Accounting for CPA
Concentration Information Session

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Professor Dianne Feldman

Presentation available on the Accounting Department’s Homepage
Agenda

- What is a CPA?
- Career Opportunities
- Concentration in Accounting
- The CPA Exam
- Requirements to take the CPA exam
- Requirements to be CPA licensed
- 150 Hour Requirement
- Next Steps
What is a CPA?

- The CPA credential is a license issued by one of the 55 states or territories of the U.S. that authorizes the holder to practice as a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) in that jurisdiction. Licensing of CPAs helps to protect the public interest because only those individuals who have met prescribed requirements are permitted to identify themselves to the public as CPAs.

- The CPA license is issued at the jurisdiction level. To become a CPA, you must be declared eligible for the examination, and subsequently licensed, by the Board of Accountancy in one of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions (The 50 U.S. states plus Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands & the District of Columbia). The Constitution of the U.S. grants each state or territory the power to regulate the practice of the professions within that jurisdiction’s borders. In most jurisdictions, these powers are carried out by a “Board of Accountancy.”
What does a CPA do?

- A CPA license is the accounting profession’s highest standard of competence, a symbol of achievement and assurance of quality.

- Just as a law license defines a lawyer, the CPA license tells the public that an accountant has mastered the critical elements of the profession.

- Licensed CPA practitioners are the only individuals or firms who can issue independent reports (audit or assurance services) of any kind on financial statements of business entities or other organizations.

- Licensees also provide services to include but not limited to one or more kinds of management advisory or consulting services, preparing tax returns or providing advice on tax matters.
How do you become a CPA?

The CPA Requirements are State Board Specific but usually require:

- Good moral character.
- A bachelor’s degree.
- At least 18 or 21 years old.
- 0-2 years of work experience depending on state.
- 150 course credits to obtain CPA license; in many states, including MA & NY, only 120 credits are needed to take the exam.
- A minimum number of credits in Accounting and Business.
- Pass the CPA exam.
Career Opportunities:

- Accounting is the language of business so there are many paths for students with an accounting background:
  - “Big Four” Accounting Firms: PwC, KPMG, EY & Deloitte
  - National/Regional Accounting Firms
  - Internal Audit - within companies
  - Investment Banking & Financial Firms - analysts
  - Accounting departments (profit, not-for-profit)
  - Other possibilities- tax, consulting, academics, corporate training, etc.
All Big 4 Accounting Firms consistently rank in Universum’s Most Attractive Employers (2018):

The Most Attractive Employers of 2018 – Business

1. Google
2. Walt Disney Company
3. Amazon
4. Apple
5. Nike
6. J.P. Morgan
7. EY (Ernst & Young)
8. Deloitte
9. Goldman Sachs
10. PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
11. Netflix
12. Tesla
13. KPMG LLP
14. Patagonia
15. Facebook
16. adidas
17. Morgan Stanley
18. FBI
19. Microsoft
20. NBCUniversal
22. United Nations
23. The Coca-Cola Company
24. Bank of America (BofAML)
25. National Geographic
26. The Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
27. Central Intelligence Agency
28. Nordstrom
29. L’Oréal Group
30. Starbucks
31. Google X
32. Southwest Airlines
33. Marriott
34. Under Armour, Inc.
35. Bain & Company
36. NASA
37. Procter & Gamble (P&G)
38. Target
39. Sony
40. U.S. Department of State
41. IBM
42. Blizzard Entertainment
43. Johnson & Johnson
44. Delta Air Lines
45. Boeing
46. H&M
47. Deutsche Bank
48. BlackRock
49. REI
50. BMW Group
51. U.S. Department of the Treasury
52. Wells Fargo & Company
53. Hilton Hotels Corporation
54. Hyatt Hotels & Resorts
55. Grant Thornton LLP
56. PepsiCo
57. Accenture
58. Citibank
59. Barclays
60. Anheuser-Busch InBev
61. IKEA
62. Bloomberg L.P.
63. MGM Resorts International
64. The Blackstone Group
65. Fidelity Investments
66. Peace Corps
67. Time Warner
68. The World Bank Group
69. LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton
70. Lockheed Martin Corporation
71. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
72. National Security Agency (NSA)
73. Electronic Arts
74. American Airlines
75. United Airlines
76. LinkedIn
77. The Hershey Company
78. Riot Games
79. The Vanguard Group
80. Heineken
81. Credit Suisse
82. Viacom
83. Macy's Inc.
84. U.S. Department of Education
85. Dick's Sporting Goods
86. General Electric (GE)
87. American Red Cross
88. Unilever
89. Mayo Clinic
90. U.S. Air Force
91. Charles Schwab
92. CBS Interactive
93. General Motors
94. Ford Motor Company
95. Oracle
96. American Cancer Society
97. ExxonMobil
98. American Express
99. U.S. Navy
100. 3M
Career Opportunities:

