



**Department of
Accounting and Law**
Undergraduate Handbook

October 2016

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Dear Accounting Student, Class of 2018:

Welcome! On behalf of the faculty, I am pleased to welcome you to the University at Buffalo School of Management's accounting program. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty, and expect you will help maintain our reputation for excellence in the profession. The program you are beginning is challenging, but the rewards, in personal satisfaction and career success, are great.

We offer CPA qualifying programs and are one of only seven accounting programs in New York accredited by AACSB. We also are one of only 15 U.S. accounting programs with a comprehensive internal audit program endorsed by the Institute of Internal Auditors at the master's level. Our students are well prepared for the CPA exam and careers in accounting and finance. As a successful School of Management accounting student, you will be in great demand in the marketplace. We are a priority recruiting school for many accounting firms, including the Big Four. And we are one of less than 100 schools nationally invited each year to participate in the annual PwC Challenge competition.

We have two active student accounting clubs. The UB Accounting Association (UBAA) is a student affiliate of the Institute of Management Accountants and regularly receives awards. Our Zeta Theta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national accounting honor society, annually achieves national recognition as a Superior chapter. In addition, the chapter is one of only two in the country to achieve KPMG Gold status for the last seven years. We have hosted the national Beta Alpha Psi meetings and the Atlantic Coast Regionals. Student members participate in national and regional conferences every year, regularly winning awards in conference competitions. Both clubs are actively involved with the business community and in community service, including our widely acclaimed and award-winning Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The exceptional efforts of our students have led these organizations to high levels of success. We look to you to keep up these traditions.

Our faculty are strongly committed to preparing you for your professional career, whether in public practice as a CPA or in business or government. Faculty members meet regularly with working professionals to obtain the latest information on what employers look for in new hires and promote our students to recruiters. You will find our faculty to be an excellent source of career information.

Our faculty are well known for both their scholarly work and teaching. Many are active in professional organizations, including the New York State Society of CPAs and the Institute of Internal Auditors. They regularly publish journal articles and textbooks, give presentations at universities, professional conferences and community groups, direct and teach in continuing education programs, and serve in leadership capacities in academic and professional organizations.

There is more to your education than going to class and passing exams. Employers want students who are technically proficient and have strong personal and business skills. Outside-of-class activities are essential to your full development. Take advantage of the many opportunities the School of Management and Accounting and Law Department offer for your professional growth. You can join a club, visit the Career Resource Center, participate in a credit-bearing internship — and that's only the beginning.

Faculty and UBAA and Beta Alpha Psi members collaborated to produce this manual to ease your transition to the demanding life of an accounting major. It explains the program requirements and shares available resources to help you achieve a rewarding educational experience and enhance your professional development. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you as students and as alumni in the future.

Sincerely,

Feng Gu
Chair, Department of Accounting and Law

Accounting Course Sequence

For students entering junior year in fall 2016

With a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the UB School of Management, you will be well-prepared for entry-level professional positions in public accounting, industry or government. The undergraduate program provides a basis for continuing professional development and emphasizes both conceptual foundations and current professional practice.

- To earn a BS in accounting, you must meet all degree requirements.
- You are required to meet with your assigned School of Management academic advisor to discuss your requirements if you are a new UB student this fall or are a continuing UB student who did not meet with your advisor in spring 2016. Students may have different UB requirements in a different order (see item No. 3 below). To schedule your advisement appointment, call 716-645-3206 or visit the Undergraduate Programs Office in 204 Alfiero Center.

For more information, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/degree-programs/undergraduate/current-students/accounting.

Below are the four major components to complete your degree. *(The following assumes you have been admitted to the junior year accounting curriculum for fall 2016.)*

1. Required Accounting Courses for Accounting Majors

MGA 301 (fall 2016)*

MGA 311(fall 2016)*

MGA 303 (fall 2016 or spring 2017 for students starting at UB prior to fall 2016)

MGA 302 (spring 2017)*

MGA 314 (spring 2017)*

MGA 402 (senior year) **

MGA 403 (senior year) **

MGA 404 (senior year) **

MGT 403 (senior year fall or spring)

MGF 400-level (senior year fall or spring)

* Minimum grade of C required to continue in the accounting major

** 400-level MGA courses may be taken in any order, but students may not enroll in all three in one semester

2. Required School of Management Core (listed alphabetically)

MGB 301

MGM 301

MGE 302

MGO 302

MGF 301

MGO 403

MGG 300 or MGG 298 and 398 *

MGQ 301

MGI 301

MGS 351

* Students who entered UB before fall 2016 take MGG 300; those who enrolled fall 2016 or later take MGG 298 and 398.

3. General Education/UB Curriculum

This category may be different for you, depending on when you entered UB. Beginning with students entering in fall 2016, UB has implemented a new UB Curriculum. The new curriculum could also impact choices under the UB General Education Curriculum for students who arrived before fall 2016. As such, it is essential for you to meet individually with your academic advisor. If you entered prior to fall 2016 and met with your advisor last semester, there is no need to meet again. But if you are new to UB this fall or did not meet with your advisor last spring, schedule a meeting before registration for spring 2017 begins.

