

# MASTER OF ACCOUNTING (MAcc) DEGREE

## Program Learning Outcomes for the MAcc Degree

Upon completing the MAcc degree, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate technical proficiency in the major aspects of public accounting.
2. Demonstrate financial valuation expertise.
3. Demonstrate strong written and verbal business communication skills.
4. Demonstrate a sound knowledge of public policy and corporate governance.
5. Demonstrate a critical and analytical approach to problem solving.

## Requirements for the MAcc Degree

The MAcc degree is a non-thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see [Non-Thesis Master's Degrees \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Students pursuing the MAcc degree must complete:

- A minimum of 17 courses (36 credit hours) to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate-level study (graduate semester credit hours, coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken in standard or traditional courses (with a course type of lecture, seminar, laboratory, lecture/laboratory).
- A minimum residency enrollment of 2 semesters of full-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 graduate semester credit hours) from transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 2) tab.
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework.
- A minimum program GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework that satisfies requirements for the non-thesis master's degree with a minimum grade of C (2.00 grade points) in each course.

MAcc coursework is comprised of 24 credit hours of accounting coursework, 9 credit hours of business coursework, and 3 credit hours of ethics coursework.

The MAcc degree program has a lockstep curriculum that students typically complete during contiguous fall and spring semesters. With approval from the MAcc program director, however, a student may take up to four semesters to complete the program. This approval would be granted for internship opportunities and other commitments. In such instances, the program must be completed in contiguous fall and spring semesters, and the student must begin the program in a fall semester. Students requesting the three-semester program option or the four-

semester program option must explain in their application the reason for requesting the extended program option, given the academic goals of the program. Students approved for the three- or four-semester program option must agree to follow the specific course sequence as required by the program director to ensure a meaningful pedagogic experience.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the department or program's Official Certifier (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>). Additionally, these must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

## Summary

| Code  | Title | Credit Hours |
|---|-------|--------------|
| Total Credit Hours Required for the MAcc Degree |       | 36           |

## Degree Requirements

| Code                         | Title  | Credit Hours |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Accounting Coursework</b> |  |              |
| MAcc 511                     | ISSUES IN FINANCIAL REPORTING II                     | 3            |
| MAcc 512                     | FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS AND VALUATION           | 3            |
| MAcc 513                     | ISSUES IN FINANCIAL REPORTING III                    | 3            |
| MAcc 515                     | ADVANCED TOPICS IN REVENUE RECOGNITION               | 1.5          |
| MAcc 531                     | ADVANCED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING                       | 1.5          |
| MAcc 541                     | ACCOUNTING INFORMATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS           | 1.5          |
| MAcc 542                     | ADVANCED AUDITING                                    | 1.5          |
| MAcc 563                     | DATA ANALYTICS FOR ACCOUNTANTS                       | 1.5          |
| MAcc 564                     | ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND DATA ANALYTICS    | 3            |
| MAcc 571                     | FEDERAL TAXATION                                     | 3            |
| MAcc 573                     | BUSINESS TAX STRATEGY: INDUSTRY APPLICATIONS         | 1.5          |
| <b>Ethics Coursework</b>     |  |              |
| MAcc 501                     | ACCOUNTING ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM                | 3            |
| <b>Business Coursework</b>   |  |              |
| MAcc 502                     | BUSINESS LAW FOR ACCOUNTANTS                         | 3            |
| MAcc 503                     | ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING REGULATION                   | 1.5          |
| MAcc 504                     | FINANCE FOR ACCOUNTANTS                              | 1.5          |
| MAcc 562                     | AUDITING: A DATA ANALYTICS APPROACH                  | 1.5          |
| MAcc 592                     | INSTITUTIONAL AND ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS OF ACCOUNTING | 1.5          |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>    |  | <b>36</b>    |

## Footnotes and Additional Information

<sup>1</sup> MACC 503 and MACC 592 are taken for a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade and must be completed with a Satisfactory grade. As S/U courses, they do not apply to the requirement of a minimum grade of C (2.00 grade points) in each required course.

## Proposed Plan-of-Study

The following plan-of-study represents the current lockstep two-semester sequence in which students pursuing the MAcc degree complete the required coursework. Substitution of courses may be made with permission of the program director.

As noted above, in some instances students may apply for, and be permitted to pursue, the MAcc degree on the three- or four-semester program option. In those instances, students must agree to follow a specific course sequence as required by the program director. Please contact the program director for details.