- "Big Four" Accounting Firms – PwC, KPMG, EY & Deloitte
  - Sophomore year - Leadership conferences & Externships
  - Junior or senior year - Summer internships
    - 50% Junior Internships with "Big 4"
    - 29% with Financial Services Firms
    - Overall 63% of Internships converted to full-time hires
    - Of "Big 4" 91% converted to full-time hires!
# Student Placement, 2006-2017

## Accounting Graduates’ Placement: 2006-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big 4 Public Accounting Firms</td>
<td>56 (55%)</td>
<td>84 (58%)</td>
<td>65 (53%)</td>
<td>64 (51%)</td>
<td>62 (52%)</td>
<td>73 (50%)</td>
<td>70 (42%)</td>
<td>67 (42%)</td>
<td>56 (44%)</td>
<td>62 (45%)</td>
<td>58 (42%)</td>
<td>74 (57%)</td>
<td>66 (49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Public Accounting Firms</td>
<td>5 (5%)</td>
<td>8 (6%)</td>
<td>5 (4%)</td>
<td>3 (2%)</td>
<td>12 (10%)</td>
<td>9 (6%)</td>
<td>9 (6%)</td>
<td>9 (6%)</td>
<td>4 (3%)</td>
<td>11 (8%)</td>
<td>9 (7%)</td>
<td>6 (5%)</td>
<td>8 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-Public Accounting Firms</td>
<td>22 (22%)</td>
<td>26 (18%)</td>
<td>35 (28%)</td>
<td>33 (26%)</td>
<td>25 (21%)</td>
<td>33 (23%)</td>
<td>38 (23%)</td>
<td>28 (18%)</td>
<td>31 (24%)</td>
<td>29 (21%)</td>
<td>32 (23%)</td>
<td>26 (20%)</td>
<td>30 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad/Law School/ Volunteer Work</td>
<td>14 (14%)</td>
<td>19 (13%)</td>
<td>10 (8%)</td>
<td>15 (12%)</td>
<td>9 (8%)</td>
<td>9 (6%)</td>
<td>12 (7%)</td>
<td>11 (7%)</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
<td>6 (4%)</td>
<td>6 (4%)</td>
<td>8 (6%)</td>
<td>10 (42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided/Still Looking</td>
<td>4 (4%)</td>
<td>8 (6%)</td>
<td>6 (5%)</td>
<td>11 (9%)</td>
<td>8 (7%)</td>
<td>10 (7%)</td>
<td>29 (21%)</td>
<td>33 (21%)</td>
<td>21 (16%)</td>
<td>13 (9%)</td>
<td>16 (12%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>13 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>3 (2%)</td>
<td>11 (8%)</td>
<td>5 (7%)</td>
<td>11 (7%)</td>
<td>14 (11%)</td>
<td>16 (12%)</td>
<td>16 (12%)</td>
<td>15 (12%)</td>
<td>8 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CSOM</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accounting</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mean Salaries + Bonus, 2015-2017

