

TRADITIONAL MPA FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE INTEGRATED MPA AND THE TRADITIONAL MPA PROGRAM?

The traditional MPA is designed for students who will have earned a bachelor's (or [comparable](#)) degree 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. Students will earn a BBA degree in accounting as well as an MPA degree through the integrated MPA program.

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

The MPA Program ranges from 31 to 43 credit hours, depending on the student's undergraduate coursework. Students with an undergraduate accounting degree typically 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 43-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 in the [Degree Requirements Summary](#).

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 ACC 381-Financial Accounting](#) must begin in the summer.

WHAT IS THE MPA CLASS SIZE?

The incoming MPA class size is typically 70-100 students.

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

An internship is an optional component of the MPA program. Students can earn course credit for completing an approved internship. Internships emphasize leadership, teamwork and client interaction and give students a practical view of organizations that may be suitable career options.

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 MPA program does not offer a part-time, evening, online, or weekend option. Students are expected to enroll full-time (in at least nine credit hours) in the fall and spring semesters. Classes are generally held M-TH 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 have the option to enroll in [MBA courses](#) to fulfill their graduate business elective requirements. This allows students to customize their specific career goals, build their network, and broaden their business knowledge.

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

Due to enrollment restrictions, 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 Management 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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