| Course                    | Title  | Credit Hours |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>First Year</b>         |  |              |
| <b>1st Semester</b>       |  |              |
| MACC 501                  | ACCOUNTING ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM                | 3            |
| MACC 511                  | ISSUES IN FINANCIAL REPORTING II                     | 3            |
| MACC 512                  | FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS AND VALUATION           | 3            |
| MACC 571                  | FEDERAL TAXATION                                     | 3            |
| Fall Semester I           |  |              |
| MACC 592                  | INSTITUTIONAL AND ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS OF ACCOUNTING | 1.5          |
| MACC 563                  | DATA ANALYTICS FOR ACCOUNTANTS                       | 1.5          |
| Fall Semester II          |  |              |
| MACC 503                  | ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING REGULATION                   | 1.5          |
| MACC 504                  | FINANCE FOR ACCOUNTANTS                              | 1.5          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>       |  | <b>18</b>    |
| <b>2nd Semester</b>       |  |              |
| MACC 502                  | BUSINESS LAW FOR ACCOUNTANTS                         | 3            |
| MACC 513                  | ISSUES IN FINANCIAL REPORTING III                    | 3            |
| MACC 564                  | ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND DATA ANALYTICS    | 3            |
| Spring Semester I         |  |              |
| MACC 531                  | ADVANCED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING                       | 1.5          |
| MACC 541                  | ACCOUNTING INFORMATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS           | 1.5          |
| MACC 542                  | ADVANCED AUDITING                                    | 1.5          |
| Spring Semester II        |  |              |
| MACC 515                  | ADVANCED TOPICS IN REVENUE RECOGNITION               | 1.5          |
| MACC 562                  | AUDITING: A DATA ANALYTICS APPROACH                  | 1.5          |
| MACC 573                  | BUSINESS TAX STRATEGY: INDUSTRY APPLICATIONS         | 1.5          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>       |  | <b>18</b>    |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b> |  | <b>36</b>    |

## Policies for the MAcc Degree Accounting Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the Jones Graduate School of Business publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: [https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2023\\_24/Master\\_of\\_Accounting\\_Graduate\\_Handbook.pdf](https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2023_24/Master_of_Accounting_Graduate_Handbook.pdf)

## Admission Requirements

For general university requirements, see [Graduate Degrees \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-opportunities/degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-opportunities/degrees/).

Admission to the MAcc degree program is open to students regardless of their undergraduate major, but the program is highly selective and access is limited to those who have performed with distinction across all areas of the application. A bachelor's degree (or equivalent) from an accredited undergraduate institution is required before a student begins the program, though a student may be admitted to the program before having completed their bachelor's degree. Applicants participate in an interview by invitation as part of their admission requirements.

All applicants to the MAcc degree program must submit the following:

- an online application and application fee
- transcripts from all degree-granting institutions and/or institutions at which an applicant completed 15 or more credit hours
- resume
- essays
- names and contact information of two professional references
- a score from TOEFL, Duolingo, or IELTS is required for international applicants whose undergraduate degree was from an institution where the primary language of instruction was not English.

At their discretion, applicants may also provide a GMAT or GRE standardized test score.

Students must have completed an approved introductory financial accounting course to be eligible to apply to the program. All MAcc students must also have completed an approved first intermediate financial accounting course and an approved auditing course prior to beginning the MAcc program. BUSI 305, BUSI 405, and BUSI 440 are the Rice introductory financial accounting, first intermediate financial accounting, and auditing courses, respectively. Students who took those courses at another institution are to submit the course syllabi to the MAcc Program director for evaluation of course for equivalency. Students may be admitted to the program before completing the intermediate financial accounting or auditing courses, but they must successfully complete those classes prior to starting the program.

Students may apply as early as the summer before their senior year.

## Academic and Professional Standards

Students must meet both academic and professional standards to continue academic work and to graduate. In accepting admission to the MAcc program, all students agree to be governed by the standards and procedures for dismissal or disciplinary action stated below.

## Academic Standards

A minimum overall grade point average of 2.67 (B-) is required for graduation. All courses taken towards the MAcc degree, other than the

two courses graded as "Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory," are counted in the overall grade point average calculation.

Students with an overall grade point average lower than 2.67 at the end of any semester will be notified of dismissal. A student who has been notified of dismissal may appeal to the Academic Standards Committee of the Jones Graduate School of Business. The committee will decide, based on the circumstances of the appeal, whether the student:

1. may resume studies on probation,
2. is to be suspended for one semester or an academic year, or
3. is to be dismissed from the MAcc program.

Students are removed from probation only upon achieving an overall grade point average of at least 2.67 at the end of the following semester of work.

Students proposing to return after a period of academic suspension must apply to the Academic Standards Committee and receive permission to be readmitted. If permitted to return, the student will pay the current rate of tuition, based upon the class of students they are joining.

Only grades of C (2.00 grade points) and above are counted for credit toward graduation. If a student receives a grade below a C (2.00 grade points) in a course, the student must meet with the program director to determine remediation. Any plans for remediation must be approved by the Academic Standards Committee.

## Professional Standards

Masters students are held to the high standards of professional conduct expected of managers—standards substantially exceeding those expected of them simply as students. Students may be dismissed or suspended for failure to meet professional standards, as defined in the [University Code of Conduct](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/rights-responsibilities/code-student-conduct/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/rights-responsibilities/code-student-conduct/>). The dean may place a student on disciplinary probation for unacceptable conduct, giving oral and written notice that future misconduct will lead to filing specific charges. (This probationary notice, however, is not required as a precondition for filing specific charges.)

