

TRADITIONAL MPA FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE INTEGRATED AND THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO THE MPA DEGREE?

The traditional MPA is designed for students who will have earned a bachelor's degree from a 4-year accredited college or university prior to enrolling in the MPA Program. The integrated MPA is designed for students admitted to the McCombs School of Business who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Through the integrated MPA, students will earn a BBA degree in accounting as well as an MPA degree.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE MPA DEGREE PROGRAM VIA THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH?

The MPA Program ranges from 31 to 43 required semester credit hours, depending on the student's undergraduate coursework. Students with an undergraduate accounting degree often complete a 31-hour program. Students with an undergraduate degree in an area outside of accounting or business typically complete a 43-hour program. A 31-hour program can be completed in one year (in fall and spring OR fall, spring, and summer). A 42-hour program can be completed in just over one year (in summer, fall, spring, and summer).

WHAT COURSES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE MPA DEGREE?

Please see the list of courses on the Degree Requirements Summary page.

DO YOU ACCEPT TRANSFER CREDITS?

Rather than accepting transfer credits, the MPA Program will waive up to four core courses and substitute electives for additional courses if the equivalents were completed with grades of 'B' or better prior to enrolling in the MPA Program. Details are available on our [curriculum webpage](#).

CAN STUDENTS BEGIN IN THE SPRING SEMESTER?

The MPA Program admits for the fall semester only. However, students who have not completed the equivalent to Financial Accounting (ACC 381) must begin in the summer.

WHAT IS THE MPA CLASS SIZE?

The average incoming MPA class is 100 students.

IS AN INTERNSHIP REQUIRED AS PART OF THE MPA DEGREE PROGRAM?

An internship is an optional component to the MPA Program. The internship program is designed to give students an opportunity to combine their formal academic preparation with an exposure to the accounting profession. This experience is beneficial to students not only upon graduation but also during the remainder of their time in the MPA Program. After an internship, students are more confident in expressing their opinions about the profession and related issues. In addition, the students are more aware of the skills needed to be successful in the accounting profession.

WHAT SORT OF SPECIALIZATIONS CAN ONE PURSUE?

Track options include: Financial Reporting and Assurance, Managerial Accounting and Control, Taxation, and Generalist.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE MPA PROGRAM, WILL I BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE CPA EXAM?

CPA exam eligibility requirements vary widely from state to state. Your educational background and the state in which you plan to sit for the exam will determine whether or not you will need to complete coursework above and beyond your MPA degree requirements in order to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam.

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I WORK FULL-TIME. DO YOU OFFER ANY ONLINE OR EVENING COURSES? CAN I PURSUE THE MPA PROGRAM ON A PART-TIME BASIS?

The University of Texas at Austin does not offer a part-time, evening, online, or weekend MPA Program. Students are expected to enroll full-time (in at least nine credit hours) in the fall and spring semesters. Classes are generally held at various times within the 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. time frame.

DO YOU OFFER AN MPA/MBA DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM?

We do not offer a dual MPA/MBA Program. A student must complete these degrees separately through each individual program. You can find out more about the Texas McCombs MBA Program by visiting their [webpage](#).

CAN I TAKE GRADUATE BUSINESS COURSES WHILE PURSUING THE MPA DEGREE?

MPA students enroll in graduate business courses to fulfill the graduate business electives that are required as part of the MPA Program. The number of business electives completed for the MPA degree varies for each student, depending on the number of core courses that are substituted for an elective

based on equivalent coursework completed prior to entering the MPA Program.

CAN I TAKE GRADUATE-LEVEL ACCOUNTING CLASSES WITHOUT APPLYING FOR THE MPA PROGRAM?

Because our graduate-level accounting courses are in high demand by the students in the MPA Program, we typically are unable to accommodate non-degree-seeking students in our graduate accounting courses.

WHAT TYPES OF CAREER FIELDS CAN I ENTER WITH AN MPA DEGREE? WHICH EMPLOYERS RECRUIT MPAS? WHAT ARE THE PLACEMENT STATISTICS? WHAT ARE THE MPA GRADUATES' AVERAGE STARTING SALARIES?

Recruiters from various industries pursue our students to fill a diverse range of internship and full-time positions. Detailed information about MPA Careers and Recruiting can be found on the [MPA Career Services webpage](#). Additionally, the MPA website provides information on [placement and salary statistics](#) and a sample of employers who recruit MPA students.

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The University of Texas at Austin
Texas McCombs MPA
McCombs School of Business