Department of Accounting and Law Undergraduate Handbook
# Table of Contents

Welcome Letter............................................................................................................................. 3
Accounting Course Sequence........................................................................................................ 4
Accounting Course Descriptions................................................................................................... 5
Academic Integrity........................................................................................................................ 7
Faculty Directory .......................................................................................................................... 8
Important Student Resources....................................................................................................... 9
Master of Science in Accounting Program.................................................................................. 10
Career Choices and Resources..................................................................................................... 11
  Career Resource Center........................................................................................................... 11
  Internships ............................................................................................................................ 11
  Professional Certifications ................................................................................................... 12
Accounting Student Clubs ............................................................................................................ 13
Scholarships and Awards............................................................................................................ 14
Department Resources ............................................................................................................... 15
Dear Accounting Student:

Welcome! On behalf of our 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 fewer than 10 accounting programs in New York to earn accreditation by AACSB. The value of your degree increases with this prestigious designation, and we are proud of the rigorous standards our program meets to achieve this honor. We also are proud to offer a comprehensive internal audit program endorsed by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) at the master’s level. Globally, there are a very limited number of these programs, and only a few in New York. As a successful School of Management accounting student, you will be well-prepared for the CPA exam and careers in accounting and finance. You also will be in great demand in the marketplace, as we are a priority recruiting school for many accounting firms, including the Big Four, and one of a select group of schools nationally invited to participate in the annual PwC Challenge competition each year.

Our faculty are strongly committed to preparing you for your professional career, whether in public practice as a CPA, in business or in government. Professors meet regularly with working professionals to keep up with employment trends and promote our students to recruiters, making them an excellent source of career information for you. In addition, 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 IIA. They regularly publish journal articles and textbooks, present at universities, conferences and community events, 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 graduates who are technically proficient and have strong soft skills. Outside-of-class activities are essential to your 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, complete an internship—and that’s only the beginning.

We have two active accounting student clubs. The UB Accounting Association (UBAA) is affiliated with the Buffalo chapter of the IIA, providing strong mentorship opportunities with their professionals. UBAA members have opportunities to attend the IIA’s Internal Auditing Education Partnership Exchange in Orlando, Florida, where you can learn about various aspects of internal audit and compete to present on a real business’s internal controls. Our Zeta Theta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the international accounting honor organization, is recognized annually as a Superior chapter and honored often as one of the top chapters in the world with the prestigious KPMG Gold Chapter award. We have hosted international Beta Alpha Psi meetings and Atlantic Coast regional meetings, and our student members participate in international and regional conferences every year, regularly winning awards in conference competitions. Both clubs are actively involved in the community, including hosting our widely acclaimed Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Our students’ exceptional efforts have led these organizations to great success—and we know you will keep up this tradition.

Faculty and student club members collaborated on this handbook to ease your transition to the demanding life of an accounting major. It explains the program requirements and shares resources to enhance your experience and professional development. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you as a student and as an alumnus in the future.

Sincerely,
Feng Gu
Chair and Professor
Department of Accounting and Law
Accounting Course Sequence

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

- To earn a Bachelor of Science 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, you are a continuing UB student who did not meet with your advisor this past spring, or you have not received a plan through graduation from your advisor. To schedule your advisement appointment, call 716-645-3206 or log on to Navigate at https://buffalo.navigate.eab.com.

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 or after.)

1. **Required Accounting Courses for Accounting Majors**
   - MGA 301 (fall junior year)*
   - MGA 311 (fall junior year)*
   - MGG 303
   - MGA 302 (spring junior year)*
   - MGA 314 (spring junior year)*
   - 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

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

2. **Required School of Management Core** (listed alphabetically)
   - MGB 301
   - MGE 302
   - MGF 301
   - MGG 215 and 315*
   - MGI 301
   - MGM 301
   - MGO 302
   - MGO 403
   - MGQ 301
   - MGS 351
   * Accounting students are strongly encouraged to enroll in section A of MGG 315 during fall of junior year. The Career Resource Center instructs this special section in the fall only for accounting students.

