MASTER’S PROGRAM GUIDE

Patterson School of Accountancy master’s programs are designed to provide a fifth year of accounting education that prepares graduates for careers in professional accounting and in other business fields. As a master’s student, you will not only enhance your knowledge in the field of accounting but will also develop critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills that will set you apart from your peers as you begin your career. The analytical work that you will do in the master’s program will give you skills to dig deeper into data analysis, allowing you to use that analysis to interpret results and, more importantly, transform those results into usable information for decision making.

We offer four master’s degree programs:

- Master of Accountancy
- Master of Accountancy & Data Analytics
- Master of Taxation
- Master of Taxation & Data Analytics.

Through our partnership with the School of Law, we offer concurrent Juris Doctor/Master of Accountancy and Juris Doctor/Master of Taxation programs that allow students to take courses that provide credit for both degrees. Students participating in concurrent degree programs must be admitted by both the School of Law and the Graduate School/Patterson School of Accountancy.

Choosing a Master’s Program

When looking at your master’s program options, you will want to choose the program that best aligns with your career goals and interests. Outstanding employment opportunities in public accounting, industry, and government await graduates of all of our master’s programs.

Each program requires 10 three-hour courses. A full-time graduate course load for fall and spring semesters is nine hours. Most students take 9-12 hours in fall and spring semesters and
the remaining courses in summer terms. Students also have the option to take a course during winter intersession. The master’s program can be completed in approximately 10-12 months. Many students also complete the CPA exam while earning their master’s degrees.

The Master of Accountancy program offers broad graduate-level accounting education with four required accountancy and taxation courses, four accountancy electives, and two non-accountancy electives, allowing students to tailor the program to their specific interests and career goals. While there are no required data analytics courses, students will gain knowledge of data analytics in some required coursework.

The Master of Accountancy & Data Analytics program offers specialization in data analytics paired with broad graduate-level accounting education. In this program, students are prepared for careers in the data age as they gain hands-on experience in data analytics and cutting-edge technologies. The program requires five accountancy and taxation courses, three data analytics courses, and two accountancy electives.

The Master of Taxation program offers graduate-level accounting education for students who plan to pursue careers in taxation. Students take five required accountancy and taxation courses, two taxation electives, two accountancy electives, and one non-accountancy elective to complete this program. While there are no required data analytics courses, students will gain knowledge of data analytics in some required coursework.

The Master of Taxation & Data Analytics program offers specialization in both taxation and data analytics. Students in this program are given many opportunities to gain hands-on experience in data analytics and the latest relevant technologies. The program includes five accountancy and taxation courses, three data analytics courses, one taxation elective, and one accountancy elective.

Degree requirements lists for all programs are available on the Patterson School of Accountancy website.
Preparing to Apply for a Master’s Program

You may submit your application up to a year in advance of the time at which you plan to begin your master’s studies.

Applications are accepted by the Graduate School. During the application process, you will enter basic information, choose your starting term for the program, and pay the $50 nonrefundable application fee.

In choosing your starting term, you’ll want to keep in mind that the master’s program takes approximately 10-12 months to complete. Students take courses in fall and spring semesters as well as summer terms. The following starting terms are available as options in the application process: Fall Semester, Spring Semester (includes Winter Intersession), May Intersession, Full Summer Term (includes First Summer Term and Second Summer Term), and August Intersession.

In order to register for your master’s classes, you must be admitted to a master’s program and have completed your undergraduate degree. Students who apply for the Master of Accountancy & Data Analytics and Master of Taxation & Data Analytics programs should keep in mind that one required data analytics course is only offered in May and August intersessions; students are encouraged to take that course at the beginning rather than end of their master’s studies.

Deadlines to apply for our master’s programs are:

- April 1 – priority deadline to apply for summer or fall in order to be considered for a Patterson School of Accountancy graduate assistantship
- May 1 – deadline to apply for all summer terms (May intersession, first summer term, second summer term, full summer term, August intersession)
- August 1 – deadline to apply for fall semester
- December 1 – deadline to apply for spring semester (includes winter intersession).