BC ACCOUNTING GRADS’ MEDIAN STARTING SALARIES:
2015-2017

| All Accounting Graduates | 2017       | $64,827 | $4,391 |
|                         | 2016       | $62,330 | $4,095 |
|                         | 2015       | $59,872 | $1,644 |

| Non-Public Accounting Firms | 2017       | $75,864 | $9,579 |
|                           | 2016       | $75,479 | $10,409 |
|                           | 2015       | $69,180 | $5,740 |

| Other Public Accounting Firms | 2017       | $60,750 | $667  |
|                               | 2016       | $59,563 | $1,000|
|                               | 2015       | $57,000 | $1,000|

| Big 4 Public Accounting      | 2017       | $60,709 | $1,742|
| Accounting                   | 2016       | $58,751 | $1,468|
|                              | 2015       | $56,779 | $-    |
Concentration in Accounting

- The objective of the accounting curriculum sequence is to prepare the undergraduate major for a professional career in public accounting, industry, financial institutions, government, I/S, law or not for profit organizations.

- The curriculum is broadly based in its scope and coverage as to be relevant and useful for a variety of careers.

- Students intending to acquire a CPA designation should choose this concentration to best satisfy its requirements.
Required Courses

**Required: 12 credit-hours in**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT3301</td>
<td>Financial Accounting Standards and Theory I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT3302</td>
<td>Financial Accounting Standards and Theory II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT3307</td>
<td>Managerial Cost Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT4405</td>
<td>Federal Taxation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AND at least 3 credit-hours from one of the following four classes only**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT3309</td>
<td>Auditing &amp; Other Assurance Services*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT3351</td>
<td>Financial Statement Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT6601</td>
<td>Financial Accounting Standards and Theory III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT6618</td>
<td>Accounting Information System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Auditing* is a requirement to sit for the CPA exam in all states, and a requirement for admission to the Boston College MSA Program.
### Other Accounting Dept. Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT3399</td>
<td>Directed Research in Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT4409</td>
<td>Advanced Auditing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT6615</td>
<td>Advanced Federal Taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT6623</td>
<td>Fair Value Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT6634</td>
<td>Ethics &amp; Professionalism in Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT6635</td>
<td>Forensic Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT6640</td>
<td>Dive, Disect &amp; Decide w/ Big Business Data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The future...

- The study of accounting provides a student flexibility to pursue a wide range of jobs.
- An accounting concentration is well suited to be combined with other coursework. Examples:
  - Accounting Concentration & Finance Concentration
  - Accounting and Information Systems Concentration
  - Accounting Concentration and Data Analytics Co-concentration
  - Accounting Concentration & Arts & Sciences (Math) Major or Minor
  - Accounting Concentration & Managing for Social Impact
BC Students are well prepared: Overall
Pass Rate: BC v. National 2009-16
BC Students are well prepared: BC Pass rate by candidate type: 2009-16
The Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examination is developed by the AICPA with significant input and assistance by NASBA and state boards of accountancy. It is designed to assess the knowledge and skills entry-level CPAs need to practice public accountancy. There are 4 (four-hour) parts to the exam:

- Auditing & Attestation
- Business Environment & Concepts
- Financial Accounting & Reporting
- Regulation (Tax & Business Law)
CPA Exam

Testing Windows

The computer-based Uniform CPA Examination is offered each calendar quarter. These months of testing are known as testing windows.

QUARTER 1
January 1 to March 10

QUARTER 2
April 1 to June 10

QUARTER 3
July 1 to September 10

QUARTER 4
October 1 to December 10

The examination is not given at the end of each calendar quarter to allow for systems and databank maintenance. It is important that you plan accordingly; it is your responsibility to schedule the sections of the examination you have yet to pass so you do not lose credit for previously passed sections.

You can take any or all sections of the examination during any testing window and in any order. However, you may not take the same section more than once during any one testing window.
CPA Exam

- You take one part at a time.
- You can take the different parts in any order.
- 75 is the passing grade (this is scaled).
- Once you pass one part of the exam, you have 18 months to complete the remaining parts. Otherwise, you will need to retake the part(s) that you passed that is (are) over 18 months old.
- You can take the same part of the exam only once per testing window.
- You may schedule your examination at any Prometric site in any of the jurisdictions. You do not have to sit in the same state where you applied to be licensed.
The CPA exam employs a combination of question formats. It includes the traditional multiple choice questions and written responses, as well as highly innovative simulations – questions that replicate workplace situations and require the application of knowledge and skills to arrive at solutions.