4. Minimum Credits to Earn a SUNY Degree

To earn a degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) system, you must successfully complete at least 120 credits, as well as all requirements for your major and UB requirements.

Accounting Course Descriptions

Note: Only one 300/400-level MGA course may be taken at another accredited institution, if approved. No additional accounting can be taken outside of UB.

MGA 301 - Intermediate Financial Accounting I: Assets and Income Determination

An examination of the theory of business income recognition and asset valuation with emphasis on the application of accounting theory. The course covers both GAAP and IFRS standards along with reporting practices of income and assets in financial statements.

Prerequisites: MGA 201 and 202 with minimum grades of B in each; concurrent registration in MGA 311; junior standing in accounting program. Offered fall only.

MGA 302 - Intermediate Financial Accounting II: Equities and liabilities

A continued examination of the theory of financial accounting with emphasis upon the valuation of equity and long term liabilities; preparation, analysis and interpretation of financial statements. The course also includes computation, presentation and analysis of earnings per share. The course covers both GAAP and IFRS standards.

Prerequisites: MGA 301 and MGA 311 with minimum grade of C in each; concurrent registration in MGA 314; junior standing in accounting program. Offered spring only.

MGA 311 – Accounting Information Systems

An examination of the accounting information systems, both manual and computer based, for service, merchandising and manufacturing firms. Emphasis is placed on key business processes, internal controls and risks, flowcharting and information provided to management. Experience using Microsoft Excel and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software is also provided.

Prerequisites: MGA 201 and 202 with minimum grades of B in each; concurrent registration in MGA 301; junior standing in accounting program. Offered fall only.

MGA 314 – Cost Accounting

An examination of the principles and methods of accounting used in reporting to management concerning cost classification, behavior and measurement in various types of enterprises, and budgeting and performance evaluation with an emphasis on cost and data analysis in support of management decision making.

Prerequisites: MGA 301 and MGA 311 with minimum grade of C in each; concurrent registration in MGA 302; junior standing in accounting program. Offered spring only.

MGA 402 - Auditing

An examination of scope and limitation of audits; qualifications and responsibilities of auditors; auditing standards and ethical rules for both U.S. and international auditors; roles of internal control, accounting information systems, technology, evidence, objectives, materiality and risk assessment as applied to financial statement accounts; expressions of opinion related to financial statements; and auditor's legal liability.

Prerequisites: MGA 301, 302 and 311 with minimum grades of C in each; MGF 301; senior standing in accounting program. Offered fall and spring.

MGA 403 – Introduction to Federal Income Taxes

An examination of the concepts of the federal and income tax law as it applies to individuals, business entities and property transactions. Emphasis is on gaining an understanding of the principles of tax law and using that knowledge for better decision making. The course also includes an overview of corporate tax provisions and income tax treatment of partners and partnerships is provided.

Prerequisites: MGA 301, 302 and 311 with minimum grades of C in each; MGF 301; senior standing in accounting program. Offered fall and spring.

MGA 404 – Advanced Financial Accounting

An examination of reporting for mergers and acquisitions, consolidation of financial statements, international transactions, hedge investments, state and local governments, and not-for-profit organizations. Coverage of IFRS requirements as appropriate. Emphasis is on conceptual understanding, with applications to current reporting issues. Extensive coverage of practice, using actual financial statements.

Prerequisites: MGA 301, 302 and 311 with minimum grades of C in each; MGF 301; senior standing in accounting program. Offered fall and spring.

MGA 449 Internal Auditing Internship and MGA 496 Internship

Offered fall and spring.

MGA 499 Independent Study

Instructional and practical experience in the skills and techniques of research through association with a faculty member actively engaged in research. Credit up to 6 hours depending on the type and amount of research activity. May be taken for credit more than once.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and department chair.

MGG 303 – Communication for Accountants

This course will focus on composition in professional and workplace genres related to the fields of accounting and business. The goal is to help students build a strong foundation in a range of communication skills. Students will be required to apply writing processes common to these fields, apply visual and digital composition methods appropriate to these fields, and compose and deliver an individual persuasive, verbal presentation. Students will also learn techniques for communicating and working with others in the workplace.

Prerequisites or co-requisites: MGA 301 and MGA 311 with minimum grades of C in each; junior standing in accounting program. Offered fall and spring.

Academic Integrity

The Department of Accounting and Law strictly adheres to the standards of academic integrity established by the School of Management and the University at Buffalo. For a discussion of these standards, as well as disciplinary and grievance procedures, read your Undergraduate Handbook, found at mgt.buffalo.edu/degree-programs/undergraduate/current-students/handbooks.

Although many people think of accounting coursework as analytical and quantitative, a substantial part of the accounting professional's work involves communication. For questions regarding the acceptability of collaboration on homework, projects or other assignments, consult with your course instructor.

