

Accounting and Finance

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Accounting and Finance Web Site (<https://new.tamuc.edu/dept-of-accounting-and-finance/>)

Accounting MSA

The MSA Accounting degree provides students the opportunity to gain knowledge in attestation, accounting, internal audit, forensic accounting, and taxation.

- It is a 30 hour degree program consisting of 18 hours of core classes and 12 hours of electives.
- Students can select from 3 tracks for their elective courses: Taxation, Forensic Accounting and Accounting (CPA).
- The program provides flexibility as courses can be taken online, in person, or a combination of the two.
- Students receiving the MSA in Accounting degree obtain a foundation of knowledge in financial accounting, auditing, and tax that prepare them for careers in public accounting and the private sector.
- Upon completion of the program, students may be eligible to sit for the Uniform CPA exam, provided they meet the requirements of their state board of public accountancy.

Admission Requirements (<https://www.tamuc.edu/programs/accounting-msa/#tamuc-section-165019>)

Successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam is required of all students.

Forensic Auditing Analytics MS

The Master of Science in Forensic Auditing Analytics combines courses in accounting and business analytics to provide students with traditional forensics and auditing courses but also cutting-edge business analytic skills to successfully prevent and fight financial crime in the increasingly digital economy. Since most significant financial crimes involve computers either in commission, concealment, detection, or investigation, this program provides accounting student with skills not commonly found in traditional accounting programs, including how to extract, preserve, and document digital financial crimes to ensure their admissibility and undeniability in court.

Admission Requirements (<https://www.tamuc.edu/programs/forensic-auditing-analytics-ms/#admission>)

Successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam is required of all students.

Finance MSF

The Master of Science in Finance program prepares students for the demands of the global financial environment in all major areas of finance. In addition to traditional general finance courses, the curriculum also includes courses designed to help the student who is preparing for CFA and/or CFP certification exams. Students with applicable undergraduate business coursework can complete the program with 30 hours of graduate coursework. Students without undergraduate preparation in finance may be required to complete up to 36 hours (which includes 6 semester hours of foundation coursework) in their program.

Admission Requirements (<https://www.tamuc.edu/programs/finance-msf/#Admission>)

Successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam is required of all students.

Note: Individual departments may reserve the right to dismiss from their programs students who, in their judgment, would not meet the professional expectations of the field for which they are training.

Accounting MSA (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/accounting-msa/>)

Forensic Auditing Analytics MS (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/forensic-auditing-analytics-ms/>)

Finance MSF (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/finance-msf/>)

Finance Minor (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/finance-minor/>)

Financial Planning Minor (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/financial-planning-minor/>)

Real Estate Minor (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/real-estate-minor/>)

Auditing & Forensic Accounting Graduate Certificate (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/auditing-and-forensic-accounting-graduate-certificate/>)

Tax Accounting Graduate Certificate (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/business/accounting-and-finance/tax-accounting-graduate-certificate/>)

ACCT 501 - Accounting for Managers

Hours: 3

Accounting for Managers. Three semester hours. Study of the accounting concepts and procedures used by managers in making decisions. The focus in the course will be on users, not preparers, of accounting and management information. This course satisfies the accounting background requirement for MBA candidates and may be utilized as part of a graduate program in a field other than business administration. Prerequisite: Math 141 or 175.

ACCT 502 - Financial Accounting

Hours: 3

A study of accounting principles and procedures essential to the preparation of financial statements with particular emphasis on the corporate form. Topics of coverage include assets and liabilities, property, plant and equipment, and investments, stockholders' equity, income recognition, leases, accounting changes and errors, and financial reporting and analysis. Pre-requisites : ACCT 501 or Acct 222

ACCT 521 - Advanced Accounting

Hours: 3

A continuation of the financial accounting sequence. The primary emphasis is on accounting for business combinations and consolidations. Other contemporary issues in financial accounting will also be covered with an emphasis on reading and interpreting professional accounting literature. Prerequisites: ACCT 322. Crosslisted with: ACCT 421.