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 implemented a new UB Curriculum. (The new curriculum could also affect choices under the UB General Education Curriculum for students who arrived before fall 2016.) As such, it is essential for you to refer to your academic advisement report in HUB and 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 the spring semester 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 UB and your major.
Accounting Course Descriptions

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 302; junior standing in accounting program. Offered spring only.

MGG 303 – Communication Literacy for Business
Focuses on composition in professional genres related to business to help you build a strong foundation in a range of communication skills, and to improve how you write, speak, operate and conduct yourself in the workplace. You will also learn techniques for communicating and adapting to audiences in the workplace.
Prerequisites: Communication Literacy 1 or Writing Skills 1 (ENG 101 or placement into ENG 201). Offered fall and spring.

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 312 – Introduction to Data Analytics for Accountants*
Provides an overview of the instruments and tools used to understand, model and make practical use of the large quantity of data that most businesses collect. The course presents a wide range of data analytics tools and techniques, including Excel, Alteryx Designer and Tableau Desktop and is structured around the broad contours of the different types of data analytics, namely, descriptive, inferential, predictive and prescriptive analytics.
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.
*Note: New course pending approval, to replace MGA 314, Cost Accounting.

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, 311 and 314 with minimum grades of C in each; MGF 301; concurrent or prior registration in MGE 302; 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 understanding 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.
*Prerequisites: MGA 301, 302, 311 and 314 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, 311 and 314 with minimum grades of C in each; MGF 301; senior standing in accounting program. Offered fall and spring.*

MGA 449 – Internal Auditing Practicum and MGA 496 – Accounting Internship
Provides students with an opportunity to apply classroom theories to real-life situations. Similar to a job search, students send their résumés to sites that match their interests (from a list available from the school’s Internship and Experiential Learning team) and interview for a position. Each site assigns a project to be completed within 150 hours during the semester. Accounting students work under the supervision of an accounting professional and receive exposure to the day-to-day operations within a professional setting.
*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.*
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.

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 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](https://research.lib.buffalo.edu/PT505/plagiarism)
- [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/index.html)
- [https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/plagiarism.html](https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/plagiarism.html)

For help with your writing, visit the UB Center for Excellence in Writing in 209 Baldy Hall. To make an appointment, visit [buffalo.edu/writing](http://buffalo.edu/writing) or call 716-645-5139.
Faculty

In our department, you will find faculty with diverse backgrounds and interests and decades of professional and academic experience. Get to know your professors, and leverage their experience in your academic and professional pursuits.

So, who’s who in the Accounting and Law Department? You will find each faculty member’s photo, background, teaching, service and research on their webpage. Visit mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting/faculty.

Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email (@buffalo.edu)</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feng Gu, Chair</td>
<td>fgu</td>
<td>370 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex B. Ampadu</td>
<td>ampadu</td>
<td>340 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muriel Anderson</td>
<td>manderso</td>
<td>270 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Burstein Cohen</td>
<td>abc</td>
<td>348 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Dambra</td>
<td>mjdambra</td>
<td>354 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Hall</td>
<td>cahall7</td>
<td>378 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-5297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlene M. Hibschweiler</td>
<td>ah33</td>
<td>362 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose M. Hu</td>
<td>rmhu</td>
<td>356 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-6526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Khavis</td>
<td>jakhavis</td>
<td>346 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myungsun (Sun) Kim</td>
<td>mk88</td>
<td>372 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-7900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Kross</td>
<td>wkross</td>
<td>350 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorrie Metzger</td>
<td>metzgerl</td>
<td>332 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Nesper</td>
<td>ksnesper</td>
<td>338 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Salzman</td>
<td>msalzman</td>
<td>364 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-7856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Stolzenburg</td>
<td>kms92</td>
<td>378 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-5244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inho Suk</td>
<td>inhosuk</td>
<td>342 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Szerwo</td>
<td>bszerwo</td>
<td>366 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-5483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Tarrant</td>
<td>iantarra</td>
<td>368 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weihong Xu</td>
<td>wxu4</td>
<td>358 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-5434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Important Student Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Academic Programs Office</td>
<td>204 Alfiero</td>
<td>716-645-3206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Resource Center</td>
<td>308 Alfiero</td>
<td>716-645-3232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships and Experiential Learning Team</td>
<td>308 Alfiero</td>
<td>716-645-3232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy Center</td>
<td>201 Alfiero</td>
<td>716-645-3874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar (<a href="http://registrar.buffalo.edu">registrar.buffalo.edu</a>)</td>
<td>1 Capen</td>
<td>716-645-5698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UB Career Services</td>
<td>259 Capen</td>
<td>716-645-2231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Excellence in Writing</td>
<td>209 Baldy</td>
<td>716-645-5139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computing center</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacobs Computer Lab</td>
<td>210 Jacobs</td>
<td>716-645-3332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverman Cybrary, Second and Third Floors</td>
<td>Capen Hall</td>
<td>716-645-6585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockwood Cybrary, Second and Third Floors</td>
<td>Lockwood Library</td>
<td>716-645-6588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Web address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University at Buffalo School of Management</td>
<td>mgt.buffalo.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting and Law Department</td>
<td>mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Resource Center</td>
<td>mgt.buffalo.edu/career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships and Experiential Learning team</td>
<td>mgt.buffalo.edu/internships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfiero Center group room scheduling</td>
<td>mgt.buffalo.edu/current-students/school-facilities/group-rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a School of Management student, you can reserve an Alfiero Center room for group work. You can also use the DiBerardino Accounting Resource Center (ARC) on the third floor of Jacobs Management Center—an exclusive space for accounting majors to study, meet and work on group projects and research (no reservation needed).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UB Career Services</td>
<td>buffalo.edu/career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta Alpha Psi</td>
<td>ubbap.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UB Accounting Association</td>
<td>ubaccountingassociation.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions: Public Accountancy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/cpa">www.op.nysed.gov/prof/cpa</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Master of Science in Accounting Program

The Bachelor of Science in Accounting is step one in preparing you for many rewarding career path options. However, if you wish to become licensed as a CPA in New York State and virtually all other states, you must satisfy higher-level educational requirements. New York, as well as many other jurisdictions, not only requires completion of 150 college credit hours, but also mandates specific requirements for accounting and business coursework within those 150 hours that cannot be completed in an undergraduate program.

The UB School of Management’s Master of Science in Accounting program has been approved by New York State under these requirements. Completing an approved accounting program puts you in the express lane for CPA licensing approval, meaning your application will get automatic approval with respect to the educational requirements, rather than undergoing a detailed and lengthy review. In addition, the graduate degree offers you a competitive advantage in a credential-conscious marketplace — for your first position and beyond. It is an investment in your long-term success. The New York State Society of CPAs has endorsed the completion of a graduate degree by accounting professionals.

The one-year MS Accounting program is regularly updated to keep pace with changing accounting trends and provides advanced technical knowledge and opportunities for you to hone your critical thinking, professional judgment, and analytical and communication skills, which are increasingly stressed in practice and on the CPA exam. The program includes a core curriculum of advanced accounting topics, and allows you to choose from three specialization tracks that parallel the functional structure of many CPA firms: financial accounting and assurance, internal audit and risk management, or taxation.

All students complete the core program listed below, three or four courses in their chosen track, a capstone course, and one or two electives.

Core courses
- MGA 612 – Taxation of Business Entities (3 credits)
- MGA 614 – Advanced Auditing (3 credits)
- MGA 621 – Data Analytics for Accountants (3 credits)
- MGA 623 – Professional Tax Research (1.5 credits)
- MGA 624 – Research in Accounting and Auditing Standards (1.5 credits)

Because of limited capacity, we encourage you to apply early. Under a special early application program, you may begin the application process for the MS Accounting program on April 1 of junior year. If your application file is complete by May 1, you will receive a decision by late June. Acceptance under this early application program is conditional upon satisfactory completion of your senior year. Applications in this early window also give you first consideration for TA positions and department scholarships.

Later application deadlines for the MS Accounting program are early October and February of your senior year. Transcripts, letters of recommendation and a personal statement are required. Consistent with UB Graduate School requirements, you are expected to demonstrate a minimum GPA of 3.0 and strong performance in accounting coursework.

