

Gonzaga MTax Course Descriptions

All Master of Science in Taxation (MTax) students complete 15 core classes, for 29 core credits and 2 elective credits for a total of 31 credits.

Students must complete the following core courses:

MTax 603: Financial Accounting for Income Taxes (3 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.

MTax 604 & 614: C-Corporate & S-Corporate Taxation (3 credits total)

This course explores the fundamentals of federal taxation as it relates to corporate formation, operations, distributions, and liquidations. Particular attention is given to the operation of S Corporations. The course concludes with a discussion of mergers and spinoffs, particularly in the context of small business corporations.

MTax 605: Partnership Taxation (3 credits)

This course deals with the federal income tax fundamentals of partnership and limited liability company taxation. The course covers formation of, operation of, and distribution from partnership and LLCs, and provides contrast to the problems associated with corporate operations.

MTax 606 & 616: Wealth Transfer & Income Tax of Estates & Trusts (3 credits total)

This is a survey course involving the federal tax effects of gifts during life and transfers at death. Some work is done in actual planning principles and how federal transfer taxes can be reduced by proper planning. A discussion of estate planning will combine all aspects of the transmission of wealth, both be testate and intestate methods. Consideration will be given to the tax and non-tax problems inherent in property transmission.

MTax 607: Taxation of Property Transactions (3 credits)

This course deals with detailed examination of corporate and partnership acquisitions and dispositions. Both taxable and nontaxable events will be explored concentrating upon the small business aspects of such transactions.

MTax 608: State & Local Tax Concepts (1 credit)

This course focuses on the basics of state income taxes, property taxes, and other state and local taxes, with an emphasis on the state of Washington tax structure. In addition, the effect of state and local taxes on multi-state operations is discussed.

MTax 610: International Tax Concepts (2 credits)

This course covers the basics of the taxation of foreign income of U.S. citizens and corporations, and of U.S. source income of foreign persons and corporations. In addition, there is discussion of planning for organization of foreign operations under the tax laws.

MTax 620: Tax Planning for Business Transactions (3 credits)

This course examines the tax and business planning aspects of taxable and nontaxable transfers of businesses and real estate. Particular attention will be given to planning whether to use asset sales or stock sales, structuring financing for acquisitions and techniques for compensating investors. The course will also explore the taxation of partnerships, S corporations, and limited liability companies and their special application to corporate and real estate acquisitions.

MTax 621: Tax Periods & Methods (1 credit)

This course examines timing issues related to the Federal income tax, including adoption of the changes in accounting periods, cash and accrual methods of accounting, tax consequences of changing from one method of accounting to another, installment methods of accounting, time value of money issues (original issue discount), the Uniform Capitalization Rules, and accounting for long-term contracts.

MTax 661: Professional Writing Workshop (1 credit)

This course emphasizes the fundamentals of business writing in a professional accounting environment. Students will improve their ability to communicate the results of analysis, research, and procedures performed. Because accountants often communicate with people outside the accounting profession, students will develop their ability to explain complex information in layperson's terms. Students will also improve their grammatical skills and learn to properly format business documents.

MTax 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.

MTax 667: Tax Research & Practice (2 credits)

This course encompasses a study of tax research methodology, tax policy, and tax practice. Topic areas include various tax research techniques, tax administration and professional responsibilities, as well as international taxation.

MTax 601: Advanced Excel (2 credits)

Students in this course will learn to harness the full power of Excel to become more effective and efficient users in the context of solving a wide variety of business and non-business problems. Students will develop expertise in the use of advanced formula techniques and sophisticated lookups.

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MTax 611: Intro to Analytics for Accounting (2 credits)

A study of the role of big data and analytics in business, accounting practices in particular. The course includes coverage of the theory and practice of data visualization, statistical methods, analytical models, and an introduction to software tools and applicable programming languages to facilitate the analysis of data.

Electives (2 credits)**MTax 601: Advanced Excel (2 credits)**

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MTax 611: Intro to Analytics for Accounting (2 credits)

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MTax 685: Federal Tax Clinic (2 credits)

The Federal Tax Clinic course offers students an exciting opportunity to become engaged in federal tax controversies involving the Internal Revenue Service and in the United States Tax Court. Students represent low-income clients in IRS examination and collection matters, including audits, offers in compromise, penalty abatements, innocent spouse claims, appeals, Tax Court cases, etc. Through case work and clinic experience, the students will have the opportunity to develop and refine skills in client interviewing, negotiations, research and advocacy.

Students may also take electives from the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) or Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs. Advisor approval is required.