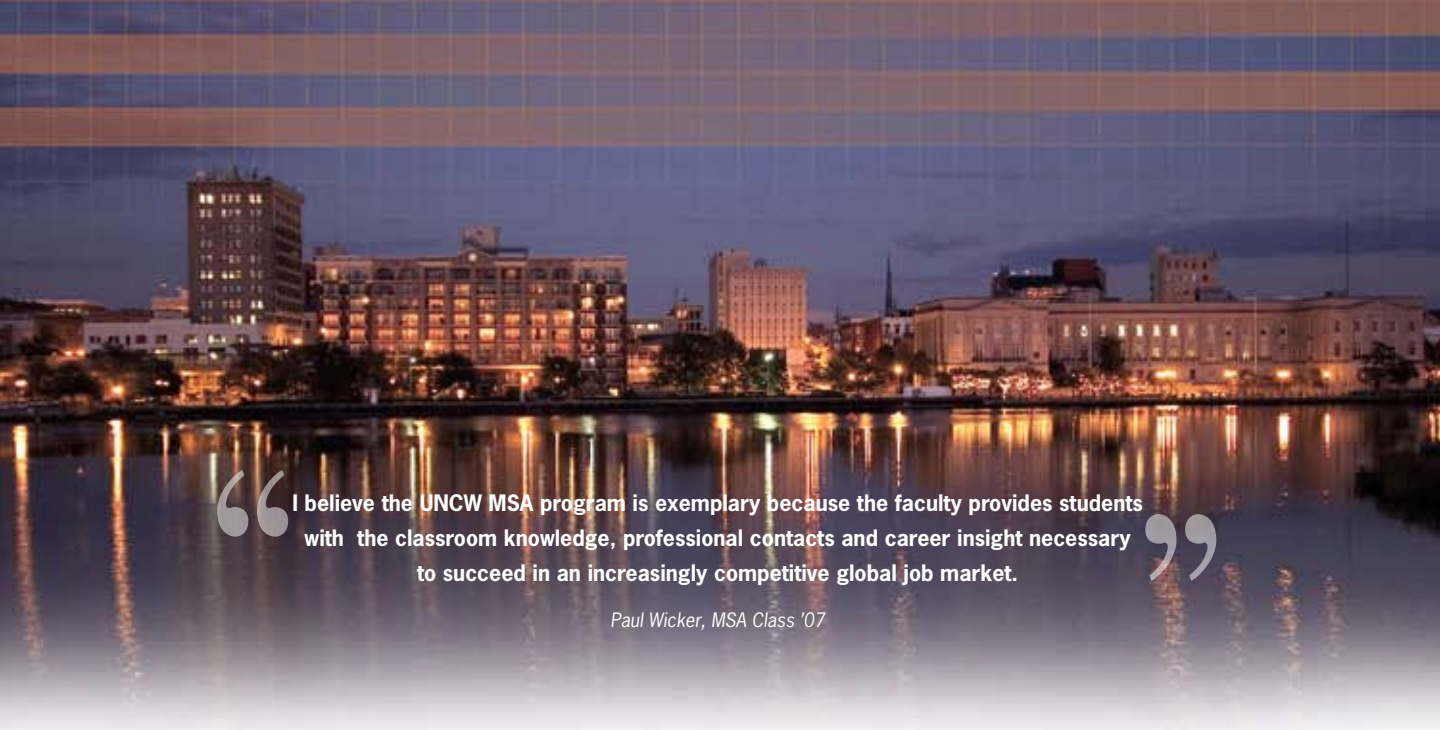
The board provides valuable input and perspective on program goals and directions, curriculum issues, student placement and financial support. The board members represent major international CPA firms, regional firms, local firms and corporations.

There are several ways to learn more about the Master of Science in Accountancy at the Cameron School of Business. Visit our Web site at [www.csb.uncw.edu](http://www.csb.uncw.edu), or stop by the Cameron School's Graduate Programs Office. Information sessions are held several times throughout the year. Check our Web site for dates and locations. You also can schedule an appointment with the Graduate Programs administrator or the MSA director to address more specific concerns.

**[uncw.edu/msa](http://uncw.edu/msa)**

Cameron School of Business Graduate Programs Office  
1020 Computer Informations Systems Building  
University of North Carolina Wilmington  
601 South College Road ■ Wilmington, NC 28403-5680 ■ 910.962.3903

UNC Wilmington is committed to and will provide equality of educational and employment opportunity.  
Questions regarding program access may be directed to the Compliance Officer,  
UNCW Chancellor's Office, 910.962.3000, Fax 910.962.3483.  
2000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$3,465.37 or \$1.73 per copy (G.S. 143-170.1).



“ I believe the UNCW MSA program is exemplary because the faculty provides students with the classroom knowledge, professional contacts and career insight necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive global job market. ”

*Paul Wicker, MSA Class '07*

## LIFE IN WILMINGTON

Settled in the 1600s, Wilmington's natural beauty has long attracted admirers. Thanks to the mild Southern climate and coastal location, residents enjoy months of sunshine and warm weather, perfect for hiking in one of the area's many public parks, kayaking the Cape Fear River, riding along scenic bike trails, fishing from ocean piers, surfing or just walking along the beach.

While our small city cherishes its history and natural heritage, Wilmington does not live in the past. The Census Bureau consistently ranks southeastern North Carolina as one of the 20 fastest growing areas in the nation. Attracting newcomers from across the nation, the region has grown from a quiet, well-kept secret to an exciting commercial and cultural center.

Tourists enjoy visiting Wilmington's historic downtown, which offers fine dining, shopping, galleries, live music, dancing and performances by large and small theater companies. In continuous operation since 1858, downtown's Thalian Center for the Performing Arts puts on more than 250 events annually. Music lovers can enjoy a year-round schedule of performances by the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and the Opera House Theater Company, both of which hold regular programs in the UNCW Cultural Arts Building and Kenan Auditorium.



“The value of my MSA degree steadily and rapidly appreciates over time – not only professionally, but more importantly, in the lasting relationships I enjoy with the Cameron School faculty and my classmates.”

*Steven Darroch, MSA Class '05*



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