

## CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING

### THE CURRICULUM

Accounting is the “language of business.” To concentrate in accounting is to understand how business information is derived, analyzed and communicated to its users. The traditional accounting concentration exposes students to all facets of accounting: managerial and financial accounting, auditing and taxation. It prepares graduates for a career in public accounting, industry, financial institutions, government, consulting, law, or not-for-profit organizations.

### CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING

#### REQUIRED: 12 credit-hours in

MA301 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory I  
MA302 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory II  
MA307 - Managerial Cost Analysis  
MA405 - Federal Taxation

#### AND at least 3 credit-hours in one of the following:

MA309 - Audit & Other Assurance Services\*  
MA351 - Financial Statement Analysis  
MA602 - Theory and Contemporary Issues in Accounting  
MA618 - Accounting Information Systems (AIS)\*\*

#### Other Accounting Department Electives

MA398 - Directed Readings in Accounting  
MA399 - Research Seminar in Accounting  
MA588 – Business Writing and Communication  
MA601 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory III  
MA610 – Preparing and Analyzing IFRS Financial Statements  
MA615 – Advanced Federal Taxation  
MA634 – Ethics & Professionalism in Accounting

\***Auditing** is a requirement to sit for the CPA exam in all states **and** a requirement for admission to the Boston College Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) Program.

\*\***AIS** is a requirement for the CPA exam in many states (including MA).

## CONCENTRATION IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ACCOUNTING

### THE CURRICULUM

Employers continually emphasize the value of professionals who understand businesses and the information systems (IS) that support them. While IS specialists have strong technical knowledge of the information system, accountants have a broad understanding of the accounting processes and controls. The combination of the two skill sets provides a compelling package.

Students fulfilling this concentration will satisfy all of the requirements for an IS concentration and also obtain a background in accounting. The curriculum entails 18 credit hours in accounting and IS and is designed for students interested in careers with the consulting divisions of professional services firms (e.g., major accounting firms), IS departments of companies, or as IS auditors. Students are advised to see a faculty advisor in selecting an appropriate Accounting elective.

This concentration is administered jointly by the Accounting Department and the Information Systems Department

### CONCENTRATION IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ACCOUNTING

#### REQUIRED: 15 credit-hours in

MA 301 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory I  
MA/MI 618 - Accounting Information Systems  
MI 157 - Introduction to Programming for Management (or CS101)  
MI 257 - Database Systems and Applications  
MI 258 - Systems Analysis and Design

#### AND at least 3 credit-hours in one of the following:

MA 302 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory II  
MA 307 - Managerial Cost & Strategic Analysis  
MA 309 - Audit & Other Assurance Services  
MA 351 - Financial Statement Analysis

## CONCENTRATION IN CORPORATE REPORTING AND ANALYSIS

### THE CURRICULUM

The Corporate Reporting and Analysis (CRA) concentration is designed for students who wish to pursue a career in finance but would like to develop a deeper understanding of financial statement preparation and analyses.

Unlike the traditional accounting concentration, the CRA concentration focuses solely on financial accounting and provides a valuable complement to a finance concentration. Most students who concentrate in CRA end up working for investment and commercial banks, mutual funds, consulting and private equity firms.

### CONCENTRATION IN CORPORATE REPORTING & ANALYSIS

#### REQUIRED: 9 credit-hours in

MA 301 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory I  
MA 302 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory II  
MA 351 - Financial Statement Analysis

#### AND at least 3 credit-hours in one of the following:

MA 601 - Financial Accounting Standards and Theory III  
MA 602 - Theory and Contemporary Issues in Accounting

#### AND at least 3 credit-hours in one of the following:

EC 228 - Econometric Methods  
EC 229 - Economics and Business Forecasting  
MD 384 - Applied Statistics  
MD 606 - Forecasting Techniques

**Note – There are three majors housed in the Accounting Department: Accounting, Information Systems and Accounting, and Corporate Reporting and Analysis. Students are NOT allowed to concentrate in more than one of these three.**

## Selecting Courses Outside the Department

College is a time to expand your horizons, and we urge you to cultivate your intellectual interests in choosing electives. While an accounting degree provides students with excellent technical skills and a firm understanding of their use in organizations, students should also be aware that their long-run success depends just as importantly on their ability to communicate, lead, and understand and apply their knowledge of other disciplines. Accounting majors are therefore encouraged to seek electives beyond their core disciplines in order to obtain a well-rounded business education.

## Studying Abroad

Given the international scope of the profession, Accounting concentrators are encouraged to study abroad. The Accounting Department will recognize certain core and elective courses for transfer to BC (primarily Managerial Cost Analysis and Accounting Information Systems). Prior approval is required in every case. All Accounting concentrators should meet with the department assistant chair, chair or secretary to plan their study abroad programs and to obtain definitive course approvals.

## Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Requirements

The Department recommends that students who intend to practice as CPAs check the board of accountancy of the state in which they plan to practice for its specific educational requirements (<http://www.nasba.org>). In almost all states, students are now required to complete 150 semester hours of course work to qualify for CPA certification. In addition, a minimum number of accounting courses with specific topical coverage may be necessary. For more information, please refer to the *BC Guide to Meeting CPA Requirements* available on-line or in the department office.

Because Boston College students typically graduate with only 120 credit hours (ignoring Advance Placement credits and overloads), students may require an extra year of course work in order to meet the 150 credit hours. Boston College offers a Masters of Science in Accounting (MSA) program to meet these additional requirements. For more details on the program, refer to the Boston College MSA web site: (<http://www.bc.edu/msa>). Students who enter BC with AP credits may be able to satisfy the 150-hour requirement in less time. Please contact the Accounting Department in Fulton 520 or via email at [CSOM.Accounting@bc.edu](mailto:CSOM.Accounting@bc.edu) if you have any questions.

## The Department

One way of measuring the quality of a department is to look at how well its graduates place and perform in the work force. Almost half of all BC accounting graduates land a position with one of the Big 4 public accounting firms. Another 15-25% pursue a career in consulting or financial services. Almost three-quarters of all accounting majors are employed by the end of their senior year. Perhaps more impressive is the number of BC accounting alumni who attain partnership with one of the Big 4 firms --- in 2011, over 140 are partners or principals, including the local managing partners of two of the Big 4 accounting firms in Boston!

Just as impressive is the overall CPA exam passing rate of BC accounting graduates, which has historically been 30-40% higher than the national average and is among the highest in the country.

For more details on the accomplishments and placement of BC accounting graduates, refer to the newsletter posted on the department website (<http://www.bc.edu/accounting>) or obtain the latest copy of the Accounting Department Senior Survey in the department office.

The accounting faculty at Boston College is known for its excellence in teaching and research. Many of its faculty serve on the editorial boards of the leading research journals in accounting. Several of its faculty members have received national and institutional teaching awards. The department has been recognized as among the top accounting programs in the country by Bloomberg/BusinessWeek, Financial Times, Public Accounting Report and US News and World Reports.

## Boston College Accounting Academy

The Boston College Accounting Academy is a student organization established and run by accounting students. The Academy's mission is to help declared and prospective accounting majors plan and prepare for their future careers. The Academy organizes many events throughout the year that bring together students, teachers, and prospective employers in a relaxed environment.

For more details, refer to the Academy website at: <http://www.bc.edu/accountingacademy>

BOSTON COLLEGE

## CARROLL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



## UNDERGRADUATE ACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION

Accounting  
Information Systems and Accounting  
Corporate Reporting and Analysis

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

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