Most accounting courses — and your other management courses — will involve written assignments. In your papers, you will often include your own opinions and ideas on a given topic, and be expected to discuss and draw conclusions from others' interpretations and opinions, based on your reading on relevant professional and academic literature. These individuals or organizations must be credited for their work. Unless the idea you are discussing is your own original thought, you must disclose, through a footnote or other citation, the source of the idea. For example, when you use a paragraph from another source or paraphrase someone else's words, you must cite that organization or individual, regardless of how you found the information (i.e. book, journal article, online source, etc.).

As such, your papers for accounting courses will typically have substantial footnoting or citations to give credit for quotations, paraphrased material and the use of others' ideas and opinions, and include an attached bibliography disclosing all works used in preparing your paper. If you're unclear on the degree of citation appropriate for an assignment, discuss it with your instructor.

For more information on avoiding plagiarism and how to properly cite materials, visit:

- research.lib.buffalo.edu/PT505/plagiarism
- library.buffalo.edu/help/research-tips/plagiarism
- owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/930/01
- indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml

For help with your writing, visit the UB Center for Excellence in Writing in 209 Baldy Hall. To make an appointment, visit buffalo.edu/cas/writing or call 716-645-5139.

Faculty

Who's who in the Accounting and Law Department?

In the Accounting and Law Department, you will find faculty with diverse backgrounds and interests and decades of professional and academic experience. The following briefly describes each faculty member's background and teaching, service and research interests. To read more, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting.



Alex B. Ampadu, Clinical Associate Professor

Education: MBA, Rochester Institute of Technology; BS, University of Ghana

Certifications: CPA (NY), CMA, CIA, CFF, FCPA, CFE, CGMA

Professor Ampadu has received the statewide Dr. Emanuel Saxe Outstanding CPA in Education award and is a three-time recipient of UB's Milton Plesur Excellence in Teaching award. He has taught Intermediate Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Assurance and Internal Auditing. He directs the UB Internal Audit (IA) program and is the lead instructor for the Buffalo site of the Becker CPA Review Program. Ampadu serves as department liaison to the Career Resource Center, advising students on recruiting, résumé writing and interviewing. A past Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) faculty advisor and

former BAP national board member, Ampadu has twice been honored as an Outstanding Faculty Advisor by BAP and has received a BAP Excellence in Service award. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), Institute of Internal Auditors, Forensic CPA Society and Institute of Management Accountants, and has chaired various committees for the AICPA and New York State Society of CPAs (NYSSCPA). Ampadu is the founder and faculty advisor of the School Of Management Minority Alliance.



Muriel T. Anderson, Clinical Associate Professor

Education: MBA and BS, University at Buffalo School of Management

Certification: CPA (NY)

Professor Anderson divides her time between two departments: Accounting and Law and Organization and Human Resources. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in the principles of accounting, principles of business, human resources management, career management and leadership. She is the inaugural recipient of the Arjang A. Assad Excellence in Teaching Award and has received the school's Outstanding Contributions to Teaching award, Undergraduate Management Association Teacher of the Year award and several student service awards. She also served as co-faculty director for the

LeaderCORE™ program and faculty advisor for the Graduate Management Association and Delta Sigma Pi international business fraternity. Prior to joining the faculty, Anderson was a vice president and financial audit manager at M&T Bank and staff accountant with a local CPA firm.



Jing Chen, Assistant Professor

Education: PhD, New York University; MPhil, New York University; BBA, Renmin University of China

Professor Chen teaches Intermediate Financial Accounting and conducts empirical financial accounting research. Her research focuses on determinants and consequences of firms' disclosure choices and interactions between firm managers, financial analysts and institutional investors.



Ann Burstein Cohen, Clinical Associate Professor

Education: MBA, University at Buffalo School of Management; BA, Binghamton University

Certification: CPA (NY)

Professor Cohen's teaching focuses on graduate and undergraduate income tax courses. She has published articles in professional journals and a supplement to a tax textbook. Cohen is director of the Master of Science in Accounting program and serves on the school's MBA/MS committee. She received the Gold Haskins Medal (New York State Society of CPAs) and Sells Certificate (American Institute of CPAs) for her performance on the CPA exam. In addition, Cohen has received the Accounting and Law Department's Accounting

Alumnus Award and multiple teaching awards from the School of Management and Undergraduate Management Association. Cohen serves on several state and local NYSSCPA committees and is a past president of both the Foundation for Accounting Education and the NYSSCPA's Buffalo chapter. Cohen has received the NYSSCPA's Outstanding CPA in Education award and the Buffalo chapter's Distinguished Service award. Prior to joining the faculty, she was a tax manager at PwC.



Michael Dambra, Assistant Professor

Education: PhD, University of Rochester; MSBA, University of Rochester; MBA, St. Bonaventure University

Certification: CPA (NY)

Professor Dambra teaches valuation and managerial accounting, and conducts empirical financial accounting research. His research interests include initial public offerings (IPOs), equity analysts, voluntary disclosure and the economic consequences of regulation. Prior to his doctoral studies, he worked as an auditor with KPMG and valued private equity at Empire Valuation Consultants.



