At the Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business, we take the advanced study of accounting seriously. Our master of science in accounting (M.S.A.) program is on trend and quickly growing in size and stature. According to the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), the master of accountancy degree has shown a more than 30 percent increase in enrollment since the last survey was taken in 2012.

Our M.S.A. program is highly selective and is intended for students with undergraduate degrees in business or accounting who want to prepare for careers in public accounting. Students pursuing accounting careers in private industry, financial institutions, government and nonprofit organizations, will benefit from the program as well.
PRACTICAL CURRICULUM

Ilitch School accounting faculty members have expertise in auditing, international accounting, business law and ethics, taxation and other areas. They are committed to helping you gain the knowledge and skills necessary to advance your career by sharing their experiences as business professionals, providing real-world context to the academic curriculum.

M.S.A. CONCENTRATIONS

Professional accounting

Intended primarily for students holding bachelor’s degrees in business or economics (other than accounting majors) who wish to become “CPA-ready” by meeting the educational requirements in the State of Michigan to sit for the CPA exam and become certified.

Financial reporting and auditing

Intended primarily for students who were undergraduate accounting majors and plan to pursue careers in public, corporate or governmental accounting.

Taxation

Intended primarily for students who were undergraduate accounting majors and plan to pursue careers in taxation.

FLEXIBILITY

An advantage of pursuing your graduate studies in accounting through the Mike Ilitch School of Business is the flexibility we offer our students. Classes for the M.S.A. program are offered each semester at our main campus in Midtown Detroit. Select courses are also offered at WSU’s satellite campuses throughout southeast Michigan, as well as online, allowing you to complete your studies at a pace that accommodates your schedule.

We also offer a full-service Graduate Programs Office to assist and advise you throughout your graduate experience, and a dedicated Career Planning and Placement Office to help you find the job that’s right for you.
CPA EXAM INFORMATION

By completing the M.S.A. degree at Wayne State, you will meet the 150-hour education requirement for licensure as a CPA in Michigan, and will be well prepared to sit for the CPA exam. To learn more about the exam, visit:

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
  aicpa.org/BecomeaCPA

- Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants
  micpa.org/resource-center/students-educators/resources-for-students

FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS

M.S.A students should possess an undergraduate degree in business or accounting, with a solid foundation in financial accounting and some background in managerial accounting. Foundation courses are assigned based on an evaluation of your transcripts, and may be waived if equivalent courses have been completed with a course grade of 2.0 or above and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. Most applicants to the financial reporting and auditing and taxation concentrations will have met these requirements through their undergraduate coursework.

Students who don’t satisfy the foundation requirements must take the following foundation courses (three credits each) before beginning core coursework.

ACC 7040 .............................................Intermediate Financial Accounting I
ACC 7050 .............................................Intermediate Financial Accounting II
BA 7000 ....................................................Managerial Accounting

NOTE: Foundation courses are required for background knowledge, but these credits are not counted toward the M.S.A. degree.
CORE COURSES

The M.S.A. core comprises 18-21 semester hours, which must include each of the courses listed below under your chosen concentration area. If equivalent undergraduate or graduate courses have been completed within the preceding three years with a GPA of 3.0 or above, an advanced course in accounting may be substituted for those core courses. Any core courses needing substitution should be replaced by another 7000-level ACC course.

Core courses may require additional business prerequisites.

Professional accounting concentration core

ACC 7115 ................................................. Financial Statement Analysis
ACC 7120 ................................................ Introduction to Taxation: Individuals
ACC 7130 .............................................. Intermediate Managerial Accounting
ACC 7145 .................................................. Accounting Systems: Design and Controls
ACC 7180 ..................................................... Auditing
ACC 7300 ............................................. Accounting and Tax Research and Professional Communications
ACC 7310 .............................................. Business and Professional Ethics for Managers and Accountants

Financial reporting and auditing concentration core

ACC 7115 ................................................. Financial Statement Analysis
ACC 7122 ................................................ Advanced Financial Accounting
ACC 7190 ..................................................... Advanced Auditing
ACC 7280 .................................................. Accounting Data Analytics
ACC 7300 ............................................. Accounting and Tax Research and Professional Communications
ACC 7310 .............................................. Business and Professional Ethics for Managers and Accountants

Taxation concentration core

ACC 7280 .................................................. Accounting Data Analytics
ACC 7300 ............................................. Accounting and Tax Research and Professional Communications
ACC 7310 .............................................. Business and Professional Ethics for Managers and Accountants
ACC 7320 ............................................. Introduction to Taxation: Business Entities
ACC 7325 ............................................. Advanced Tax Research and IRS Procedures
ACC 7335 ............................................. Taxation of Corporations and Shareholders II
ACC 7340 ............................................. Taxation of Pass-Through Entities

ELECTIVES

M.S.A. electives consist of two or three courses (six to nine semester hours) selected from the Ilitch School’s accounting courses at the 7000 level or higher, providing the opportunity to tailor the M.S.A. program to your specific interests and career goals. These courses may not include ACC 7100 or those already counted as foundation, core or capstone courses. Many students will want to elect ACC 7188, Governmental and Not-for-Profit Accounting, to qualify to sit for the CPA examination in Michigan.

For a complete list of electives, visit ilitchbusiness.wayne.edu/msa.

CAPSTONE

The capstone course is the culmination of the M.S.A. program. This course builds on the knowledge gained throughout the program and is taken in the final 12 credit hours of the program.

ACC 7998 ............................................. Seminar in Tax and Accounting Policy
Our two-tiered admissions process requires you to be admitted to both Wayne State University’s Graduate School and the Mike Ilitch School of Business. The first tier requires you to complete a graduate application for admission, submitting it along with required admission materials to the university’s Office of Graduate Admissions.

Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree in accounting – or other business discipline that includes upper-division accounting courses – from an accredited institution, and have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or its equivalent, and a minimum GMAT score of 450.

The second part of the process gets underway when the Office of Graduate Admissions forwards your application materials to the Ilitch School for a comprehensive review. When a decision is made, we will notify the Office of Graduate Admissions, and they in turn will officially notify you regarding the admission decision.

Please note: GMAT waivers are available for qualified applicants. Contact the Graduate Programs Office for more information.

Completing your application to the Office of Graduate Admissions

1. Complete the graduate application for admission at gradapply.wayne.edu
2. Submit official transcripts from all institutions previously attended
3. Have official GMAT scores submitted directly to Wayne State University (use code 1898)
4. Submit a current résumé
5. Submit a personal statement
6. Pay the $50 application fee

The application and other required documents are due by:
- July 1 for fall semester admission
- November 1 for winter semester admission
- March 1 for spring/summer semester admission