The computerized CPA exam is adaptive, i.e., the level of difficulty changes according to your performance.

The exam sections are administered in five blocks called testlets, with MCQs and task based simulations (TBSs) in all sections and three written communication tasks only in BEC. The number of MCQs and TBSs vary depending upon the section.
Question Formats

- Candidates will receive at least one research question (research-oriented TBS) in the AUD, FAR and REG sections that require the candidate to search the applicable authoritative literature and find an appropriate reference. These research questions will require use of financial accounting, auditing and taxation databases.

- Pretest items are used to develop future examinations. They are not used in computing examination scores. Any testlet may include pretest items.
Examination Sections’ Format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Item Type</th>
<th>Item Weighting</th>
<th>Testlets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
<td>72 MCQ, 8 TBS</td>
<td>50%, 50%</td>
<td>1.) 36 MCQ, 2.) 36 MCQ, 3.) 2 TBS, 4.) 3 TBS, 5.) 3 TBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BEC</td>
<td>62 MCQ, 4 TBS, 3 Written Communication</td>
<td>50%, 35%, 15%</td>
<td>1.) 31 MCQ, 2.) 31 MCQ, 3.) 2 TBS, 4.) 2 TBS, 5.) 3 Written Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAR</td>
<td>66 MCQ, 8 TBS</td>
<td>50%, 50%</td>
<td>1.) 33 MCQ, 2.) 33 MCQ, 3.) 2 TBS, 4.) 3 TBS, 5.) 3 TBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>76 MCQ, 8 TBS</td>
<td>50%, 50%</td>
<td>1.) 38 MCQ, 2.) 38 MCQ, 3.) 2 TBS, 4.) 3 TBS, 5.) 3 TBS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MCQ = Multiple Choice Question | TBS = Task-Based Simulation

Tutorials and Sample Tests can be accessed at the AICPA website at:

http://apps.aicpa.org/17Q2SampleTest/17Q2start.html?cm_mmc=AICPA-_-CPAExam-_-exam_tutorial_parallel-_-CBT-e+sample+tests+and+tutorial&_ga=1.185133353.1021591415.1476819385.
CPA Exam Structure

During each Exam section, candidates will be offered a standardized, 15-minute break after the first TBS testlet, which is approximately the midpoint—two hours. The Exam clock stops for the standardized break after the first TBS testlet is completed. A candidate may choose to decline the standardized break and continue testing, but the break will not be offered again. Optional breaks will continue to be available, but it counts against total testing time.
Examination Blueprints

- Examination Blueprints have been created for each of the Exam’s four sections. The Blueprints contain approximately 600 representative tasks across the four sections. The purpose of the Blueprints is to:
  - Document the minimum level of knowledge and skills required for licensure.
  - Assist candidates in preparing for the Exam.
  - Apprise educators of knowledge and skills candidates will require.
  - Guide the development of Exam questions.
NASBA – Your go to Resource

www.NASBA.org

NASBA
National Association of State Boards of Accountancy

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PRODUCTS & SERVICES
NASBA Center for the Public Trust

Home > CPA Exam

CPA Exam

The Uniform CPA Examination (Exam) protects the public interest by helping to ensure that only qualified individuals become licensed as U.S. Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). Individuals seeking to qualify as CPAs are required to pass the Exam.

Despite popular misconception, NASBA does not develop the content of the CPA Exam, nor is it responsible for scoring the Exam. We do not receive all scores at the same time and some jurisdictions do not release scores via our website. Follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook to receive score updates.

NASBA Advisory Evaluation

NASBA is here to help you understand and meet the various requirements that qualify you to sit in your chosen jurisdiction. To learn more about the Advisory Evaluation, choose a state.

