



**Department of  
Accounting and Law**  
Undergraduate Handbook

August 2018

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## Dear Accounting Student, Class of 2020:

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 a handful of 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, has achieved national recognition as a Superior chapter. We have hosted 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 community service, including our award-winning Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Our students' exceptional efforts have led these organizations to success, and 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 are an excellent source of career information, as they meet regularly with working professionals to keep up with what employers look for in new hires and promote our students to recruiters.

In addition, our faculty are well-known for 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, give presentations at universities, professional conferences and community groups, direct and teach 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 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 resources that can help you have a rewarding educational experience and enhance your professional development. We look forward to working with you as students and as alumni in the future.

Sincerely,

Feng Gu

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Accounting and Law

# Accounting Course Sequence

*For students entering junior year in fall 2018*

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](http://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 or are a continuing UB student who did not meet with your advisor in spring 2018. Students may have different UB requirements in a different order (see No. 3 below). To schedule your advisement appointment, call 716-645-3206 or visit the Undergraduate Programs Office in 204 Alfiero Center.

**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 2018.)*

## 1. Required Accounting Courses for Accounting Majors

MGA 301 (fall 2018)\*

MGA 311 (fall 2018)\*

MGG 303

MGA 302 (spring 2019)\*

MGA 314 (spring 2019)\*

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 298 and 398            MGQ 301

MGI 301                      MGS 351

## 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 affect 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 2019 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 courses may 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 303 – Communication for Accountants**

Focuses on composition in professional and workplace genres related to accounting and business to help you build a strong foundation in a range of communication skills. You will be required to apply writing processes and visual and digital composition methods appropriate to these fields, and compose and deliver an individual persuasive, verbal presentation. You 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.

## **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 on 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, 311 and 314 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. *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 nonprofit 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**

*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](http://research.lib.buffalo.edu/PT505/plagiarism)
- [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/930/01](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/930/01)
- [indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://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/writing](http://buffalo.edu/writing) or call 716-645-5139.

# Faculty

*Who's who in the Accounting and Law Department?*

In our 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](http://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, Advanced Auditing, Assurance and Internal Auditing. He directs the UB Internal Audit 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 national board member, Ampadu has twice been honored as 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 NYSSCPA ambassador at UB and 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 undergraduate and graduate courses in the principles of accounting, principles of workforce management, and performance management and rewards. Previous teachings have included courses in principles of business, career management and leadership. She was 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 MBA 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 the broad theme of corporate disclosure, and she has written papers on examining the cognitive function and incentives of management at important corporate disclosure events, segment disclosure by firms, and the use of firms' disclosed information by 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 teaches graduate and undergraduate income tax courses, directs the Master of Science in Accounting program and serves on the school’s MBA/MS Committee. She has published several journal articles and a supplement to a tax textbook. For her CPA exam performance, Cohen received the Gold Haskins Medal (New York State Society of CPAs) and Sells Certificate (American Institute of CPAs). In addition, she has received the department’s Accounting Alumnus Award and teaching awards from the School of Management and Undergraduate Management

Association, and is a co-recipient of the Career Resource Center’s inaugural Faculty of the Year award. Cohen is a member of New York State Board for Public Accountancy, 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. A former tax manager at PwC, she has received NYSSCPA’s Outstanding CPA in Education award and Distinguished Service award.



**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 in 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 several 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.



**Rose M. Hu**, Clinical Assistant Professor

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

*Certification:* CPA (NY)

Professor Hu teaches undergraduate auditing courses and the accounting recitation sections of UB's freshman seminar, Corporate and Individual Social Responsibility. She has also taught Principles of Accounting. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Hu is faculty advisor to Beta Alpha Psi and serves as assistant to the department chair, coordinating department activities and helping to develop the undergraduate and graduate curriculum. Prior to joining the faculty, she was an audit senior manager at KPMG, where she served clients in a variety of industries and was involved in designing, developing and instructing several national training courses. Hu is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and New York State Society of CPAs.



**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 financial accounting. His primary research is also in financial accounting and its impact on security prices, as well as earnings forecasting. Kross, who is in the top 10 percent nationally of cited accounting scholars, has been published in several leading accounting journals, serves as an ad hoc reviewer for several journals and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and American Accounting Association. Advisor to the school's accounting PhD students, Kross has been cited many times for distinguished teaching in undergraduate accounting, MBA, executive and international programs.



