Accounting

Accounting is the language of business. Successful accountants are knowledgeable in their field, in information systems and business, are strong communicators, motivated and organized, and have the ability to think critically. The rewards of a career in accounting can be substantial for those who have the proper skills. The Stetson University accounting program focuses on helping students develop those skills. The accounting department, the M.E. Rinker Sr. Institute of Tax and Accountancy, offers an undergraduate major and minor in accounting as well as a Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.) degree.

A Distinctive Program

Of more than 12,000 business schools worldwide, the Stetson University School of Business Administration is one of approximately 180 that hold Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (A.A.C.S.B.) accreditation in both accounting and business. Virtually 100 percent of M.Acc. graduates have secured a position, typically in public accounting, prior to completing their degree. The career development office and the accounting faculty are available to assist students in identifying suitable positions.

The educational experience has a high level of involvement, experiential learning, small classes and an orientation toward real-world applicability. Course requirements meet CPA exam requirements; the M.Acc. curriculum satisfies the 150 credit hours required by most states for CPA licensure. Stetson University accounting students have historically performed strongly on the CPA exam with pass rates significantly above the Florida, national and world-wide averages. Stetson University hosts recruiting visits from some of the Big 4 firms, strong regional CPA firms, corporations and government agencies. In addition, the transition from the undergraduate program to the M.Acc. program is seamless.

Academics and Research

Facilities and opportunities

The accounting department is housed in the Lynn Business Center. The M.Acc. program is offered at the DeLand campus or online.

A limited number of merit-based scholarships are available to accounting seniors and graduate students through the Stetson Business School Foundation, the university’s endowment, the F.I.C.P.A. and the Florida Board of Accountancy.

Fast Facts

Program formats: Online or in-classroom

Where Stetson Graduates are Employed

Stetson M.Acc. holders typically earn higher salaries than accountants with only a bachelor’s degree and can choose from among career opportunities with the local, state or federal government; local, regional and national CPA firms; and not-for-profit organizations, including educational institutions. Some graduates teach at colleges and universities.

Graduates of the program are employed across the country. Some employers include:

- Deloitte LLP
- Ernst and Young LLP
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- McGladrey LLP
- Siemens
- Verizon
- James Moore CPAs and Consultants

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Preparation for graduate study

Many graduates choose to pursue a M.Acc., M.B.A. or law degree. The accounting major provides a solid foundation for law school, particularly for students interested in tax, business or securities law. For students interested in CPA licensure and a career in public accounting, the major provides the foundation to move seamlessly into the M.Acc. program and to take the CPA exam during or at the conclusion of the program.

Graduate study

The Stetson University Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.) program offers students the opportunity to complete a graduate degree in accounting in twelve months, either by attending three semesters at the DeLand campus or by taking ten, five-week courses in the online program.

Awards and Recognition

Distinguished faculty

In the past 16 years, members of the Rinker Institute’s accounting faculty have been selected as School of Business Administration Professor of the Year four times, Teacher of the Year four times, Service Provider of the Year nine times and Researcher of the Year twice. One faculty member received the J.D./M.B.A. program’s Golden Apple teaching award. Another was named F.I.C.P.A. Educator of the Year. Six accounting faculty members are CPAs and all but one have terminal degrees. Three faculty hold endowed chairs. Faculty include:

Michael Bitter, Ph.D., University of Mississippi; Rinker Distinguished Professor of Accounting, Chair of the M.E. Rinker, Sr. Institute of Tax and Accountancy, and Director of the Master of Accountancy Programs; CPA

Shahram Amiri, Ed.D, College of William and Mary

Fred Augustine, Ph.D., Florida State University

Vincent Brenner, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; David M. Beights Professor of Accounting; CPA

Richard Copeland, LL.M., University of Miami

Pat Knipe, M.Acc., Stetson University; CPA

Kevin Miller, M.Acc., Stetson University; CPA

Lisa Smith-Jones, M.Acc., Stetson University, CPA

Judson Stryker, D.B.A., Mississippi State University; Eugene M. Lynn Chair; CPA

Undergraduate awards and honors

Undergraduate students can be inducted into Beta Alpha Psi, an international accounting honor society; membership is open to juniors and seniors with a grade point average of at least 3.0.