



Accountancy

College of Business Administration

The accountancy program at UW-La Crosse is designed to provide students with a balanced approach of the practical and the theoretical, preparing students for not only their first job, but their career. The success of the UW-L accountancy program is evidenced by the accomplishments of our alumni, the number of internship placements and the performance of UW-L students on the CPA exam. In the spring of 2011, over 50 accountancy majors participated in well-paid internships. Essentially all UW-L accountancy graduates are placed in accountancy positions, with the lowest placement rate in the last nine years at 94 percent. Refer to the following web site for up to date information: www.uwlax.edu/CareerServices/.

Wisconsin and Minnesota, along with most other states, require 150 credits as part of the CPA certification. UW-L offers a flexible approach to completing the 150 credits. A large number of UW-L students combine the accounting degree with another undergraduate specialty, such as finance. The advantage of this approach is that students can complete their degree, the 150 hours, and an internship in four-and-one-half years, graduating in December.

Undergraduate Program

Major:

- Accountancy

Minor:

- Accountancy

Department Features

Mission

The mission of the Department of Accountancy is to develop accounting professionals. By emphasizing continuous engagement in research and service to the profession, Accountancy Department members create a teaching and advising environment enabling capable students to reach their full professional potential.

Accreditation

Both the undergraduate and graduate business programs of the College of Business Administration are accredited by the AACSB-International, one of the important marks of an excellent business school. The accreditation of UW-L's College of Business Administration program has proven to be a strong factor when potential employers recruit accounting graduates.

Faculty

Members of the department teach both accounting and business law. Currently, there are eleven full-time faculty, all with impressive credentials. Most have doctoral degrees and either a CPA or CMA, or both. The faculty are active researchers, and many have relevant experience in public or private accounting, in addition to consulting.

Scholarships

The Department of Accountancy has an extensive scholarship program for both entering freshmen and continuing students with over \$40,000 typically available. Applications are available at our Web site: www.uwlax.edu/ba/acc.

Internships

Most UW-L accountancy majors gain experience prior to graduation. Many have multiple internships and the most common experience is a paid full-time internship in public accounting. In today's tight job market, an internship often leads to a permanent job offer.

Professional Certifications

Completion of UW-L's accountancy program, including 150 credit hours, meets the education requirement for professional certification. Graduates are eligible to take the professional examinations that are prerequisites for designations of Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Management Accountant (CMA), or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA).

Successfully passing the CPA, CMA or CIA exam is a valuable credential to possess when seeking permanent employment.

Student Opportunities

A variety of accounting experiences include Beta Alpha Psi (the national honor society for financial information professionals), Accounting Career Expo, and the Accounting Banquet. Students are encouraged to be active in extracurricular activities to meet fellow students, alumni and recruiters, and faculty.

Beta Alpha Psi sponsors presentations by professional accountants for students to learn more about the accountancy profession and to meet informally with professionals. In addition, members have the opportunity to travel to regional and national meetings.

Sample Courses

The Accounting Major

- Intermediate Accounting I & II
- Cost Accounting
- Accounting Information Systems
- Taxation I & II
- Business Law for Accountants
- Advanced Accounting
- Principles of Auditing

Career Opportunities

Entry Level

- Accounting Management Trainee
- Bank Trainee
- Internal Auditor
- Public or Staff Accountant
- Revenue Agent
- Tax Accountant
- Technical Account Trainee

About 70% of UW-L accountancy graduates start as a staff accountant in a public accounting firm.

Further Education

- Graduate study in accounting, taxation, business administration
- Law School

Long Term Career Development

- Budget Director
- Chief Cost Accountant
- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Plant Accountant
- Controller
- Partner in CPA Firm
- Treasurer

Occupational Outlook

Accountancy majors at UW-L enjoy a wide variety of career opportunities upon graduation. Most elect to start their careers in public accounting. Others find employment in managerial, financial and tax, and governmental accounting; in internal auditing; and in other positions in financial institutions.

An accounting degree is a great springboard into a successful career. The degree provides an opportunity for advancement and starting salaries are excellent. See www.wicpa.org and click on [Student Programs](#) to find out about accounting, a career without limits.

Placement

Placement of UW-L accounting interns and graduates is excellent. Many students receive offers while working as an intern. See www.uwlax.edu/CareerServices/ for up-to-date information.

Professional Associations

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants (WICPA)
- Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)

Department of Accountancy

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www.uwlax.edu/ba/ac