**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 specifically for accountants and information technology auditing. She also is faculty director for the School of Management's Undergraduate Honors Program. Prior to joining the faculty, Metzger served as senior auditor in the internal audit departments at both First Niagara and M&T Bank and senior consultant for the enterprise risk services group of Deloitte.



**Kathleen S. Nesper**, Clinical Assistant Professor  
*Education:* MBA and BS, University at Buffalo School of Management  
*Certifications:* CPA (NY), CFF, CFE, CGMA

Professor Nesper teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in data analytics, cost accounting, managerial accounting, fraud examination, and forensic and investigative accounting. The former faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi, Nesper was 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 nonprofits.



**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, MBA, Professional MBA and Executive MBA levels. She was the 2018 recipient of the Arjang A. Assad Excellence in Teaching Award. Rogers is the faculty coordinator for the school’s undergraduate Communication Literacy initiative, oversees the Corporate Champions and MBA Mentor programs on the MBA level, and serves as faculty advisor for the Graduate Management Association. Before her teaching position, Rogers held a variety of roles at UB, which included development, personnel and resource management responsibilities. She 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 teaches business law and related courses for undergraduates, and 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 team. 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 many years. Prior to joining UB, Salzman practiced law for several years at Phillips Lytle, focusing on corporate counseling and business taxation. She 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.



**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.



**Brandon Szerwo**, Visiting Assistant Professor  
*Education:* PhD, MS and BA, University of Washington  
*Certification:* CPA (Washington)

Professor Szerwo teaches Introduction to Management Accounting. His research examines financial reporting and audit quality with an emphasis on regulation and corporate governance. Before earning his PhD, he was an auditor at Deloitte for eight years, focusing on banking and financial services companies. He also audited technology, forestry and manufacturing companies, nonprofits and enterprise funds. He previously taught courses in financial accounting and current accounting topics and conducted several trainings during his time with Deloitte.



**Ian Tarrant**, Clinical Assistant Professor  
*Education:* PhD, Pennsylvania State University; MS and BA, Michigan State University

Professor Tarrant teaches financial accounting and conducts empirical and experimental financial accounting research. His research is primarily focused in two areas: understanding the incentives that motivate executive behavior and understanding factors that affect firms' disclosure strategy and how these choices impact consumers of information.



**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?*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email (@buffalo.edu)</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
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. Hibschweiler	ah33	362 Jacobs	716-645-3911
Rose M. Hu	rmhu	356 Jacobs	716-645-6526
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
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
Brandon Szerwo	bszerwo	366 Jacobs	716-645-5483
Ian Tarrant	iantarra	368 Jacobs	716-645-3263
Gabby Wang	hsinyowa	346 Jacobs	716-645-3274
Weihong Xu	wxu4	358 Jacobs	716-645-5434

## Important Student 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 Team	308 Alfiero	716-645-3232
Copy Center	201 Alfiero	716-645-3874
Registrar ( <a href="http://registrar.buffalo.edu">registrar.buffalo.edu</a> )	232 Capen	716-645-5698
UB Career Services	259 Capen	716-645-2231
Center for Excellence in Writing	209 Baldy	716-645-5139
<b>Computing Centers</b>		
Jacobs Computer Lab	210 Jacobs	716-645-3332
Capen First Floor Cybrary	Capen Library	716-645-6585
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](http://mgt.buffalo.edu)
- Accounting and Law Department: [mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting)
- Career Resource Center: [mgt.buffalo.edu/career](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/career)
- Internships and Experiential Learning Office: [mgt.buffalo.edu/internships](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/internships)
- Group Room Scheduling: [mgt.buffalo.edu/current-students/school-facilities/group-rooms](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/current-students/school-facilities/group-rooms)
- UB Career Services: [buffalo.edu/career](http://buffalo.edu/career)
- Beta Alpha Psi: [ubbap.com](http://ubbap.com)
- UB Accounting Association: [ubaccountingassociation.com](http://ubaccountingassociation.com)

# Master of Science in Accounting Program

The Bachelor of Science in Accounting prepares you for many rewarding career paths. 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 a detailed review by a government employee. In addition, the graduate degree offers you a competitive advantage in a credential-conscious marketplace — for your first position and beyond. It's 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 provide advanced technical knowledge and opportunities for you to hone your critical thinking, professional judgment, technology and communication skills, which are increasingly stressed in practice and on the CPA exam. The program includes a core curriculum of advanced accounting topics. 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, 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 as of April 1 of junior year. If your application file is complete by May 1, a decision is made by late June. Acceptance under this early application program is conditional upon satisfactory completion of your senior year.

