

# Why Study Accounting?

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- You want to be a CPA, audit tax or advisory services. But for many, public accounting is “ultimate internship”
- You want to be important, objective member of management team in a business
- You want to be an entrepreneur
- You thought you wanted finance and took **Intermediate Accounting** – only a finance fool wouldn't
- You want the **most rigorous preparation for business**

# Why Accounting at UWM?

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## Big Draws

- Huge alumni support with 60 years of graduates
- Award winning professors (12 – 15) dedicated to teaching, technology, research. **Write the texts!**
- Incredible TA's - mentors
- CPA in Residence for career planning (Only one in WI)
- Placement **3+ times** and huge employer base
- Integrated 4/5 year Masters program (4 in WI)
- 80% pass rate on CPA Exam
- Necessary experience is right here! **HS advantage**
- Active student organization (BAP)

# The Interests You Should Have:

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- Practical math (not calculus), numerical analysis, Excel
- Quantitative problem solver, objective
- Interested in financial matters – **this is the road to a career in finance!**
- Willing to study harder than others! (15 hour Intermediate)
- Quest for complete understanding over memorization
- Prefer to work with others in teams
- Enjoy explaining technical information
- Don't want to be bookkeeper, want to support and make decisions

# Career Options

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- Demand is strong for CPA's
- Major source for "Big 4" – Importance
  - *CPA firms run 80% on internships*
- There are opportunities (and interest) in industry and finance – but, they like to hire from CPA firms
- Pay is +/- \$52,000 + signing/exam bonuses + "Exam done" bonus (Intern gets \$20-\$22/hour)
- CPA 120/150 rule

# What do Employers Look For?

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- 3.25 GPA for the best opportunities
- Relevant Job Experience (for an internship)
- Extra-curricular involvement (**start now**)
- Personality and presentational ability
  - Take more speech/writing than required
- Understanding of Finance & IT
  - Put your electives here
- References – do you want someone to talk to your boss? **Professors for sure!**

# Action Points

## **Sophomore** – Intro accounting (B)/ Intermediate Accounting

(B) (3.00 overall GPA)

- Business foundations (300 level)
- start on accounting work experience

**(We have career course attached to Intermediate)**

**Junior** – Start on 2 acct courses per semester – you will receive detailed plan. 3 semester plan (with internship) requires summer school, winterim or study abroad

- Join Beta Alpha Psi
- Get Tax done early (jobs and career choice)
- Interview (a year in advance) for Internship in spring of senior year, or summer following senior year (only for 5 year students)

# Senior Year

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## Fall

- Interview for full time if leaving after 4 years
- Some wrap up interviewing for interns

## Or

- Apply to graduate school
- Take GMAT (Study first!) **Automatic for 3 point**
- Apply for scholarships, EY study abroad, TA positions

# Routes to CPA License

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In Wisconsin, anyone with 120 credits can sit for Exam.

Accounting BBA with added advanced law course and some grad special classes is minimum preparation

MS-PA is preferred route:

- Need 150 credits for license
- Includes CPA focused courses + specialty routes in attestation or tax
- Four parts of CPA exam are scheduled into curriculum. When you graduate, you have completed exam
- Opportunity to become a TA
- Includes EY Study Abroad opportunity first summer
- One year full time only