Gonzaga MAcc Course Descriptions
Financial Accounting and Reporting

All MAcc students must complete five core classes, for a total of 11 credits. The goal of the core curriculum is to provide students with both the essential technical accounting skills as well as the managerial capabilities to be effective and ethical accountants.

Students must complete the following core courses:

**MAcc 603: Financial Accounting for Income Taxes (2 credits)**
Tax professionals are frequently called upon to review the income tax accrual contained in audit work papers. This course focuses on the basic and some of the more common complexities encountered in accounting for income taxes under FASB Statement No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, and FIN 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes. In addition, specialized topics such as tax periods and methods are discussed.

**MAcc 661: Professional Writing Workshop (1 credit)**
This course will emphasize the fundamentals of business writing in a professional accounting environment.

**MAcc 664: Professional Ethics (2 credits)**
This course examines the literature of general and business ethics as well as codes developed specifically for practicing accountants. Attention is given to challenges faced by accounting professionals in both public and corporate practice. Case studies are used extensively to challenge and sensitize students to the issues they are likely to encounter in practice; various methods of understanding and solving ethical dilemmas are considered.

**MAcc 669: Integrated Topics: US GAAP & IFRS (3 credits)**
This course builds on intermediate-level coverage of various U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) theory and practice issues dealing with accounting for business, adding coverage of selected advanced topics, then helping students integrate into their understanding of financial accounting similarities and differences between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Related financial and managerial analysis and control topics will also be covered.

**MAcc 672: Law & Regulation (3 credits)**
This course will include coverage of current legal and regulatory issues applicable to practicing accountants. Common law and statutory liability, UCC and contracts, partnership taxation, and antitrust regulation are some of the topics which will be discussed.

MAcc students complete two-thirds of their program in concentration coursework, allowing them the flexibility to tailor the program based on personal and professional goals. Students are required to complete 20 credits, 14 credits in the Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) track and six elective credits.

**MAcc 640: Accounting Research & Practice (2 credits)**
This course emphasizes the development of research and professional writing skills in the context of the financial accounting standards and relevant interpretations.
MAcc 641: Financial Statement Analysis (3 credits)
This course provides an overview of the use of financial statement information in business analysis. As such, it will attempt to increase comprehension of financial statements in their related footnotes, introduce several tools and procedures common to financial statement analysis, expand understanding of the relationship between business transactions, environmental forces (e.g., political, economic, social) and reported financial information, examine how financial statement information can help solve certain business problems, and encourage logical and creative thinking about the strengths and weaknesses of information available to decision-makers.

MAcc 663: Accounting Theory (3 credits)
This course examines the hypothetical, conceptual, and pragmatic principles which form the general frame of reference for financial accounting and reporting.

MAcc 665: Audit Research & Practice (3 credits)
This course examines various theoretical and practical applications of the changing auditing discipline. Authoritative attestation and auditing literature is studied as well as recent PCAOB pronouncements. Case studies are used to consider risk assessment, independence issues, internal control evaluation, and audit processes. This course also emphasizes the development of research and professional writing skills in the context of the assurance function.

MAcc 670: Fraud and Forensic Examination (3 credits)
This class provides prospective auditors, accountants, and managers with an awareness of the extent and significance of fraudulent activity, and an understanding of the methods and techniques of prevention and detection. Consideration is given to (1) asset misappropriations and other fraud against the company, committed by employees, suppliers, and others, (2) consumer fraud, and (3) fraudulent financial reporting, along with the role of ethics and corporate governance in minimizing fraud.

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MAcc 671: Forensic Accounting Lab (3 credits)
Called the “Justice for Victims Project,” this class is a joint program with members of the community (law enforcement, prosecutors, and local certified fraud examiners), that provides a select group of students with an opportunity to investigate real cases of suspected fraud that are referred by local law enforcement. Students are assigned to teams and are supervised by faculty and by mentors from the Spokane Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The cases are selected based on financial need of the victim (primarily local small businesses and non-profit organizations). Student teams must complete a written forensic accounting report on their case, an internal control recommendation report for the client, and a formal presentation to law enforcement outlining their results. Enrollment is by application only.

MAcc or MBA Electives (6 credits)
MAcc students may take electives in the MAcc or MBA program to meet their personal and professional goals. A sample of MAcc electives include:

MAcc 635: Business Behaving Badly (1 credit)
This course examines the psychological and behavioral problems faced by managers. Students will study job burnout, budgetary slack, and the potential unintended consequences of using accounting numbers in incentive systems.

MAcc 699: Special Topics: Current Issues in Taxation (1 credit)
This seminar offers coverage of current topics of importance to the accounting profession. This course may be repeated for credit with a change in subject matter.