



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university.

90%

of MS Accounting students hold job offers at graduation

STEM

designated, leading to 3 years of Optional Practical Training (OPT) after graduation

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTANCY

Illinois State University's STEM-designated MS in Accountancy gives students the advanced knowledge and coursework needed for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certification. Our AACSB-Accounting accredited program emphasizes the study of current accounting issues, critical thinking, case studies, and accounting theory to better prepare students for their future careers.

Why Study accounting at Illinois State?

- 90% of our students hold job offers upon to graduation. Many graduates receive multiple offers -- and go on to work at top companies like Caterpillar, State Farm, Discover Financial Services, AT&T, IBM, Merrill Lynch, Walmart, and Boeing
- Internship opportunities with with multinational, regional, and local public accounting firms.
- CPA exam pass rate is the highest of all public universities in Illinois and is 20% higher than the national average (*National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, 2021*)
- The Illinois State College of Business is AACSB-accredited in both accounting and business
- Small class sizes encourage close interaction and instruction

Graduate Certificate Options

The Department of Accounting offers three graduate certificate options. Each certificate is achieved in 9 credit hours and can be taken as electives in the MS Accountancy curriculum for no extra cost to the degree. These certificates are:

Data Scientist: Business Information Systems in Accounting - This certificate provides training with programming tools designed for data analysis.

Forensic Accountant - This certificate provides exposure to issues related to accounting fraud.

IS Audit and Control Specialist - This certificate provides exposure to the management of electronic commerce

"Our goal is to help students prepare well for their careers in accounting and become life-long learners.



We care about our students in all aspects, including students' well-being, grades, CPA exam results, internships, job offers, and more."

*Yi Ren, CPA, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Accounting*



Begin your free application online at:
www.intostudy.com/illinoisstate/apply



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

How long will it take to complete the MS in Accountancy program?

Illinois State's MS Accountancy program is a 30-credit-hour program designed to advance students' accounting careers and pass the required coursework to become CPA certified. The duration of the degree varies by entry method:

Direct Entry	2 years*
1-Semester Pathway	2 years*
2-Semester Pathway	2.5 years*

How much with my MS Accountancy degree cost?

Illinois State is known for affordable, high-quality education. Approximate tuition & fees for the **full MS**

Accountancy degree are shown below:

Direct Entry	\$28,000 USD*
1-Semester Pathway	\$31,000 USD*
2-Semester Pathway	\$36,000 USD*

What internship opportunities are available for accountancy students?

A wide variety of internship opportunities are available for accountancy students. Most internships are paid, and interns often receive job offers from their internship employers upon graduation.

More than 90% of Illinois State's accounting students had internships in 2019-20.

The Department of Accounting has a **dedicated internship coordinator** who works with students and employers to ensure a meaningful experience.

The department also works with the university's Career Center to offer **accounting-only career fairs** twice yearly.

Will the MS in Accountancy program allow students to become a CPA in the state of Illinois?

Yes, international graduates from Illinois State University's MS Accountancy program are able to become CPAs in the state of Illinois. Becoming a Certified Public Accountant in Illinois requires:

1. A bachelor's degree and 150 credit hours from an accredited university
2. Passing all 4 CPA exams: Audit, Financial, Regulation, and Business
3. Passing the AICPA Ethics exam
4. Completion of 1 year of work experience, mentored by a CPA professional

Our accountancy advisors and faculty provide expert guidance to help students prepare for their CPA exams leading to a student passing rate 20% over the national average.

**Pre-requisite courses required may add additional time and cost. Tuition and fees are based on the 2023/24 academic year and are subject to change.*

MS in ACCOUNTANCY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

	Direct Entry	1-Semester Pathway	2-Semester Pathway
Academic Requirements			
Completion of a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited university	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPA 3.0 out of 4.0 • Bachelor's degree in Accounting • Official transcripts from all colleges & universities attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPA 2.5 out of 4.0 • Bachelor's degree in any academic subject, non-background option available through Pathway • Students missing required pre-requisite courses, and/or without an accounting bachelor's degree, may be required to take up to 24 prerequisite credit hours 	
GMAT Requirements			
GMAT	500	Not required for admission; 500 required to progress from Pathway	
Language Requirements*			
TOEFL iBT	100	79	65
IELTS	7.0	6.5	5.5
Duolingo	120	105	95

**If you do not meet the direct language entry requirements, you can enter our Academic English program to improve your language skills before starting the Graduate Pathway program.*

