



PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM IN ACCOUNTING - PPIA

The Professional Program in Accounting (PPIA) was designed as a result of a change in the Texas Public Accountancy Act. Currently, the educational requirements to apply for the CPA exam in Texas include the completion of at least 150 semester hours, of which 36 must be in accounting. The UTA PPIA program meets these requirements by allowing a student to earn both a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting or a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Master of Science in Accounting or Taxation upon completion of an integrated five-year program.

PPIA Admission Requirements

Unconditional Admission without Committee Review: Applicants qualify for unconditional admission to the PPIA program without the need for review by the Departmental Admission and Petition Committee if they meet the following criteria.

This unconditional admission set focuses on two factors: grade point average (GPA) in the last 60 hours of undergraduate work as calculated by the UTA Graduate School and performance on the GMAT examination (total score) or the GRE examination (verbal and quantitative parts).

These two factors are used to calculate an admission index for each applicant as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Admission Index} &= (200 \times \text{GPA}) + (1.0 \times \text{GMAT total score}), \text{ or} \\ &= (200 \times \text{GPA}) + (.5 \times [\text{GRE verbal} + \text{GRE quantitative scores}]).\end{aligned}$$

Individuals who meet each of the following nine conditions are given unconditional admission:

1. Admission Index is at least 1080;
2. Overall undergraduate GPA is at least 3.0;
3. UTA undergraduate GPA is at least 3.0;
4. UTA accounting GPA is at least 3.0
5. Have completed at least 9 semester hours of accounting study (beyond principles) at UTA;
6. Have completed at least 45 semester hours of course work at UTA;
7. GMAT total score is at least 400 (or GRE verbal + GRE quantitative scores total at least 800);
8. GMAT (or GRE) verbal score at the 25th percentile or higher;
9. GMAT (or GRE) quantitative score at the 30th percentile or higher

PPIA Degree Plan

The PPIA degree plan is a combination of:

- BBA-Accounting degree plan minus
- BSTAT 3322 (Business Statistics II),
- MANA 4322 (Business Strategy), and
- Two Accounting Electives, and
- BS Accounting degree plan minus
- Two accounting electives, and
- Either the Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) or Taxation (MST) degree plan.

The graduate portion of the program will vary depending on the degree chosen. While this information is not meant to replace the catalog, generally the graduate degree consists of the following:

Master of Science in Accounting

- ACCT 5318 - Studies in Auditing
- ACCT 5319 - Financial Accounting III
- ACCT 5320 - Governmental
- ACCT 5327 or 5321 - Capstone - Business Policy
- ACCT 5329 or 5335 - Systems
- ACCT 5340 - Entities Taxation
- Two graduate ACCT electives or thesis
- Four graduate business electives

Master of Science in Taxation

- ACCT 5339 - Tax Planning/Research - Capstone
- ACCT 5341 - Partnership Tax
- ACCT 5342 - Corporate Tax
- ACCT 5347 - Gift/Estate Tax
- Two graduate tax accounting electives or thesis
- ACCT 5319 - Financial Accounting III
- Two Restricted ACCT Electives
- Three graduate business electives.

Steps in the Professional Program

Students are encouraged to apply at the end of the junior year. Students may apply during the senior year, but they should not take BSTAT 3322, MANA 4322, or their Accounting electives in order to maximize the benefits of this program. Upon admission to the PPIA program, the student will meet with the Graduate Advisor to obtain their graduate degree plan. The student will continue following their undergraduate plan until all course work is complete with the exception of the previously mentioned four courses (BSTAT 3322, MANA 4322, and the two Accounting electives). These courses will be taken later as a graduate student and will be applied to both the graduate degree and the BBA-Accounting degree. If a student needs to begin graduate course work during their last semester of undergraduate enrollment in order to carry a full load, this need can be accommodated under the PPIA program guidelines. At the beginning of the last semester of undergraduate enrollment, the student will formally apply for graduate admission. At this point, the student should again meet with the Graduate Advisor to ensure a smooth transition to graduate school. Subsequent course work will be taken at the graduate level only.

PPIA Application Process

The best time to apply for the PPIA program is at the end of the junior year. The application process consists of:

- The completion of an application form. Application forms can be obtained in the Department of Accounting office located on the 4th Floor of the College of Business.
- Forwarding official copies of all college transcripts to the UTA Department of Accounting, Graduate Advisor, Box 19468, Arlington, Texas 76019-0468. This can be as simple as going to the UTA Registrar's Office (Davis Hall, Room 129) and requesting the transcript, if a student has taken all college credits at UTA.
- Taking the GMAT and requesting that the score be sent directly to UTA.
- Requesting letters of recommendation from faculty members or instructors. These letters should be sent directly to the Graduate Advisor at the address shown above.
- Requesting a copy of the official BBA degree plan to be sent to the Graduate Advisor.

PPIA Advising

Students considering the Professional Program in Accounting are strongly encouraged to meet with the Graduate Advisor in order to obtain all of the benefits of this program. Assistance is essential in the area of course selection at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Departmental advising can help a student minimize the semester hour requirements for each degree.

Until admission to the PPIA program is granted, students are advised by the College of Business Undergraduate Advising Center. The undergraduate accounting advisor is Erin Cushman. She is located in Room 107K of the Business Building. Students may call 817.272.3368 for an appointment. After admission to the PPIA program, students will be advised by Carly Andrews the Department of Accounting's Graduate Advisor. Students who have not been admitted to the PPIA program may feel free to visit Carly Andrews if they have questions about the graduate portion of this program. She is currently located in Room 409A of the Business Building. To obtain her advising hours, call 817.272.2736.

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