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](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/msaccounting) or the Graduate Programs Office in 203 Alfiero Center.

# 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. Within these organizations, you often have the opportunity to specialize in financial accounting, managerial accounting, audit, internal audit, taxation, advisory and 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 (see page 18).

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 can also 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 UB School of Management students are required to complete career preparation courses developed by the CRC that integrate all of the tools and information you may need to prepare for a successful internship and job search. You will complete MGG 298 Career Connections I during sophomore year, followed by MGG 398 Career Connections II in the fall of your junior year. Since accounting firms begin recruiting students early for summer internships and other opportunities, you will build upon MGG 298 preparation content by hearing from professional speakers from various accounting practices and industries in MGG 398. An integral part of the more advanced and focused junior-year course content, these speakers will help you prepare for on-campus recruitment by educating you on accounting career paths.

In addition, the CRC offers the following career services:

- Résumé critiques (including the new VMock digital résumé critique service), an award-winning practice interview program, and both live and digital workshops on interviewing and résumé-writing
- In-person 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/career-resource-center/students/bizlink](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/career-resource-center/students/bizlink)
- A dedicated student telephone for job search-related calls
- Help facilitating digital and other types of video/virtual interviews

For more information on the CRC and its services, visit [mgt.buffalo.edu/career](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/career) or 308 Alfiero Center.

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

# 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 team in 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 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 undergraduates to participate in internships. You are allowed two credit-bearing internships (three elective credits each, or six total) that can be applied toward the total number of credit hours you need graduate.

## *How can the internship team help?*

You are welcome to attend our Quick Question sessions 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. However, most employers seeking accounting students expect a much higher GPA — as high as 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 of the experience on your transcript. International students must always 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. Unpaid internships for both domestic and international students must *always* be registered for academic credit to connect the internship to the academic curriculum and comply with Department of Labor standards for unpaid internships.

After you accept an internship offer and submit all appropriate paperwork, the Internships and Experiential Learning team begins the registration process. All credit-bearing internships are accompanied by our syllabus, which requires meaningful assignments to help you reflect on and learn from your experiences. These assignments also help prepare you for future interviews by defining and clarifying what you 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 PwC; corporations like the U.S. Energy Development Corp. and Delaware North; local firms like Aurubis Buffalo; and nonprofits like Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo and Shea’s Performing Arts Center.

For more information, visit [mgt.buffalo.edu/internships](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/internships) or stop by the Career Resource Center in 308 Alfiero Center.

# 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, as each exam has difference requirements and strict deadlines for filing.

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. 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.

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	<a href="http://aicpa.org">aicpa.org</a>
New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants	<a href="http://nysscpa.org">nysscpa.org</a>
National Association of State Boards of Accountancy	<a href="http://nasba.org">nasba.org</a>
Institute of Management Accountants	<a href="http://imanet.org">imanet.org</a>
Institute of Internal Auditors	<a href="http://theiia.org">theiia.org</a>
Association of Certified Fraud Examiners	<a href="http://acfe.com">acfe.com</a>

# Accounting Student Clubs

*How can I get involved?*

## 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 UB School of Management accounting students. The club offers activities and events 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, 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), which fosters personal and professional development opportunities through continuing education, relationships with local professionals and potential professional certifications in management accounting. In recent years, the IMA has recognized UBAA 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](http://ubaccountingassociation.com) or [facebook.com/UBAccountingAssociation](https://facebook.com/UBAccountingAssociation). If you have questions, contact [ubaa2018@gmail.com](mailto:ubaa2018@gmail.com) or an officer below.

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Faculty Advisor: Professor Cheryl Hall, [cahall7@buffalo.edu](mailto:cahall7@buffalo.edu)

# Accounting Student Clubs

*How can I get involved?*

## **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 both, 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 member will distinguish you from other School of Management 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 more information, visit [ubbap.com](http://ubbap.com) or contact anyone on our executive board.

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Faculty Advisor: Professor Rose Hu

# Scholarships and Awards

There are many awards and scholarship opportunities for accounting students. For a complete list, visit [mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting-scholarships](http://mgt.buffalo.edu/accounting-scholarships).

## Scholarships

- **Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance (AFWA)**, 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 Scholarships**, with preference given 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

- **PwC 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 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

## **Department Resources**

The Accounting and Law Department 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 1000<sup>2</sup> 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 his 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 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 PwC systems lab, a speaker series and specific curriculum development activities.