Your official transcript and official GMAT score are required to complete your application. If you are an Ole Miss undergraduate, your transcript will automatically be uploaded to your
application. If you are attending a school other than Ole Miss for undergraduate, your official transcript should be sent to gschool@olemiss.edu. You do not need to send junior or community college transcripts. You only need to send your GMAT score to one program. The Patterson School of Accountancy will have your score on file even if you choose to apply for a program other than the one for which you chose to send your score. You will send your GMAT score to the Patterson School of Accountancy using one of the codes listed below.

- Patterson School of Accountancy – Master of Accountancy: QG4-60-47
- Patterson School of Accountancy – Master of Accountancy & Data Analytics: QG4-60-18
- Patterson School of Accountancy – Master of Taxation: QG4-60-44
- Patterson School of Accountancy – Master of Taxation & Data Analytics: QG4-60-54

Admission Requirements

Requirements for full admission to a master’s program include a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a minimum GMAT score of 450.

For students who have earned or are earning bachelor degrees in accountancy from accounting programs that have separate accounting accreditation by AACSB International, including the University of Mississippi, completion of Income Tax I and Auditing (or equivalent courses) with grades of C or above is also required.

For students who have earned or are earning bachelor degrees in accountancy from accounting programs that do not have separate accounting accreditation by AACSB or who have earned or are earning bachelor degrees in other fields of study, successful completion of these undergraduate courses is also required:

- Financial (Intermediate) Accounting I (ACCY 303)
- Financial (Intermediate) Accounting II (ACCY 304)
- Cost Control (ACCY 309)
- Auditing (ACCY 401) – grade of C or above required
- Income Tax I (ACCY 405) – grade of C or above required
- Business Law (ACCY 411)
• Principles of Economics I (Microeconomics, ECON 202)
• Principles of Economics II (Macroeconomics, ECON 203)
• Economic Statistics I (ECON 230 or BUS 230)
• Economic Statistics II (ECON 302 or BUS 302)
• Legal Environment of Business (BUS 250)
• Management Principles (MGMT 371)
• Marketing Principles (MKTG 351)
• Business Calculus (MATH 267)
• Business Finance (FIN 331).

If not available at the student’s undergraduate institution, these courses may be taken at the University of Mississippi.

GMAT scores earned via online and in-person testing are accepted. Information about the GMAT is available on the mba.com website. Taking the GMAT no later than winter break is strongly recommended for students who plan to begin a master’s program in summer or fall. Students who plan to begin a master’s program in the spring are encouraged to take the GMAT no later than summer. We ask students to make three attempts if needed to achieve the minimum score of 450 required for admission.

Students who do not meet the minimum requirements for admission may be considered for admission in another category.

**Financial Aid for Graduate Students**

Financial aid for graduate students includes graduate assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, and loans. Information on financial aid for graduate students is available on the Graduate School website.

Financial aid opportunities are more limited when admission categories other than full standing admission are used. Students who are admitted in categories other than full standing admission are not eligible to receive federal student loans. Students who are admitted in categories other than full standing admission or conditional admission are not eligible for graduate assistantships.
Graduate Assistantships

The Patterson School of Accountancy awards graduate assistantships for fall and spring semesters to students with the highest admission scores. Graduate assistants receive a partial tuition scholarship and semesterly stipend in exchange for 10 hours of service per week to the school. Graduate assistant responsibilities may include assisting faculty, tutoring, proctoring exams, and/or working in the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) library.

Generally, an admission score of 1300 or above is sufficient to receive a graduate assistantship offer (admission score = (200 x GPA) + GMAT). The deadline to apply for a master’s program and be considered for a graduate assistantship with the Patterson School of Accountancy is April 1. There is no additional application process for these graduate assistantships.

Graduate assistantships are also offered by other schools and offices on campus. Students should contact individual schools and offices to inquire about availability. Scholarship and stipend amounts as well as the number of required hours of service vary by position.