Choose a jurisdiction below to begin the Exam process:

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
CNMI
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Guam
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico
Rhode Island
South Carolina

EXAM LINKS
Pathway to CPA Exam Quiz
Procedures for Weather Related Exam Site Closure
Learn more about the CPA Exam
CPA Exam Checklist
CPA Exam News
(Video) Next Version of CPA Exam
CPA Exam Resources
CPA Exam Digital Brochure
Score Release Timeline
Meeting CPA requirements

- In some states (including MA & NY), candidates can sit for the CPA exam with a reduced set of requirements from what is necessary to obtain the CPA license.
  - Requirements to take the CPA Exam.
  - Requirements to be CPA licensed.
Requirements to take the CPA exam.

- Massachusetts
- New York
CPA EXAM requirements in MA

- A bachelor’s degree (may apply in final semester; transcript due within 90 days of exam date).
- At least 18 years old.
- Completed at least 120 semester credit hours.
- Taken at least 21 Accounting credit hours including coverage in Financial accounting, Cost/Mgmt. accounting, Taxation and Auditing.
- Taken at least 9 business credit hours with coverage in Finance, Business Law & Info. Sys.
New York CPA EXAM requirements

- Have at least a bachelor’s degree.
- Complete at least 120 semester credit hours.
- A course covering each of the following:
  - Financial accounting, at the upper level,
  - Cost or management accounting,
  - Taxation, (may be taken at a community college)
  - Audit and attestation, at the upper level.
Requirements to be CPA LICENSED.

- Massachusetts
- New York
CPA LICENSE requirements in MA

- Pass the CPA exam.
- Complete at least 150 semester credit hours.
- Have at least one year of public accounting experience.
- Complete at least 30 Accounting credit hours (most courses are 3 credits each) and 24 business (non-Accounting) credit hours. *Economics credits count toward this requirement.*
CPA LICENSE requirements in MA

- Courses can only be taken in regionally or nationally accredited institutions. Community college credits will now count in MA.
- Courses can be taken in more than one institution (all transcripts must be separately submitted).
- Online courses are okay if offered by an accredited institution.
- Advanced Placement credits count if included on your BC transcript.
- Credits taken abroad count if transferred to your BC transcript.
New York CPA LICENSE requirements

- At least 21 years of age.
- Be of good moral character.
- At least one year of qualifying experience.
- Complete at least 150 semester credit hours.
- Complete at least 33 Accounting credit hours including financial accounting theory and reporting, cost or managerial accounting, taxation, auditing and attestation services.
New York CPA LICENSE requirements

- Complete 36 general business (non-Accounting) credit hours in general business electives in any combination of the following areas: business statistics; business law; computer science; economics; finance; management; marketing; operations management; organizational behavior; business strategy; quantitative methods; and information technology and systems. Economics credits count toward this requirement.

- The curriculum must also include coverage of business/accounting communication (can not be double counted as an accounting course) and ethics & professionalism (requirement met by taking audit course).
CPA LICENSE requirements in NY

- Courses can only be taken in regionally or nationally accredited institutions.
- Courses can be taken in more than one institution (all transcripts must be separately submitted).
- Online courses are okay if offered by an accredited institution.
- Advanced Placement credits count if included on your BC transcript.
- Credits taken abroad count if transferred to your BC transcript.
150 Hour Requirement

- All 50 states have now passed legislation that require 150 semester-hours of course work to become a Certified Public Accountant.
Meeting 150 hr requirement @ BC

- At Boston College, students normally graduate with only 120 credits if they take 5 classes every semester (5 classes x 3 credits x 8 semesters).

- All credits that appear on an accredited college’s transcript will count including those taken in high school or as part of an abroad program.

- Firms require students to be 150-hour compliant before they start working so planning early is important if they want to complete all requirements in 4 years.
How do you get (close) to 150?

- Credits earned in high school from a university or community college.
- AP credits.
- Overload during the semester.
- Take online courses.
- Take summer classes (at BC or elsewhere) before or after you graduate.
- Pursue an MSA degree (at BC or elsewhere).
- A combination of the above.
AP Credits

- Officially, BC will only “flip” or recognize AP credits on the transcript if you have 24 or more AP credits on record.

