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

Faculty: 9
Are graduate studies available for this program? Yes
Can you major in this program? Yes
Can you minor in this program? Yes
Popular second majors: finance, business systems analysis
Program Options:
Undergraduate Program
Master of Accountancy
Master of Accountancy (Online)

This department prepares students for careers as accounting, financial or management professionals who can serve a variety of organizations, including public accounting and consulting firms, public and private corporations, government entities, and not-for-profit organizations.
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:

James Beasley, Ph.D., Tufts University; business ethics

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; financial accounting/theory and auditing

Vincent Brenner, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; David M. Beights Professor of Accounting; CPA; financial accounting and reporting, accounting education

Valrie Chambers, Ph.D., University of Houston; CPA; taxation

Richard Copeland, LL.M., University of Miami; J.D., University of Florida; business law, family enterprise, estate planning, estate taxation

Bonnie Holloway, M.B.A., Stetson University; CPA; financial and managerial accounting, business ethics

Monica Jeancola, Ph.D., University of Florida; CPA; cost/managerial accounting, accounting information systems

Maria Rickling, Ph.D., Florida International University; financial accounting, corporate governance

Judson Stryker, D.B.A., Mississippi State University; Eugene M. Lynn Chair; CPA; financial accounting, individual, estate/gift, corporate taxation, tax research

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.

Beyond the Classroom

Internships

Internships are highly recommended and many students complete one or more during their time at Stetson University. Internships may be part-time or full-time, paid or unpaid, and taken during the academic year or the summer. Academic credit can be earned for internships meeting certain requirements. Stetson students have interned with Big 4 and local accounting firms, corporations and governmental entities.

After Stetson

Diverse careers

Accountants prepare tax returns, assemble or audit financial statements, develop accounting information systems, serve as financial, technological and tax advisors, and often leverage their expertise to secure executive positions. Graduates who complete 150 hours of coursework and qualify to take the CPA examination typically accept employment with a local, regional, national or international CPA firm, primarily in the audit/assurance area. Stetson University also has had students begin careers with other organizations such as the Internal Revenue Service, Verizon and Masco. The university’s Rinker Institute enjoys a strong reputation for producing accounting graduates who have gone on to successful careers in public accounting, business, government and education. 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.