Feng Gu, Associate Professor and Chair

Education: PhD and MSBA, Washington University

Professor Gu's research interests include measurement and valuation of intellectual property (intangible assets), corporate management and reporting of investments in intangibles, and firms' voluntary disclosure of financial and nonfinancial information. He is the author of *The End of Accounting and the Path Forward for Investors and Managers*, and his research has been featured such publications as the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Businessweek, Fortune and the New York Times. He has presented to financial executives on intangible asset valuation, consulted with various companies and taught in a variety of graduate and corporate executive education programs in the U.S. and overseas.



Arlene M. Hibscheiler, Clinical Associate Professor

Education: MBA, JD and BA, University at Buffalo

Certification: New York State Bar

A recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Professor Hibscheiler teaches Professional Ethics and Governance, as well as Public Policy, Law and Management. She has co-authored a book on investment taxation and several articles for professional journals, primarily on taxation and business law. She has served on the board of directors for several organizations,

including the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, and is an editor for *The Tax Advisor*, published by the American Institute of CPAs. She serves on the School of Management's Academic Appeals Committee. She practiced law privately for five years before joining the school and spent a sabbatical working as a federal prosecutor, handling tax fraud among other cases.



Myungsun Kim, Associate Professor

Education: PhD, Purdue University; MAcc, University of Georgia; BA, Yonsei University

Professor Kim's teaching interest is in financial accounting. She has published on earnings management, international accounting and capital market anomalies. Her current research focuses on the roles of accruals and cash flows as valuation inputs.



William J. Kross, Professor and Associate Dean for Research

Education: PhD, University of Iowa

Certification: CPA (Illinois)

Professor Kross teaches in the area of financial accounting. His research interests are primarily in the areas of financial accounting and its impact on the prices of securities, as well as earnings forecasting. Kross, who is in the top 10 percent nationally of cited accounting scholars, has been published in the *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, the *Journal of Accounting Research*, the *Accounting Review* and *Contemporary Accounting Research*. He serves as an ad hoc reviewer for several academic journals and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the American Accounting Association. Kross has been cited numerous times for distinguished teaching in undergraduate accounting, MBA, executive and international programs, and serves as the accounting PhD advisor.



Lorrie A. Metzger, Clinical Assistant Professor

Education: MBA, University at Buffalo School of Management; BS, Rochester Institute of Technology

Certifications: CPA (NY), CISA

Professor Metzger teaches an undergraduate course in accounting information systems and graduate courses on data analytics for accountants and information technology auditing. She also is faculty director for the School of Management's Undergraduate Honors Program. Prior to joining UB, Metzger was a senior auditor in the internal audit departments at both First Niagara and M&T Bank. Previously, she also worked as a senior consultant for the Enterprise Risk Services group of Deloitte and as an auditor for the Arthur Andersen firm



Kathleen S. Nesper, Clinical Assistant Professor

Education: MBA and BS, University at Buffalo School of Management

Certifications: CPA (NY), CFF, CFE, CGMA

Professor Nesper's teaching responsibilities include undergraduate and graduate courses in cost/managerial accounting, fraud examination and forensic and investigative accounting. Nesper serves as faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi and has been awarded Outstanding Faculty Advisor at the organization's annual conference. Prior to joining UB, she was a member of Daemen College's accounting faculty, worked as a controller at General Motors and served as an auditor with Deloitte, Haskins & Sells and Coopers & Lybrand. She continues to consult with many area nonprofit organizations.



Kathy R. O'Donnell, Clinical Assistant Professor

Education: MBA, University at Buffalo School of Management; BA, Saint Mary's College

Certification: CPA (NY)

Professor O'Donnell's teaching responsibilities include auditing and attestation. She has also taught principles of accounting, intermediate accounting, accounting and auditing research, and advanced accounting at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She organizes the junior orientation and handbook and serves as assistant chair for the department. O'Donnell is active in several professional and community organizations; her accounting interests are in auditing, business combinations, foreign currency, governments and nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining the school, she was a senior auditor at Ernst & Young.



Claudia Zhen Qi, Assistant Professor

Education: PhD, University of Southern California; MSc, London School of Economics and Political Science; BS, Peking University

Professor Qi teaches financial and managerial accounting and conducts empirical financial accounting research. Her research interests include the role of accounting information in debt contracting and bond markets, accounting conservatism, risk disclosure, and the economic consequences of financial reporting and disclosure.



Mary Ann Rogers, Clinical Assistant Professor

Education: MBA and BA, University at Buffalo

Professor Rogers is a member of the School of Management's Organization and Human Resources and Accounting and Law departments and principally teaches communication courses on the undergraduate and graduate levels. Prior to her teaching appointment, Rogers held a variety of administrative positions at UB, which included development, personnel and resource management responsibilities. She is a PhD student in UB's Communications Department and is certified in the Hay Group's Climate and Leadership training and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) training.