Graduate assistants are required to be enrolled full time in fall and spring semesters and to maintain a 3.0 cumulative graduate GPA (with no rounding up).

Hearin Foundation Graduate Fellowship

Students in the Master of Accountancy & Data Analytics and Master of Taxation & Data Analytics programs may be considered for the Hearin Foundation Graduate Fellowship, which provides a partial tuition scholarship and semesterly stipend. Candidates are required to be Mississippi residents and preference is generally given to candidates who also plan to work in Mississippi upon graduation.

Academic Excellence Fellowship and Scholarship

The Academic Excellence Fellowship and Scholarship is awarded annually to one student who demonstrates superior academic achievement. Preference will be given to a student who will also be receiving a graduate assistantship.
Excellence in Inclusivity Fellowship and Scholarship

Because the University of Mississippi recognizes that benefits accrue to our students when they are part of a diverse community of learners, students may be nominated for the Excellence in Inclusivity Fellowship and Scholarship on the basis that their presence will add diversity to the classroom, department, or the campus. The nomination must include information about how the student will add to the diversity of the university community. Interested students should submit a statement about accomplishments and contributions in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion to Dr. Jennifer McClure, Director of Master’s Programs, in order to be considered for nomination. To be eligible, a student must be a US citizen or permanent resident. The award for full-time students who are not working full-time includes a fellowship and a partial tuition scholarship. Part-time students and/or students with full-time employment are only eligible for a partial tuition scholarship.

Graduate Student Loans

Students who are interested in obtaining student loans should first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information on graduate student loans is available on the Office of Financial Aid website.

Tuition

Tuition information is available on the Office of the Bursar website. When using the tuition estimator, be sure to view the tuition amount for graduate students in accountancy programs, which is slightly higher than regular graduate tuition. Residency information is also available on the Office of the Bursar website.

Advising for Your Master’s Program

You will participate in an advising meeting with Dr. Jennifer McClure, Director of Master’s Programs, prior to registering for graduate classes. Admitted students will have advisor holds until they are advised.
For students who have not yet been admitted to a master’s program, we will develop tentative degree plans that may be subject to change based on admission. Participating in advising does not guarantee acceptance into a master’s program.

During spring semester, advising appointments can be scheduled online. When online scheduling is unavailable, please email Dr. McClure at mcclure@olemiss.edu to schedule a meeting.

You are required to be advised only once for your master’s program, but Dr. McClure will be available to assist you as needed.

If you are an Ole Miss student who will be an August (summer) graduate, you must meet with your undergraduate advisor for summer term advising prior to meeting with Dr. McClure for graduate advising.

**Preparing for Your Advising Meeting**

Advising appointments will last approximately 30 minutes. During that time, Dr. McClure and you will review courses required for your master’s program and develop a degree plan.

Prior to your advising meeting, you will want to review the degree requirements for your program and consider which electives you may want to take. Degree requirements are available on the Patterson School of Accountancy website. Course descriptions are available in the course catalog.

You will also want to review the requirements for licensure eligibility for the state in which you are planning to pursue CPA licensure. While the CPA exam is the same for all states, requirements for licensure eligibility vary and may inform your elective choices in your master’s program.

**CPA Exam**

All master’s students have the opportunity to take as an elective our CPA review course, ACCY 615: Current Issues in Accounting, Audit, Business & Regulation. The course is offered in spring semester and in full summer term. You are encouraged to take this course as one of your electives so that you can study for and take each part of the CPA exam while you’re
completing your master’s studies. It is most helpful to take this course at the end of your master’s program once you’ve taken these required courses: ACCY 509: Corporate Income Tax, ACCY 601: Financial Accounting Theory & Analytics, and ACCY 610: Auditing Seminar. The schedule for ACCY 615 in full summer term will vary from the university academic calendar for full summer term; it will include May intersession, so no other course may be taken during that term.

**Academic Progress**

A cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 (with no rounding up) is required to remain in good academic standing and to graduate from the master’s program. Our retention policies are available on the [Patterson School of Accountancy website](https://www.pattersonschool.uky.edu/).