ACCT 522 - Government & Not for Profit Accounting

Hours: 3

This course is a graduate level course designed to cover financial reporting, managerial, auditing, taxation, and information systems issues in governmental and nonprofit entities. Ethics and professional standards, as well as communication and analytical skills, are developed. Students will apply dual-track accounting to help develop skills at analyzing transactions in a governmental entity and follow their effect on the financial statements.

ACCT 525 - Advanced Managerial Accounting

Hours: 3

A study of accounting as related to making decisions. Readings, cases, and problems dealing with managerial accounting issues, accounting concepts, budgeting and cost control, using accounting information in planning and control. Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor.

ACCT 527 - Auditing

Hours: 3

This course is a study of the professional auditing standards followed by public accountants in performing the attest function for financial statements and supporting data. Prerequisites: ACCT 322, 433.

ACCT 528 - Advanced Auditing

Hours: 3

The primary emphasis in this course will be on understanding and applying the concepts of, and approaches to, audits, investigations and assurance services, and on developing skills to apply the underlying concepts and approaches to professional services. This course will review changes in the audit environment and new approaches to auditing and examine the concepts related to auditing in computerized environments.

ACCT 529 - AIS/IT Audit/Internal Controls

Hours: 3

This course is designed to present an understanding of accounting information systems and their role in the accounting environment. Particular attention is paid to transaction cycles and internal control structure. Topics to be covered include the software development life cycle, contemporary technology and applications, control concepts and procedures, auditing of information systems, internets, intranets, electronic commerce, and the role of information systems in a business enterprise. This course will cover accounting information systems—both computerized and non-computerized—with particular emphasis on internal controls

ACCT 530 - Business Ethics for Accountants

Hours: 3

The course will provide a background in the process of ethical reasoning, the ethical environment, application of ethical rules and guidelines to case problems, and a framework for ethical decision-making. The focus will be on the ethical environment within which professional accountants and businesses operate. The objective is to provide the student with an educational background in what constitutes ethical conduct in businesses and accounting. Crosslisted with: ACCT 430.

ACCT 531 - International Accounting

Hours: 3

The course exposes students to international financial reporting standards (IFRS) and related issues. Topics include comparative accounting, internationalization of capital markets, cross-border mergers and acquisitions, foreign currency translation, transfer pricing, and other issues.

ACCT 537 - International Taxes

Hours: 3

The course exposes students to international taxes, credits, planning, and transfer pricing concepts.

ACCT 538 - Individual Income Tax Accounting

Hours: 3

A study of income tax laws. Emphasis is given to the impact of the federal income tax on the individual taxpayer. Various research software and tools are utilized to solve practical tax problems.

ACCT 540 - Advanced Income Tax Accounting

Hours: 3

A study of taxation of partnerships, corporations, estates, and trusts under current federal income tax law. An emphasis will be on solving practical problems using tax research tools and software. Prerequisite: Acct 440.

ACCT 541 - Accounting Theory

Hours: 3

Selected contemporary and international issues in financial accounting will be covered with an emphasis on reading and interpreting professional accounting literature to prepare financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles. This course is designed as a capstone overview of professional literature on financial accounting for majors in professional accountancy. However, the content is also appropriate for controllers and others interested in the application of generally accepted accounting principles. Prerequisites: ACCT 322, 521.

ACCT 550 - Sales, Franchise & Other Taxes

Hours: 3

This course explores taxes imposed by state and local governments. Taxes include sales, income, real estate, franchise, use, and other types of taxes. Students are exposed to different taxing bodies that impose taxes and the justifications and amounts subject to taxation. Students will use online tax research services.

ACCT 551 - Advanced Issues in Taxes

Hours: 3

This course examines advanced issues in taxes. Topics include multistate corporate taxation, individual taxes, international taxes, fiduciary responsibility and returns, and current topics. Students will use online tax research services.

ACCT 561 - Fraud Examination

Hours: 3

This course covers the principles and methodologies of detecting and deterring fraud using accounting, auditing, and investigative skills. Topics include skimming, larceny, misappropriations, fraudulent financial statements, interviewing witness and support for litigation.