For more information, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/msaccounting or the Graduate Programs Office in 203 Alfiero Center.
Career Choices and Resources

Accounting careers generally begin with a position at a public accounting firm, company, financial institution, government agency or nonprofit. Within these organizations, you can often specialize in financial accounting, managerial accounting, audit, internal audit, taxation, advisory and consulting services. Eventually, you may also wish to earn a professional accounting certification.

Before you can begin your job search, you need to decide which path you want to follow initially. You can learn about different employers and functions through classes, internships and research, participating in UB Accounting Association and Beta Alpha Psi activities, and talking with your professors.

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 School of Management students must complete the CRC’s career preparation courses, which provide the tools you need for a successful internship and job search. You will complete MGG 215 “Career Connections I” during sophomore year, followed by MGG 315 “Career Connections II” during fall of junior year. In MGG 315, you will hear from professionals in various accounting practices and industries to help you prepare for on-campus recruitment, which begins early for summer internships and other opportunities with accounting firms.

In addition, the CRC offers the following career services:

- Résumé critiques (including the VMock digital résumé critique service), an award-winning practice interview program, and live and digital workshops on interviewing and résumé-writing
- Individual career advisement
- Instructional materials and guides on résumés and interviewing, 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/bizlinkstudent
- A dedicated student telephone for job search-related calls
- Help facilitating digital and other types of video/virtual interviews

For more information, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/career or 308 Alfiero Center.

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

Internships

Internships are integral to your career preparation, enabling you to explore the best fit between academics and professional goals, and providing real-world experience through hands-on projects supervised by individuals with expertise in a given area—in this case, accounting.

The CRC’s Internships and Experiential Learning team develops opportunities for School of Management students and posts them in BizLink: mgt.buffalo.edu/bizlinkstudent. All internships in BizLink are eligible for academic credit. You may apply two credit-bearing internships (three elective credits each, or six total) toward the total number of credit hours you need graduate.

Internships can be paid or unpaid and are available during the summer, fall and spring semesters. The summer between senior year and the MS Accounting program is a popular time for students to complete a paid internship.
How can the internship team help?

Attend a Quick Question session or schedule an appointment for internship advising. Students are not “placed” in internships; rather, you apply to postings in our BizLink system or through other sources, and employers select candidates for interviews. To apply for internships in BizLink and earn academic credit for participation, you must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA, though most employers seeking accounting students expect a higher GPA (up to 3.5 in some cases).

Is academic credit required?

Domestic students are not required to earn academic credit for paid internships, but it is a great option leading to elective credit and official validation on your transcript. International students must earn academic credit for internship participation to obtain Curricular Practical Training (CPT) work authorization, enabling legal participation in internships and thereby avoiding violation of the F-1 visa status. All students must earn academic credit for unpaid internships to connect the internship to the academic curriculum and comply with Department of Labor standards.

After you accept an offer and submit all appropriate paperwork, the Internships and Experiential Learning team begins the registration process. Credit-bearing internships are accompanied by our syllabus, which requires meaningful assignments to help you reflect on your experience and prepare for the future by defining what you learned during the internship and how it impacts your career goals.

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

Credit-bearing internships require at least 150 hours of relevant project work mentored by a professional. In addition, they provide meaningful elective credit and proof of participation on your official UB transcript, and can be counted toward graduation requirements. Employers—including Big Four and local accounting firms, corporations and nonprofits—trust and are drawn to the structure and quality of credit-bearing internships because they are approved by the university.

For more information, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/internships or 308 Alfiero Center.

Professional Certifications

There are many professional accounting certifications, but the most common are Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA).

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 Accountants, and most states, including New York, require 150 credit hours of education. The CPA exam is offered throughout the year, and candidates must successfully pass all four parts within a rolling 18-month window. For information on becoming a CPA in New York, visit the State Office of the Professions at www.op.nysed.gov/prof/cpa/cpalic. If you’re considering employment in another state, be sure to follow that state’s academic and licensure requirements.