- At our request (for purposes of the CPA exam), the Office of Student Services will flip your AP credits after graduation without limit. The Accounting Department will email graduating seniors to submit names to have their AP credits flipped in April and students need to respond. AP credits are not automatically flipped.
Overloading

- Works best if they only need a few classes (usually max of one per semester) to get to 150.

- Works best if sixth class is from MCAS and taken Pass/Fail. Woods College also okay and may be up to 4 credits/course.

- GPA and learning may be adversely affected by overloading, which in turn can hurt their ability to get a job or pass the CPA exam.
Online Courses (1)

- Take online courses any time --- summer, winter and spring breaks.

- Courses must not have identical titles as courses taken at BC.

- In MA and NY, online courses will count only if they are offered by accredited institutions. Other states may or may not recognize them, so check the state board of accountancy first! LSU is a popular, cheap option (about $700/course). Others include UTexas at Austin, Univ of Idaho, BYU, Uconn.
Online Courses (2)

- Most online courses have a minimum and maximum period to complete the course so plan ahead. LSU has a minimum of 6 weeks and maximum of 9 months to complete the course plus 2 proctored exams.

- Quality of online courses is suspect, so avoid taking accounting classes online (LSU: forensic accounting is okay, Gov’t/Non-profit and Advanced accounting are hard to learn on your own).

- BC does not recognize online courses but that’s okay for CPA purposes.
Summer classes before graduation

- You can take summer classes at BC or elsewhere in your freshman, sophomore or junior years (if you don’t intern) for enrichment with permission from the Dean.
- Courses taken elsewhere will be recognized for the CPA if they are accredited institutions. MA now accepts credits taken at a community college. New York only accepts for Federal Taxation taken at a community college.
- Do not take summer classes that duplicate your course work here as they may be disallowed by the state board.
Summer classes after graduation

- You can take summer, graduate-level accounting classes at BC after graduation as a non-degree, special student.

- You may take up to 5 classes (15 credits) --- 2 classes each in June and July, 1 over two-weeks spanning late July and early August.

- Cost per course is around $5,000.
BC’s MSA Program:

- A student has the option of going:
  - summer – fall (student may be able to start working in January, if available)
  - fall – spring (student can intern after senior year and then study for the CPA exam during spring or summer)
  - summer – summer (if employer allows it)

- The summer term is offered in the months of June to August. A student can take up to five classes in the summer (2-2-1)
BC’s MSA Program:

- Application due in December (for summer start) or February (for fall start).

- Will require GMAT/GRE test, letters of recommendation and a formal application.

- BC juniors that have an Accounting GPA of at least 3.0 and have an internship offer will be granted “accelerated” admission to the program that does not require the GMAT/GRE test or letters of recommendation (info session in spring).
MSA Curriculum:

- 3 required courses and 7 electives (30 total credits)

- 7 electives – at least 3 must be accounting electives and the others can be taken from the MBA or MSF program.

- 3 required courses:
  - Financial Statement Analysis (ACCT8824)
  - Assurance and Consulting Services (ACCT8825)
  - Taxes and Business Decisions (ACCT8826)
If student graduates with more than 120 credit hours (including AP), he/she can use up to 6 of these “excess” credits (2 courses) above 120 to reduce the number of required courses to complete the MSA down to 8 provided the student has taken the equivalent number of classes (one or two) at the 600-level (e.g., ACCT6601, 602, 615, 618, 634 and 641).
Next Steps

☐ If you haven’t already, TAKE ACCT1021 Introductory Financial Accounting – next semester!

☐ Talk to Carroll School Accounting concentration students.

☐ Join the Accounting Academy.

☐ Meet with on-campus accounting recruiters.

☐ Set an appointment to meet with an Accounting Department faculty advisor who will help you through the process:

■ Professor Dianne Feldman  Dianne.Feldman@bc.edu
■ Professor Ed Taylor  Edward.Taylor@bc.edu
■ Professor Liz Quinn  Liz.Quinn@bc.edu
■ Professor Betty Bagnani  Elizabeth.Bagnani@bc.edu
Questions??