ACCT 562 - Forensic and Investigative Accounting

Hours: 3

This course covers important topics associated with modern forensic accounting. Topics include fraud auditing, litigation support, valuation, cybercrime, and other key forensic topics.

ACCT 563 - Advanced Forensic Accounting

Hours: 3

This course builds on topics covered in Forensic and Investigative Accounting. Topics include fraud auditing, litigation support, valuation, cybercrime, and other key forensic topics. The objectives include understanding the practices used by public accountants, internal auditors, prosecutors, special agents, investigators, and others used to examine and prosecute civil and criminal financial violations.

ACCT 564 - Practicum in Forensics

Hours: 3

Students must solve possible or alleged financial improprieties in both civil and criminal environments using structured cases. Students will respond to situations presented by the instructor. Students will simulate evidence and discovery gathering, obtaining and serving subpoenas, data analysis, interviewing, prosecution, and related activities.

ACCT 568 - Business Law for Accountants

Hours: 3

Business Law and Regulation is the study of professional and legal responsibilities and legal implications of business transactions, particularly as they relate to accounting and auditing, and the application of that knowledge to common business transactions. This course provides knowledge of general business environment and business concepts needed to understand the underlying business reasons for and accounting implications of transactions. Our primary objective in this class is to transfer the body of knowledge needed to answer questions likely to appear on the CPA, CMA, CIA, or other professional examinations and to provide a foundation of knowledge of business law for accountants.

ACCT 569 - International Business Law

Hours: 3

The course is designed for accountants and others to study international business law. Students are exposed to international treaties, rules and, laws in a global environment.

ACCT 570 - Accounting Analytics

Hours: 3

This graduate-level course provides an in-depth exploration of data preparation, visualization, and analytical interpretation tailored for strategic decision-making in accounting. Emphasizing robust data extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) processes, students will gain expertise in preparing complex datasets for analysis. Through advanced visualization techniques, students will learn to identify key financial insights, support data-driven recommendations, and communicate analytical results effectively within the context of accounting.

ACCT 575 - Financial Statement Analysis

Hours: 3

This course presents a framework for business analysis and valuation using financial statements. Topics include accounting analysis, valuation theory and concepts, forecasting, equity security and credit analysis.

ACCT 576 - Fundamentals of Financial Planning

Hours: 3

This course exposes students to personal financial planning utilizing basic financial planning skills and tools. Topics include insurance, investment, income tax, business, retirement, and estate planning to some degree within this course. It is through some exposure to all of these sub-fields and discussion of how the planner facilitates effective planning in each of them that students will gain a more complete perspective of the field of financial planning and the requirements of being an effective financial planner.

ACCT 577 - Investment Planning

Hours: 3

This course focuses on the theory and practice of investment planning. Emphasizing the tools and techniques necessary to build a portfolio using both financial planning techniques and theories employed by the financial planning industry. Topics covered include but are not limited to: basics of investment planning and financial markets, investment portfolio risk-return relationship, portfolio management, investment theories, modern portfolio theory, fundamentals of portfolio design, diversification and allocation, fundamental analysis, mutual fund selection, and financial planning issues in asset management.

ACCT 580 - Internship in Accounting

Hours: 0-4

The goal of this course is to gain relevant accounting knowledge equal to or greater than the knowledge gained in a traditional accounting classroom setting. The student will gain work experience in the student's field of study by developing specific work related skills to improve marketability upon graduation. The student will also build a network of professional contacts. Prerequisites: 12 hours of upper level accounting must be complete and Departmental approval.

ACCT 588 - Independent Accounting Research

Hours: 3

This course challenges students to explore emerging and often controversial issues in accounting by using qualitative and/or quantitative research methodology. Students learn how to publish accounting research in peer reviewed publications using topics of interest.

ACCT 589 - Independent Study

Hours: 0-3

Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated when the topic varies. Prerequisites: Consent of department head.

