



COLLEGE OF  
BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION

## Careers

A Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting provides students with a set of skills that are highly sought after by employers around the world.

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**WINTHROP**  
UNIVERSITY  
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

# Accounting

*Winthrop's Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics offers students the opportunity to excel in the accounting profession, and to develop the critical skills necessary for a successful career in an increasingly competitive world.*

## The Major

Because accounting is the language of business, accounting majors acquire the technical training and critical thinking skills required to become leaders in all areas of the business world.

Students take courses that expand their knowledge far beyond the traditional recordkeeping function of accounting. The coursework is designed to equip our graduates with the skill set needed to function as key members of any management team. Students learn to analyze business problems, prepare written and oral reports, and present their findings in an effective manner. Our curriculum emphasizes the development of excellent oral and written communication skills.

## The Accounting Program

Our accounting program consists of eight courses that cover a range of topics, including transaction analysis, financial statement preparation and interpretation, auditing, cost determination and control of products and services, taxation of individuals, partnerships and corporations, accounting information systems, and business ethics. The program is designed to provide a solid foundation that will enable students to become leaders in the accounting field. Students who complete the program earn 120 of the 150 credit hours required to become a licensed Certified Public Accountant.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in an accounting internship. Internships are offered in public accounting firms, merchandising firms, manufacturing and service entities, not-for-profit entities, and local, state and federal government agencies. There are internship opportunities to work in a variety of locations within the

United States as well as internationally. It is common for interns to return to their internship employers following graduation from Winthrop. Historically, more than 90 percent of interns have received offers of permanent employment.

## Student Organizations

The department sponsors two student accounting organizations: Beta Alpha Psi and The National Association of Black Accountants (NABA).

Beta Alpha Psi is an international honor society for students studying accounting, finance, and information systems. It is open to students who have earned a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher, and who have completed a semester-long candidacy period. Members participate in monthly professional and service activities. They are also eligible to participate in annual regional and international meetings.

NABA is open to all students. Members engage in activities that foster professional perspectives and development opportunities. They are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities provided by an extensive network of accounting professionals, and have the opportunity to attend an annual nationwide conference where a range of employers recruit for internships and permanent positions.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available through the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants, the National Association of Black Accountants, the American Association of Women in Accounting, and the Institute of Internal Auditors. In addition, the Ackerman-Breakfield award is given each year to the rising senior accounting student with the highest GPA. Graduate assistantships are offered on a regular basis for students enrolled in the MBA-Accounting program, and there also are opportunities to work as student consultants in the Small Business Development Center housed in the College of Business Administration.

## Certifications

Certified accountants are in high demand in all areas of accounting. Our program is designed to prepare the students to become Certified Public Accountants, Certified Managerial Accountants, or Certified Internal Auditors. Students who complete the accounting undergraduate degree earn 120 of the 150 credit hours that must be completed to become eligible to be licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. The remaining 30 credit hours may be earned by completing the Winthrop University M.B.A. with an accounting emphasis, or by completing a similar graduate degree at another institution.

## Careers

The B.S. degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting is a highly marketable degree. Many of our graduates have gone on to careers with the Big Four accounting firms, large second-tier international accounting firms, and regional accounting firms, as well as major merchandising, manufacturing, and service companies. Others have taken positions with local, state and federal government agencies. More broadly, earning an accounting degree opens the door to career paths in banking, finance, and a number of related fields.

## Faculty

Faculty members in the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics have extensive and varied backgrounds. Many of them have worked as Certified Public Accountants, and most have taught accounting at the undergraduate and graduate level for many years. They have advanced academic degrees, pursue active research agendas in the fields in which they teach, and participate regularly in professional meetings and academic conferences. In addition, our faculty is committed to a student-centered approach to learning. Our students have abundant opportunities to interact with the faculty both inside and outside the classroom.



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