## Guidelines for Appealing Academic Dismissal

### The Process

A student who wishes to appeal a dismissal should address the following issues in a letter to the Academic Standards Committee. The student must address the letter to the chair of the Academic Standards Committee and submit it to [mbaadvising@rice.edu](mailto:mbaadvising@rice.edu). The following questions should be answered in the appeal letter. Students may also include any additional information that they deem relevant in the appeal letter.

1. What circumstances led to your academic performance last semester and to what degree were those circumstances beyond your control?
2. If your performance in a particular course(s) last semester was below par, describe any circumstances specific to that course that explain your performance.
3. Do you expect the circumstances that created the problems for you last semester to change next semester? If so, how? If not, why?

### Timing

The student must inform [mbaadvising@rice.edu](mailto:mbaadvising@rice.edu) immediately of the intention to appeal. The appeal letter to the committee must be filed no later than the date stated in the dismissal letter (typically within one week of notification). If a student plans to appeal, he/she should attend classes

while the appeal is pending. It is important to keep up with courses during the appeal process.

## Appeals

Appeals beyond the Academic Standards Committee must go to the dean of the Jones Graduate School of Business, who may seek guidance from other constituents of the school. All decisions rendered by the dean are final.

## Confidentiality

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and amendments govern the records of actions related to appeals.

## Grade Appeal Process

Once a course grade has been assigned by an instructor, it is generally considered final and is rarely changed for any reason. Student appeals shall be limited to calculation errors or an alleged failure of the instructor to follow the grading norms set forth in the course syllabus. The procedure below outlines the process by which a student may appeal a course grade. Appeals to the Academic Standards Committee cannot be made until a course grade is assigned; grading questions concerning a particular assessment within the term should be addressed following whatever formal or informal process the instructor has outlined for the course (see step 1).

1. The student should first pursue any grading question with the instructor following whatever formal or informal process the instructor has outlined for the course.
2. If the matter is not resolved in step 1 above, the student must file (via email) a written appeal to the instructor, copying the senior associate dean of degree programs. This written appeal must be filed no later than 30 days after the last day of finals for the term (mini-term) in which the course was offered. If the instructor feels further discussion is warranted based on the written appeal, the instructor may discuss the appeal with the student directly. Within two weeks of receiving the written appeal, the instructor should notify (via email) both the student and the senior associate dean of their opinion regarding the appeal.
3. If the issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of both the student and the instructor within two weeks of the student's written appeal in step 2, the student may appeal to the Academic Standards Committee by emailing a written notice to [jgs-academic-standards@rice.edu](mailto:jgs-academic-standards@rice.edu) describing the grounds for the appeal, copying the instructor and the senior associate dean. This appeal must be sent within four weeks of the student's initial written appeal in step 2.
4. The Academic Standards Committee will consider the appeal based on information provided by the instructor and the student. At its discretion, the Committee may hold a hearing to further consider the matter. The decision of the Academic Standards Committee will be rendered within four weeks of receiving a written notice of appeal (step 3).
5. The decision rendered by the Academic Standards Committee is generally final, except for extraordinary cases in which there was a procedural error or major information omission in the steps above. Appeals beyond the Academic Standards Committee must go to the dean of the JGSB, who may seek guidance from other constituents of the school. All decisions rendered by the dean are final.
6. In the event that the protested grade is necessary for the student to graduate, an accelerated schedule will be followed.

More information can be found in the [Dispute Resolution](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/rights-responsibilities/dispute-) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/rights-responsibilities/dispute->

[resolution/](#)) section for graduate students, including guidelines set forth by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). The Committee on Examinations and Standing (EX&S) has established faculty guidelines on grading. Additional information can be found in the [Faculty Grading Guidelines](#) (<https://ga.rice.edu/faculty/grading-guidelines/>) section.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and amendments govern records of these actions.

## **Withdrawal Policy**

A Jones Graduate School of Business student, participating in any offered program, may voluntarily withdraw from school at any time. Upon withdrawal, Rice University applies a sliding scale to tuition, which is noted in the university's [Academic Calendar](#) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/calendars/>).

## **Transfer Credit**

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit](#) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer>). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

## **Program Transfer Credit Guidelines**

Students pursuing the MAcc degree should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the degree.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director on an individual case-by-case basis.

## **Additional Information**

For additional information, please see the Accounting website: <https://business.rice.edu/academic-program/master-accounting-macc> (<https://business.rice.edu/academic-program/master-accounting-macc/>)

## **Opportunities for the MAcc Degree**

### **Rice Undergraduate Students**

Rice undergraduate students completing studies in Business (the major or minor) are eligible for admission to the MAcc degree program prior to completing their undergraduate degree. For additional departmental guidelines regarding admission requirements, see the [Policies](#) (p. 2) tab.

## **Additional Information**

For additional information, please see the Accounting website: <https://business.rice.edu/academic-program/master-accounting-macc> (<https://business.rice.edu/academic-program/master-accounting-macc/>)