ACCT 595 - Accounting Research and Communication

Hours: 3

This applied course challenges students to research, analyze and communicate topics in accounting and/or tax by using qualitative and/or quantitative research methodology. Students also learn various effective methods accountants must use to communicate.

ACCT 597 - Special Topics

Hours: 1-4

Organized class. May be repeated when topics vary.

FIN 501 - Finance for Decision Makers

Hours: 3

This course is designed for nonbusiness undergraduate degree holders to prepare for making financial decisions. Basic concepts of finance are applied in both the public and private sectors. Graduate students will learn about financial analysis, financial forecasting, asset management, financial markets and security valuation (including state and local bonds). This course satisfies the finance background requirement for the MBA candidates and may be appropriate for graduate programs in a field other than business administration.

FIN 504 - Financial Management

Hours: 3

A study of business finance within the economic environment including financial reporting, analysis, markets and regulations, with emphasis on global and ethical issues. Risk, valuation, planning and analysis including working capital management and capital budgeting, and other decision rules help maximize the value of the firm. Focus on total quality management and financial considerations in the production of goods and services.

FIN 510 - Investment Seminar

Hours: 3

A comprehensive study of security selection and analysis techniques and of security markets and how they are affected by the domestic and international economic, political, and tax structures. Group discussion, individual and group research, and the computer are utilized. Prerequisites: FIN 504 or consent of instructor.

FIN 512 - Derivatives & Risk Management

Hours: 3

This course provides a broad introduction to the derivatives markets including options, futures, and swaps. Derivative securities play an integral part in managing risk for multinational corporations, portfolio managers, and institutional investors, as well as provide opportunities for speculators around the world. The main goal of the course is to leave the student with an understanding of various derivatives strategies and implications for portfolio management. Prerequisites: FIN 510.

FIN 515 - Fixed Income Analysis

Hours: 3

This course focuses on securities that promise a fixed income stream (mainly bonds) whose valuation are influenced by interest rates. Students examine the market for and the price/yield determinants of various fixed income securities, including Treasury debt, corporate bonds, agency debt, municipal bonds, mortgage- and asset-backed securities. The concepts and tools taught in this course are those that are useful to managers and investors who want to use these securities in investing, hedging, market-making, or speculating activities. Even though the cash flow streams are fairly predictable and easy to quantify, the ever changing interest rate and credit environment makes the valuation of bonds particularly challenging. Prerequisites: FIN 510.

FIN 520 - Advanced Entrepreneurial Finance & Venture Capital

Hours: 3

The goal of this course is to help students understand the dynamics of the capital food chain within the context of the entrepreneurial ecosystem affecting the global economy. To this end, we explore various stages of venture capital investing such as seed, start-up, early, mid and later. Next, we introduce the venture capital model and the valuation aspects of entrepreneurial finance. There is a strong emphasis on modeling cash flows as the most critical component of venture capital decision making. The mechanics of venture capital financing in the form of term sheets, business plans and due diligence process are discussed with respect to deal structuring (the entrepreneur perspective) and deal evaluation (the venture capitalist perspective). Prerequisites: FIN 504. Crosslisted with: FIN 420.

FIN 530 - Fundamentals of Financial Planning

Hours: 3

This course exposes students to personal financial planning utilizing basic financial planning skills and tools. Topics include insurance, investment, income tax, business, retirement, and estate planning to some degree within this course. It is through some exposure to all of these sub-fields and discussion of how the planner facilitates effective planning in each of them that students will gain a more complete perspective of the field of financial planning and the requirements of being an effective financial planner. Prerequisites: FIN 304 or FIN 501. Crosslisted with: FIN 430.

FIN 533 - Financial Data Analytics

Hours: 3

This course is a hands-on introduction to the application of data science techniques to visualize, condition, transform, and model financial data using R. Topics include: the layered grammar of graphics, security and portfolio returns, risk analysis, portfolio optimization and performance, publishing results using R Markdown, and an introduction to processing large data sets from public data sources, Google Trends, and the SEC's Edgar database. Prerequisites: ECO 2301 and 2302, or ECO 501. Crosslisted with: ECO 533.