The CMA and CIA exams are sponsored by the Institute of Management Accountants, and the Institute of Internal Auditors, respectively. Other professional designations include Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Enrolled Agent (able to practice before the IRS). For more information, contact Professor Alex Ampadu or visit the following:

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants: aicpa.org
- New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants: nyscpa.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
Accounting Student Clubs

University at Buffalo Accounting Association (UBAA)

Respected among the business community locally and nationally, the UB Accounting Association (UBAA) opens up a realm of experiences to help you develop networking, communication and team-building skills that are essential to success in today’s business world.

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

UBAA is affiliated with the Buffalo chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), which fosters personal and professional development opportunities through continuing education, relationships with local professionals and various activities focused on improving leadership skills. UBAA has developed a successful mentorship program with the IIA that pairs a student with a professional.

So, why join UBAA? As a member, you will engage with your peers in an inclusive environment and get involved in the accounting community. In addition, the membership requirements—which do not mandate a specific GPA—are manageable with a rigorous course load.

To learn more, visit ubaccountingassociation.com, where you can find contact information for each student officer and our faculty advisor.

Beta Alpha Psi

Beta Alpha Psi is about you—your personal and professional development and your success. Whether or not you are certain of your future, 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 both, while Beta Alpha Psi will help you strengthen such soft skills as communication, leadership and teamwork.

Beta Alpha Psi is an international honor organization for financial information students and professionals. Our primary objective is to encourage and recognize 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.

The Zeta Theta chapter was founded in 1981, and as a member, you will receive opportunities for personal and professional development and access to recruiters, alumni and faculty who will help in your academic and career success. Each year, we host and promote firm presentations, Meet the Professionals Night, the Helen and Oscar Sufrin Lectureship in Accounting, and community service, fundraising and social events.

How will Beta Alpha Psi help you emerge as a leader? Being a member will distinguish you from other students. 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 Four firms, local and regional firms, and investment banks like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

For membership requirements and contact information for our executive board and faculty advisor, visit ubbap.com.
Scholarships and Awards

There are many awards and scholarship opportunities for accounting students, including those noted below. For more information, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting-scholarships.

Scholarships

- **Accounting and Financial Women’s Alliance**, with several local and national scholarships available
- **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 Memorial Scholarships**, with preference given to students interested in management accounting, not based on financial need
- **New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA) Excellence in Accounting Scholarship**, a statewide program based on financial need in which applicants compete with students from the same geographic area of the state based on permanent residence

Awards

- **Eddy Lin Memorial Award**, to a student focusing on a career with a mid-size public accounting firm, who demonstrates passion for learning, actively mentors others and has a caring and fun attitude
- **Lisa Friedman Memorial Award**, to a graduating female from the undergraduate program who is highly regarded by peers for her integrity and potential contributions to the profession
- **Michael S. Dockery Memorial Senior Award**, voted by UB Accounting Association members
- **NYSSCPA awards** (through the Buffalo chapter)
  - Award of Honor to a graduating senior
  - John T. Kennedy Memorial Award to a junior
- **PwC Outstanding Service Award**, voted by members of the Zeta Theta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi for outstanding service and leadership in the previous year
- **PwC Emerging Leader Award**, given to a member, candidate or pre-candidate of the Zeta Theta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, who exhibits qualities of an emerging leader, serves as a role model for their peers, and demonstrates inclusive and collaborative thinking, a positive attitude and a drive for professional and personal development (selected via vote, with faculty input)
Department Resources

The Accounting and Law Department relies on contributions from alumni and friends for its operating needs and to support you and your classmates in various student activities throughout the year.

A major source of our general funding is matching contributions from alumni employed by national and local CPA firms. Currently, UB is in the midst of the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the university and the State University of New York system—Boldly Buffalo, a transformative campaign that will empower our students and faculty, and improve our world.

A fund named for retired Professor Ronald Huefner allows his former students, colleagues and friends to honor him with their contributions to our general operations. In addition, through the support of their respective benefactors, three named spaces—the Michael and Catherine Murray Mezzanine, the Ernst & Young Study Center and the Tronconi Segarra & Associates LLP Study Center—have generated significant funds for the department and enhanced the student experience for you and future accounting majors.

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); research support (outside speakers, software and databases, faculty travel to academic conferences); and 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 PwC systems lab, a speaker series and specific curriculum development activities.