Martha L. Salzman, Clinical Assistant Professor

Education: JD, University of Pennsylvania; BA, University of Rochester

Certification: New York State Bar

Professor Salzman practiced law for several years at Buffalo-based law firm Phillips Lytle before joining the School of Management in 2006. Her law practice focused on corporate counseling and business taxation. Salzman was named to the Business First and Buffalo Law Journal Who's Who in Law list and served as chair of the taxation section of the Erie County Bar Association. In the School of Management, Salzman teaches business law and related courses at the undergraduate level, as well as the professional tax research course in the MS Accounting program. She serves as faculty advisor for the UB Accounting

Association and the school's Internships and Experiential Learning Office. She's a member of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business and served on the board of trustees for the Town of Hamburg Public Library for several years.



Inho Suk, Associate Professor

Education: PhD, Purdue University; MS (Statistics), University of Chicago; MS (Economics), University of Illinois; BS, Korea University

Professor Suk's teaching interest is in financial accounting. His primary research interests lie in the areas of voluntary disclosure, analysts' forecast revisions, strategic earnings reporting around earnings thresholds, accounting information and market microstructure, and corporate governance.



Gabby Wang, Assistant Professor

Education: PhD, Indiana University; MS and BS, Brigham Young University

Professor Wang teaches audit and financial accounting and conducts research in financial accounting. Her research interests include the effect of financial disclosure quality on capital markets, insider trading and financial reporting, and reporting practices of financially distressed firms. Before her academic career, she served as a financial statement auditor for Deloitte and internal audit consultant for KPMG.



Weihong Xu, Associate Professor

Education: PhD and MS, Washington University (St. Louis); MA and BA, Zhongshan University

Professor Xu teaches in the areas of financial accounting and managerial accounting. Her research interests are primarily in financial accounting, disclosure and corporate governance. She has published in various academic journals on management earnings forecasts, capital market anomalies and corporate board financial literacy. Before joining UB, she taught financial and managerial accounting at Vanderbilt University and Washington University.

Faculty Directory

How can I reach my professor?

Name	Email (@buffalo.edu)	Office	Telephone
Feng Gu, Chair	fgu	336 Jacobs	716-645-3273
Department Office: Janet Kiefer, Dept. Secretary	kiefer	375 Jacobs	716-645-3290
Alex B. Ampadu	ampadu	340 Jacobs	716-645-3265
Muriel Anderson	manderso	270 Jacobs	716-645-3896
Jing Chen	jchen229	239 Jacobs	716-645-5251
Ann Burstein Cohen	abc	348 Jacobs	716-645-3269
Michael Dambra	mjdambra	354 Jacobs	716-645-3237
Arlene M. Hibscheiler	ah33	362 Jacobs	716-645-3911
Myungsun (Sun) Kim	mk88	372 Jacobs	716-645-7900
William Kross	wkross	350 Jacobs	716-645-3197
Lorrie Metzger	metzgerl	332 Jacobs	716-645-3898
Kathleen Nesper	ksnesper	338 Jacobs	716-645-3284
Kathy R. O'Donnell	odonnell	356 Jacobs	716-645-6526
Claudia Qi	zhenqi	368 Jacobs	716-645-3263
Mary Ann Rogers	marogers	249 Jacobs	716-645-5246
Martha Salzman	msalzman	364 Jacobs	716-645-7856
Inho Suk	inhosuk	342 Jacobs	716-645-3215
Gabby Wang	hsinyowa	346 Jacobs	716-645-3274
Weihong Xu	wxu4	358 Jacobs	716-645-5434

Important Resources

Office	Location	Telephone
Undergraduate Academic Programs Office	204 Alfiero	716-645-3206
Career Resource Center	308 Alfiero	716-645-3232
Internships and Experiential Learning Office	308 Alfiero	716-645-3232
Copy Center	201 Alfiero	716-645-3874
Registrar (registrar.buffalo.edu)	259 Capen	716-645-5698
UB Career Services	259 Capen	716-645-2231
Center for Excellence in Writing	209 Baldy	716-645-5139
Computing Centers		
Jacobs Computer Lab	210 Jacobs	716-645-3332
Capen First Floor Cybrary	Capen Library	716-645-2146
Lockwood Second Floor Cybrary	Lockwood Library	716-645-6588
Undergraduate Library	Capen Library	716-645-2944

Websites

- University at Buffalo School of Management: mgt.buffalo.edu
- Accounting and Law Department: mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting
- Career Resource Center: mgt.buffalo.edu/career
- Internships and Experiential Learning Office: mgt.buffalo.edu/internships
- Group Room Scheduling: mgt.buffalo.edu/current-students/school-facilities/group-rooms
- UB Career Services: buffalo.edu/career
- Beta Alpha Psi: ubbap.com
- UB Accounting Association: ubaccountingassociation.com

Internships

Internships are an integral part of career preparation, enabling students to explore the best fit between academics and professional goals. Internships provide a taste of the real world through hands-on projects supervised by individuals with expertise in a given concentration area; in this case, accounting.

The Internships and Experiential Learning Office (IEL) and the Career Resource Center (CRC) develop internship opportunities for UB School of Management students and post them in our online recruiting system, [BizLink](#). All internships posted in BizLink are prescreened for integrity and eligible for academic credit.