FIN 534 - Advanced Risk, Insurance, and Estate Planning

Hours: 3

An advanced assessment of risk management, the risk management process, the insurance industry, insurance company operations, and insurance products for individuals, families, and small businesses. An in depth and comprehensive evaluation of insurance products including homeowners, auto, business life, health, disability, and long term care insurance. An advanced analysis of the estate planning process, asset titling, transferring of assets, and the estate and gift tax system. Both basic and advanced estate planning strategies and implications are also explored. Prerequisites: FIN 530. Crosslisted with: FIN 434.

FIN 536 - Advanced Retirement Planning & Employee Benefits

Hours: 3

This course provides an introduction to retirement plans and employee benefits. The emphasis is on the decision making process of the individual in consultation with the financial planner. After a thorough review of retirement funding, this course discusses qualified pension plans, profit sharing plans and stock bonus plans as well as distributions from and administration of these plans. Other topics include IRAs, SEPs, 401(k)-, 403(b)-, and 457 Plans, Social Security, Deferred Compensation and Non-qualified Plans. Employee benefits are explored in two as both fringe and group benefits. Prerequisites: FIN 530. Crosslisted with: FIN 436.

FIN 538 - Financial Planning Capstone

Hours: 3

This is a comprehensive course that will require students to synthesize and apply all the elements of comprehensive financial planning. This course will integrate education planning, investment planning, retirement planning, estate planning, insurance planning, and tax planning with plan presentation. The final product should be a written financial plan and oral presentation that reflects graduate level understanding and application of all topics involved. Prerequisites: FIN 534, FIN 510, FIN 530. Crosslisted with: FIN 438.

FIN 540 - Advanced Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation

Hours: 3

The goal of this course is to provide the analytical framework students need to scrutinize financial statements, whether they are (i) evaluating a company's stock price, (ii) determining valuations for a merger or acquisition, or (iii) calculating the value of a start-up company from the perspective of a venture capitalist. By understanding the dynamic nature of financial ratios and evaluating the trends in historical series, students will be able to interpret financial statements in today's volatile markets and uncertain economy, and allow them to get past the sometimes biased portrait of a company's performance. Crosslisted with: FIN 440.

FIN 545 - Financial Econometrics

Hours: 3

This course is designed for a first course in graduate financial econometrics. The objective of the course is to equip students with necessary methods and techniques that allow them to analyze finance-related studies. The focus of the lecture is modelling financial time series such as prices, returns, interest rates, and exchange rates. Accordingly, the emphasis of the course is on empirical applications. Prerequisites: FIN 504.

FIN 550 - Advanced Financial Modeling

Hours: 3

This course is intended for graduate students who wish to learn the application of rigorous computational methods and to implement them to concepts of finance studied in introductory and other advance finance courses using Microsoft Excel and other software programs. The course provides students with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to build financial models. The course primarily focuses on models used for valuation, capital budgeting, cost of capital and portfolio models. This course is a hands-on, assignments-based course focusing on getting students to work with Excel to solve computational problems from a broader range of finance concepts. Prerequisites: FIN 510.

FIN 555 - Lions Students Managed Fund

Hours: 3

The objective of this 3-credit hour capstone graduate course is to provide students a unique learning experience through hands on management of a real money portfolio. Specifically, students enrolled in this class will manage the Lions Investment Fund (LIF), which is a portion of TAMUC's endowment fund. Students will apply finance theories acquired to make investment decisions in the context of a U.S. large-cap core equity portfolio. Following a structured framework, students will research the macro-economy and assigned sectors and industries, then identify and recommend specific stocks for the LIF, as well as balance and monitor the portfolio performance. This course is particularly beneficial to students who aspire to have careers in fields such as equity research, asset / portfolio management, wealth management, investment banking, or private equity. Prerequisites: FIN 504, FIN 510.

