ACCOUNTING - MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)

A master's degree in accounting prepares students to become financial professionals who can help a wide range of organizations thrive. Accounting is extremely important to any company because financial information, as analyzed and interpreted by CPAs, allows executives to make informed business decisions that help companies become more successful. Through the program, graduates develop specific expertise in the area of accounting by strengthening and enhancing the ability to interpret and communicate information about a company's operations and finances. Academic experience, combined with a practical internship experience, propels graduates to be proficient in the "language of business" that is accounting.

Typically, over 90 percent of MS accounting students have a job in accounting and financial advisory fields at graduation, and the demand for CU Boulder-educated accountants continues to soar. Many graduates begin careers with public accounting firms in audit, tax or advisory business services. Others prefer information management, tax or compliance positions within corporations. Still other opportunities exist in financial management, nonprofits and government agencies.

MS Program

Coursework in accounting conveys a comprehensive understanding of the theory and concepts that underlie accounting practice. Emphasis is placed on logical reasoning and the development, understanding and use of information, which enables students to solve problems in accounting and management of organizations and to make sound accounting policy decisions.

Accounting students have many career options to consider after graduation. Those who aspire to pursue careers in public accounting must become Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). The CPA designation is not as critical for other career paths in accounting, but becoming a CPA can be advantageous in any accounting career.

CPA requirements are set state by state, but all states require a minimum total 150 credit hours. Thus, a bachelor's degree (120 credit hours) with an accounting emphasis will not, by itself, meet the CPA education requirements of any state.

Because state CPA educational requirements differ greatly, can be extremely complex and detailed, and can change frequently, it is imperative that students investigate the requirements of the state(s) from which they seek a CPA license. Each state has a board of accountancy that can provide this information.

Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Degree Program

Students may earn this degree as part of the Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's (BAM) degree program, which allows currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in a shorter period of time.

For more information, see the Accelerated Master's tab for the associated bachelor's degree(s): Business Administration - Bachelor of Science (BS) (catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/business/...).