Internships can be paid or unpaid and are available during summer, fall and spring semesters. The summer between junior and senior year is a popular time for undergraduate students to participate in internships. Undergraduate students are allowed two credit-bearing internships (or six academic credits).

How does the IEL work?

Students are welcome to make appointments for internship advising or stop by the Career Resource Center for walk-in advising during set hours. To apply for internships in BizLink and consider earning academic credit for participation, you must carry a minimum 2.5 GPA. However, most employers seeking accounting students expect a much higher GPA — as high as 3.5 in some cases. The IEL does not place students; rather, students apply to postings and employers select candidates for interviews.

Is academic credit required?

Paid internships for domestic students do not require academic credit, but it is a great option. International students are required to earn academic credit for internship participation in order to obtain proper work authorization. Unpaid internships for both domestic and international students must always be registered for academic credit. After you have accepted an offer and submitted all appropriate paperwork, the IEL will begin the registration process. Internships are three academic credits and are accompanied by a syllabus with required academic assignments that will help you reflect on your experiences. Assignments also help you prepare for future interviews by defining and clarifying what you have learned during the internship and how it impacts your overall career goals.

What distinguishes a credit-bearing internship from other learning experiences?

- Credit-bearing internships require/guarantee a minimum of 150 hours of relevant, on-site project work mentored by a professional.
- Employers trust and are drawn to the structure and quality of credit-bearing internships because they are approved by the university.
- Credit-bearing internships provide meaningful elective credit, proof of participation on your official UB transcript and can be counted toward graduation requirements.

Credit-bearing internship sites include such firms as Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers; corporations like the U.S. Energy Development Corp. and Delaware North; and nonprofit organizations like Boys and Girls Club of Buffalo and Shea's Performing Arts Center.

For more information, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/internships.

Master of Science in Accounting Program

The Bachelor of Science in Accounting prepares you for many rewarding career paths. But if you wish to become licensed as a CPA in New York State and virtually all other states, you must satisfy the 150-hour education requirements. New York, as well as many other jurisdictions, not only requires the completion of 150 college credit hours, but also mandates fairly specific requirements regarding accounting and business coursework within those 150 hours that cannot be completed in an undergraduate program.

The School of Management's Master of Science in Accounting Program has been registered by New York State under these requirements. Completing a registered accounting program puts you in the express lane for CPA licensing approval; your application will get automatic approval with respect to the educational requirements. In addition, the graduate degree offers a competitive advantage in a credential-conscious marketplace for your first position — and for later employment opportunities. A graduate degree is an investment in your long-term success, and the New York State Society of CPAs endorses the completion of a graduate degree by accounting professionals.

Our one-year MS Accounting program provides the advanced technical knowledge, critical thinking, professional judgment and communication skills that are increasingly stressed in practice and on the CPA exam. The program includes a core curriculum of advanced accounting topics, including courses in advanced income taxation, auditing, accounting information systems and professional research, plus a capstone course in emerging financial or managerial accounting issues. In addition, you will choose courses from three specialization tracks that parallel the functional structure of many CPA firms: financial accounting and assurance, internal audit and risk management, and taxation.

All students complete the core program, three or four courses in their chosen track, a capstone course and one to two electives as follows. All courses are three credit hours unless indicated otherwise.

Core Courses

- MGA 612 — Taxation of Business Entities
- MGA 614 — Advanced Auditing
- MGA 621 — Data Analytics for Accountants
- MGA 623 — Professional Tax Research (1.5 credits)
- MGA 624 — Research in Accounting and Auditing Standards (1.5 credits)

Track Courses

- *Financial Accounting and Assurance*
 - MGA 635 — Global Financial Reporting
 - MGA 637 — Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation
 - MGA 643 — Fraud Examination and Forensic Investigation
- *Internal Audit and Risk Management*
 - MGA 640 — Principles and Practice of Internal Audit
 - MGA 641 — Advanced Topics in Internal Audit
 - MGA 642 — Information Technology Audit
 - MGA 643 — Fraud Examination and Forensic Investigation
- *Taxation*
 - MGA 651 — Tax Planning for the Closely-Held Businesses
 - MGA 652 — Tax Planning for Multi-Jurisdictional Entities
 - MGA 653 — Advanced Topics in Corporate Taxation

Business Electives (can include one internship)

Capstone course (choose one)

- MGA 617 — Advanced Topics in Management Accounting and Control
- MGA 618 — Current Issues In Financial Reporting

To apply, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/degree-programs/master-of-science-ms/accounting/apply. All applications must be filed by early March of your senior year, but because of limited capacity, we encourage you to apply early.

Under a special early application program, you may begin the application process as of July 1 following junior year. If your application file is complete by October 1, you will receive a decision by mid-November. Acceptance under this early application program is conditional upon satisfactory completion of the Bachelor of Science program. Marginal applicants will be deferred until more undergraduate grades are available. Transcripts, letters of recommendation and the GMAT are required, but there is a GMAT waiver for students in the top of the class.