FIN 560 - Behavioral Finance

Hours: 3

This course aims to investigate psychology's contribution to finance and economics. The standard approach in finance theory is based on the assumption of rational and unemotional economic agents. However, the anomalies in the financial markets have evidenced the decisions of investors may not be in line with this assumption, leading to inexplicable events such as bubbles. This course discusses psychological explanations for irrational financial decisions. The analysis of deviations from rationality will lead us to the predictability of financial asset price movements by employing psychological principles and explanation of real world market anomalies. Upon successful course completion, students will better understand the decision behavior of an individual investor within a market context. Prerequisites: FIN 504.

FIN 570 - Financial Markets, Institutions & Instruments

Hours: 3

A study of structure and functions of financial markets and institutions focusing on political, social, regulatory and legal effects, as well as demographic diversity, ethical considerations and changing global financial conditions, in finance decision making. Prerequisite: FIN 304 or FIN 501.

FIN 571 - International Business Finance

Hours: 3

A study of international corporate finance within the global economic environment, including relationships between exchange rates and economic variables, risks, global working capital management, direct foreign investment, multinational capital budgeting and international financial markets.

Prerequisites: FIN 504. Crosslisted with: FIN 471.

FIN 575 - Principles of Real Estate

Hours: 3

This course is designed for introductory graduate-level students to introduce them to the basic concepts of real estate and to prepare them for higher level courses in real estate. The course is a survey of real estate topics that includes fundamental principles of real estate investment, appraisal, mortgage finance, and development. This course presents a variety of concepts and vocabulary that are useful for real estate consumers, investors, and professionals. Prerequisites: FIN 501. Crosslisted with: FIN 340.

FIN 576 - Real Estate Appraisal and Investment

Hours: 3

This course is a study of the major aspects of real estate finance and investment. Commercial properties will be emphasized. The course begins with an overview of the fundamentals of income producing real estate and builds on these concepts as we consider the forces that influence the cyclical, fragmented, and inherently local business of real estate investment. The course will expose students to current "real world" real estate finance and investment situations and people who shape them. Crosslisted with: FIN 476.

FIN 577 - Real Estate Finance

Hours: 3

In this course, the student is introduced to the principles and methods of financing real estate. The sources of funds, types and contents of financing instruments, and the role of various financing institutions, both private and governmental, are covered in this course. The latest electronic technology is incorporated wherever possible. Crosslisted with: FIN 477.

FIN 580 - Internship in Finance

Hours: 0-4

The goal of this course is to gain relevant work experience in the student's field of study by developing specific work related skills to improve marketability upon graduation. Students will also build a "network" of professional contacts. Prerequisites: FIN 504 and department approval.

FIN 589 - Independent Study

Hours: 0-4

Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated when the topic varies. Prerequisites: Consent of department head.

FIN 590 - Energy Markets

Hours: 3

This course is designed as an introduction to the Energy Commodity, Equity, Bond and derivatives markets. Students will learn the impacts of energy related assets on the overall commodity and financial markets. Specific topics covered include an overview of domestic and international energy investments, their impacts on portfolio concepts and general market analysis. The pre-requisite to take this class is FIN 510 Investments. Prerequisites: FIN 510.

FIN 591 - Energy Economics

Hours: 3

This seminar-type class concentrates on the macro/micro economic implications of the energy markets. In particular, it ties relevant empirical research with current market dynamics. Students will be exposed to topics including advanced energy market analysis, energy policy and governance. Prerequisites: FIN 590.

FIN 592 - Energy Finance

Hours: 3

This seminar-type class highlights the corporate side of energy markets and investments. Students will be exposed to the financial implications of energy markets on diversified as well as sub-sector energy companies. Topics include financing, hedging and project evaluations for energy producers, sellers and users. Prerequisites: FIN 590.

FIN 595 - Applied Financial Research

Hours: 3

Different techniques of financial research is investigated and applied to financial data. Experience is gained in research problem definition to literature review, collecting and analyzing the data and plotting and interpreting the results.

FIN 597 - Special Topics

Hours: 1-4

Organized class. May be repeated when topics vary.