**CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING**

Employers continually emphasize the value of graduates who understand both business and the information systems (IS) that support it. While IS professionals develop competence in the design and implementation of business information systems, accountants have a broad understanding of the business process and controls, and how the systems are used to generate information for decision making. Having the two skill sets is invaluable.

Students fulfilling this concentration will satisfy all of the requirements for the IS concentration and also obtain a background in accounting. The curriculum entails six courses (five required and one accounting elective), and is designed for students interested in careers either with the consulting divisions of professional service firms, such as major accounting firms and 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 REQUIREMENTS**

**REQUIRED:** 15 credit-hours in

- ACCT3301 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory I
- ACCT3302 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory II
- ACCT3307 Managerial Cost & Strategic Analysis
- ACCT4405 Federal Taxation

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

- ACCT3351 Financial Statement Analysis
- ACCT6601 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory III
- ACCT6618 Accounting Information Systems (AIS)

*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.

**CONCENTRATION IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Employers continually emphasize the value of graduates who understand both business and the information systems (IS) that support it. While IS professionals develop competence in the design and implementation of business information systems, accountants have a broad understanding of the business process and controls, and how the systems are used to generate information for decision making. Having the two skill sets is invaluable.

Students fulfilling this concentration will satisfy all of the requirements for the IS concentration and also obtain a background in accounting. The curriculum entails six courses (five required and one accounting elective), and is designed for students interested in careers either with the consulting divisions of professional service firms, such as major accounting firms and 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 REQUIREMENTS**

**REQUIRED:** 15 credit-hours in

- ACCT3301 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory I
- ACCT3302 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory II
- ACCT3307 Managerial Cost & Strategic Analysis
- ACCT3309 Audit & Other Assurance Services
- ACCT3351 Financial Statement Analysis

**AND at least 3 credit-hours from one of the following:**

- ACCT3302 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory II
- ACCT3307 Managerial Cost & Strategic Analysis
- ACCT3309 Audit & Other Assurance Services
- ACCT3351 Financial Statement Analysis

**CONCENTRATION IN CORPORATE REPORTING AND ANALYSIS**

Students who wish to enter the field of finance and would like to develop a deeper and better understanding of the financial statements that underlie most financial decisions are encouraged to pursue the corporate reporting and analysis concentration. Taken together with a Finance concentration, the corporate reporting and analysis concentration provides the coursework for finance concentrators to understand the assumptions and procedures behind the preparation of financial statements and the skill set to better understand and evaluate financial statements.

Unlike the traditional accounting concentration, the corporate reporting and analysis concentration focuses solely on financial accounting and provides a valuable complement to a finance concentration. Most students who concentrate in corporate reporting and analysis end up working for investment and commercial banks, mutual funds, and consulting and private equity firms. This concentration requires five courses (15 credits): three courses in financial accounting, one elective in accounting, and one elective in economics or statistics.

**CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

**REQUIRED:** 9 credit-hours in

- ACCT3301 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory I
- ACCT3302 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory II
- ACCT3351 Financial Statement Analysis

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

- ACCT3302 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory II
- ACCT3307 Managerial Cost & Strategic Analysis
- ACCT3309 Audit & Other Assurance Services
- ACCT3351 Financial Statement Analysis

**ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT ELECTIVES**

- ACCT3399 Directed Readings and Research
- ACCT4405 Advanced Auditing
- ACCT6601 Financial Accounting Standards & Theory III
- ACCT6615 Advanced Federal Taxation
- ACCT6616 Personal Wealth Planning
- ACCT6623 Fair Value Accounting
- ACCT6654 Ethics & Professionalism in Accounting
- ACCT6655 Forensic Accounting
- ACCT6690 International Accounting Experience

**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 coursework to qualify for CPA licensure. 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 online or in Fulton 520.

Because Boston College students typically graduate with only 120 credit hours (ignoring Advance Placement credits and overloads), students may require an extra year of coursework in order to meet the 150 credit hours.

Boston College offers a Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) program to meet these additional requirements. For more details on the program, refer to: http://www.bc.edu/msa. Students who enter Boston College with AP credits may be able to satisfy the 150-hour requirement in less time.
Accounting Concentration

One way of measuring the quality of a department is to look at how well its graduates place and perform in the workforce. Approximately half of all Boston College 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. A large majority of accounting majors are employed before the end of their senior year. Perhaps more impressive is the number of Boston College accounting alumni who attain partnership with one of the Big 4 firms—in 2016 over 300 were partners, principals, or directors.

Just as impressive is the overall CPA exam passing rate of Boston College accounting graduates, which has historically been 40–50% higher than the national average and is among the highest in the country. Details of our CPA pass rate statistics are on the department website (http://www.bc.edu/accounting).

For more details on the accomplishments and placement of Boston College accounting graduates, refer to the newsletter posted on the department website, or obtain the latest copy in the Accounting Department.

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 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 U.S. News and World Report.

Please contact the Accounting Department in Fulton 520 or via email at CSOM.Accounting@bc.edu if you have any questions.

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.

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. For more details, refer to the academy website at bcaccountingacademy.strikingly.com.

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 Boston College (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.