The next round of application review will occur in February, with the final round in March. Consistent with University Graduate School requirements, candidates will be expected to demonstrate minimum overall and upper division accounting GPAs of 3.0 or higher. For more information, visit the Graduate Programs Office in 203 Alfiero Center or mgt.buffalo.edu/degree-programs/master-of-science-ms/accounting.

An information session will be held in April so you can prepare for the application process in the summer before senior year. Watch for the email announcing the information session.

Career Choices and Resources

A career in accounting generally begins with a position at a public accounting firm, company, financial institution, government agency or nonprofit organization. Within these organizations, you often have the opportunity to further specialize in financial accounting, managerial accounting, audit, internal audit, taxation and specialized consulting services. You may wish to eventually become a certified public accountant (CPA), certified management accountant (CMA), certified financial manager (CFM) or certified internal auditor (CIA) by successfully completing the licensing exams and experience requirements.

Before you can begin your job search, you need to decide which path you want to follow initially. You will learn about different employers and functions from your courses and your own research and by participating in UB Accounting Association and Beta Alpha Psi activities and completing internships. Our faculty have different backgrounds and are also willing to discuss career choices with you.

Career Resource Center

Located in 308 Alfiero Center, the Career Resource Center (CRC) is a resource exclusively for School of Management students. Many public accounting firms, corporations and government agencies that hire accountants interview on campus at the CRC.

All students are required to complete a career preparation course developed by the CRC that integrates all of the tools and information you need to prepare for a job search. Students who entered UB before fall 2016 will complete MGG 300 Career Strategies, Planning and Management; students who entered UB during fall 2016 or later will complete MGG 298 and 398 Career Connections I and II. Since some accounting firms begin interviewing students early for summer internships and other opportunities, we strongly recommend you complete these courses early. The CRC also offers accounting career path workshops, which juniors should attend to learn more about opportunities in various practices and industries and prepare for on-campus recruitment.

In addition, the CRC offers the following career services:

- Résumé critiques, an award-winning practice interview program, and live and video-based workshops on interviewing and résumé-writing
- In-person career advisement
- Instructional materials and guides on résumé and interviews, including résumé samples and templates specifically for accounting students
- Job and internship postings and on-campus interview opportunities, posted on BizLink at mgt.buffalo.edu/career-resource-center/students/bizlink
- A dedicated student telephone for job search-related calls
- Help facilitating video interviews

For more information on the CRC and its services, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/career or stop by 308 Alfiero Center.

Also, take advantage of services offered to all UB undergraduates through the university's Career Services Office, located at 259 Capen Hall. For more information, visit buffalo.edu/career.

Professional Exams

There are many professional accounting certifications, but the most common are Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). If your desired career path includes obtaining one of these certifications, read on for more information.

To become a CPA, you must be licensed by a state. Each state has different requirements for education and experience, but all require you to pass the uniform CPA exam given by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant and several states, including New York, require 150 credit hours. In New York State, you must graduate from a registered accounting program, pass all four parts of the CPA exam and satisfy a professional experience requirement. If you're considering employment in another state, be sure to follow that state's academic requirements. The CPA exam is offered several times per year.

The CMA and Certified Financial Manager exams are sponsored by the Institute of Management Accountants. You may qualify to take the exams in the last semester of your senior year.

The CIA exam is sponsored by the Institute of Internal Auditors and is offered each November and May. You can take it in your final semester.

Each exam has different requirements and strict deadlines for filing. To obtain application forms and brochures, visit the Accounting and Law Department office in 375 Jacobs.

Other professional accounting-related designations include Chartered Bank Auditor (CBA), Certificate in Data Processing (CDP), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Enrolled Agent (one enrolled to practice before the IRS).

For more information about professional exams, speak with Professor Alex Ampadu or visit the following websites:

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants	aicpa.org
New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants	nysscpa.org
National Association of State Boards of Accountancy	nasba.org
Institute of Management Accountants	imanet.org
Institute of Internal Auditors	theiia.org
Association of Certified Fraud Examiners	acfe.com

Student Accounting Clubs

How can I get involved?

University at Buffalo Accounting Association (UBAA)

Respected among the business community locally and nationally, the University at Buffalo Accounting Association (UBAA) opens up a realm of experiences to UB School of Management accounting students. The club offers activities and events to help you develop your networking, communication and team-building skills, which are essential to success in today's business world.

Through technical presentations and networking events, our members learn about careers in public accounting firms, financial institutions and the private sector. With fundraising, community and social events, our members have the chance to improve their soft skills, get involved in the City of Buffalo and build relationships with alumni, faculty, recruiters and other students.

UBAA is affiliated with the Buffalo chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) — an affiliation that fosters personal and professional development opportunities through continuing education, relationships with local professionals and potential professional certifications in management accounting. In recent years, UBAA has been recognized by the IMA with the Gold and Silver Certificates of Excellence.

So, why get involved with UBAA? We provide accounting students the chance to engage with their peers in an inclusive environment and encourage our members to be actively involved in the accounting community. Our requirements are manageable with a rigorous course load, and there is no specific GPA necessary for membership.

