

## **Bachelor of Science, Accounting**

### **Why a Bachelor of Science?**

- Develop your skills in data analysis, a skillset much in demand by employers.
- Learn to organize and analyze ambiguous data, and clearly and succinctly communicate your results with appropriate caveats.
- Earn enough credits to become a CPA—in an integrated and planned curriculum.
- Five analysis-based concentration options that you choose based on your skills and interest.
- Broaden your skills into concentration areas and expand your employment options.
- Hone your writing and oral communication skills—important for career advancement.
- A required internship provides practical experience to enhance your marketability.

### **Concentration Options**

#### ***Economics Concentration***

Economics is the study of resource allocation and the societal costs and benefits of such allocations. The Economics concentration provides numerous areas of specialization based on your interests. Many societal issues (e.g. inequality, discrimination, pollution, energy, growth, and stagnation) require economic thinking and analysis. Some of the most dynamic areas of economic specialization are in planning and forecasting, production and market analysis, pricing, and government policy analysis. However, before specializing, the economics foundational coursework will develop your quantitative skills and provide a strong base in economic theory. The BS, Accounting/Economics concentration provides you with the skills necessary to succeed in an analysis-driven environment.

#### ***Finance Concentration***

The Finance concentration provides you with theories, concepts, and skills necessary to organize information and to make educated decisions using imperfect data. Knowing how to navigate uncertainty and ambiguity when deciding on courses of action is an invaluable skill. Finance requires you to provide the *best* solution when the future is uncertain. Students pursuing a finance concentration are good with math, are problem solvers, and can succinctly communicate complex issues.

#### ***Financial Economics Concentration***

The Financial Economics concentration provides an understanding of core economic concepts and the functioning of the economy and financial markets. An emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking skills to apply economic and financial analysis in problem solving, resulting in rigorous training in economic and financial theory and applications. The financial economics concentration, paired with the accounting coursework, is suited to students who enjoy critical analysis and rigorous financial research.

#### ***Management Information Systems Concentration***

The Management Information System (MIS) curriculum provides students with the skills to solve problems at the intersection of business, people, and technology. Organization's information systems and technology-enabled business processes can provide a competitive

advantage. Students learn to analyze, develop, and implement systems to enhance organizational effectiveness and efficiency. *The MIS concentration is extremely competitive and follows strict application deadlines. If you are interested in the MIS concentration, please schedule a meeting with your advisor to discuss the requirements.*

### ***Operations Management Concentration***

The Operations Management (OM) curriculum provides students with the skills to assist organizations' operations to increase effectiveness and efficiency. OM focuses on each step in providing a service or product—from acquisition of the raw materials and component parts to delivery to the customer. OM determines the resources necessary to complete a task, the most efficient method to obtain the resources, and how the most effective way to deploy the resources to be successful in a competitive marketplace. The Operations Management (OM) curriculum is closely aligned with managerial and cost accounting and is suitable for students considering operations consulting or employment outside public accounting.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Q: Why would someone want a BS in Accounting?**

A: To become a Certified Public Accounting (CPA), you must have 225 quarter credits, which is equivalent to a 5<sup>th</sup> year. The BS in Accounting provides the opportunity to meet the 5<sup>th</sup> year CPA requirements and, additionally, complete a concentration that expands your skills and qualifies you for additional career opportunities.

#### **Q: What are the BS in Accounting's advantages over other alternatives to meet the CPA 225 credit requirement?**

A: The primary alternatives are to 1) take more accounting courses and deepen your accounting knowledge, 2) taken non-accounting graduate courses to broaden your managerial skills, or 3) take a potpourri of courses to meet the 225 credit requirement. As an undergraduate degree the BS does not have the higher fees typically associated with graduate programs. BS in Accounting students focus their studies in an-analysis heavy concentration that broadens students' skills beyond accounting, and yet, the concentration allows for a level of educational depth and understanding that less-focused educational alternatives do not provide.

#### **Q: Why should I consider WWU's BS in Accounting?**

A: The WWU Bachelor of Science in Accounting is the only BS accounting program available from the major public and private residential campuses in the State of Washington. The BS in Accounting offers five different analysis-focused concentrations to meet a variety of student interests and provides the skills employers are increasingly requiring from graduates. The concentration areas are only available to Accounting students who choose the BS program. Finally, the BS in Accounting provides an integrated Accounting/Concentration course plan so that students' learning and education experience are enhanced and broadened.

**Q: How is the BS in Accounting and Concentration shown on my diploma and transcript?**

A: Both the BS in Accounting and your concentration area are specifically identified on your WWU diploma and transcript.

**Q: What are the entrance requirements and how do I apply?**

A: You must be accepted into the BS in Accounting program and concurrently, or soon thereafter, apply to and be accepted into your chosen area of Concentration. Please contact the accounting department with your specific questions.

**Q: Are there any special requirements (i.e. GMAT or letters of recommendation) to be accepted into the BS in Accounting?**

A: No. The only requirement is the timely application and acceptance into the BS in Accounting program and a concentration area.

**Q: How long does it take to complete the BS in Accounting?**

A: You are expected to complete the BS in Accounting in five years. This is a full-time program that requires a full load of coursework every quarter. Students are strongly encouraged to limit non-academic commitments.

**Q: Will the Accounting Department find me a required internship? What if I don't have an internship?**

A: The Accounting Department does not provide or guarantee an internship. Students find their own internships with the assistance of a graduate career advisor. In extraordinary circumstances and when an internship cannot be acquired, other accommodations may be available, but not guaranteed.

**Q: Does the BS in Accounting offer scholarships?**

A: The same scholarships available to all accounting and CBE students are also available to BS in Accounting students. There are no scholarships solely dedicated to BS in Accounting students.

**Q: Who can I talk to about the BS in Accounting?**

A: Dr. Steve Smith ([steve.smith@wwu.edu](mailto:steve.smith@wwu.edu) or 360-650-2010), Dr. Dawna Drum ([dawna.drum@wwu.edu](mailto:dawna.drum@wwu.edu) or 360-650-6281), Dr. Audrey Taylor ([audrey.taylor@wwu.edu](mailto:audrey.taylor@wwu.edu) or 360-650-2204), or Morgan Freed ([morgan.freed@wwu.edu](mailto:morgan.freed@wwu.edu) or 360-650-3202)