To learn more, visit ubaccountingassociation.com or facebook.com/UBAccountingAssociation. If you have questions, contact ubaa2017@gmail.com or one of our officers.

President: Michelina Strangio, mdstrang@buffalo.edu
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VP of Committees: Robert Schultz, rs255@buffalo.edu
VP of Membership: Ryan Thompson, rpthomps@buffalo.edu

Faculty Advisor: Professor Martha L. Salzman, msalzman@buffalo.edu

Beta Alpha Psi

Zeta Theta Chapter, founded in 1981



Beta Alpha Psi is about you — your personal and professional development and your success. Whether you are certain of your future or remain unsure, it starts now! There are two sets of skills needed to succeed in the professional arena: technical and soft skills. Your classes will help you develop in both areas, while Beta Alpha Psi will help you strengthen such soft skills as communication, leadership and teamwork.

Beta Alpha Psi is an international scholastic and professional honor society for financial information students and professionals. Our primary objective is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field. We promote the study and practice of accounting, finance and information systems; provide opportunities for personal development, service and association among members and professionals; and encourage ethical, social and public responsibility.

As a member of Beta Alpha Psi, you will have more opportunities for personal and professional development and greater access to recruiters, alumni and faculty who will help in your academic and career success. We host and promote a wide array of events including firm presentations, Meet the Professionals Night, the Helen and Oscar Sufirin Lectureship in Accounting, and various community service, fundraising and social events throughout the year.

How will Beta Alpha Psi help you emerge as a leader? Being a Beta Alpha Psi member will distinguish you from other students in the School of Management. Professionals understand and respect what it takes to be a member, and by joining Beta Alpha Psi, you demonstrate your proactive personality and desire to improve the community, the profession and yourself. Our growing alumni network includes professionals at all of the Big 4 firms (PwC, Deloitte, EY and KPMG), local and regional firms, and investment banks such as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

For more information, visit ubbap.com or contact anyone on our executive board.

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Scholarships and Awards

There are many awards and scholarship opportunities for accounting students. For a complete list, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/faculty/academic-departments/accounting-law/student-information/scholarships.

Scholarships

- **American Society of Woman Accountants (ASWA) Scholarship**, a national competition based on financial need and academic performance
- **ASWA Buffalo Affiliate** for students attending a school or with a permanent residence in Western New York; distributed on a rotating basis among several schools in Western New York
- **ASWA New York City Affiliate** for students with permanent residence in the Greater New York City area
- **Arthur H. Carter Scholarship** through the American Accounting Association, a competitive award based on academic performance
- **Arthur Wasserman Scholarship**, for a School of Management student, with preference given to applicants of Jewish heritage from Western New York
- **Institute of Management Accountants Stuart Cameron and Margaret McLeod Scholarships**, with preference to students with an interest in management accounting, not based on financial need
- **New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA) Scholarship**, a statewide program based on financial need in which applicants compete with other students from the same geographic area of the state based on permanent residence

Awards

- **PricewaterhouseCoopers Award** based on outstanding service by a member of the Zeta Theta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi in the previous year, voted by members
- **Lisa Friedman Memorial Award**, to a graduating female from the undergraduate program who is highly thought of by peers as an accountant and friend
- **Michael Dockery Memorial Award**, voted by the members of the UB Accounting Association
- **New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants awards** (through the Buffalo chapter)
 - New York State Society Award to a graduating senior
 - John T. Kennedy Memorial Award to a junior

Departmental Resources

The Department of Accounting and Law relies on contributions from alumni and friends for its operating needs. A major source of our general funding is matching contributions from alumni employed by national and local CPA firms. The 1000² campaign, aimed at established accounting professionals, encourages alumni and friends to give \$1,000 per year to the annual fund. A fund named for retired Professor Ronald Huefner allows Professor Huefner's former students, colleagues and friends to honor him with their contributions to our general operations. Two named spaces, the Michael and Catherine Murray Mezzanine and the Ernst & Young Study Center, have also generated significant funds for the department. We also depend on the regular support of individual alumni.

We strive to use all resources efficiently and effectively for the following purposes: instructional assistance (student grading assistants and tutoring, course-related materials and software, support for faculty training); student support (recruiting events, junior orientation and handbook, financial support for UBAA and Beta Alpha Psi); professional activities (advisory councils, banquets, speaker series, professional membership fees); and research support (outside speakers, software and databases, faculty travel to academic conferences). We also use contributions to support scholarships for incoming MS Accounting students.

The department also receives special-purpose gifts and grants from firms, alumni and friends. We use the James Schindler Fund to defray student club operations and a KPMG fund for student-related support. Contributions from KPMG and its partners have allowed us to renovate and maintain our conference room, 379 Jacobs. Our accounting classroom, 122 Jacobs, was built thanks to the contributions of Louis DiBerardino III, BS '80, and Ernst & Young. Lou DiBerardino also funded the DiBerardino Accounting Resource Center, located on the third floor of Jacobs Management Center, with matching contributions from Ernst & Young. Other donations and grants are restricted to faculty training, the systems lab, a speaker series and specific curriculum development activities.