UCI Paul Merage School of Business
Leadership for a Digitally Driven World™

Master of Professional Accountancy
Prepare for the Future of Accounting

The Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc) program at The Paul Merage School of Business offers a rigorous, full-time one-year or part-time two-year program – one of only two UC-based MPAc programs in Southern California – that provides an intensive, focused level of training designed to prepare you for an executive career in accounting.

Throughout your Master’s experience, you will have the opportunity to interact and work with current MBA students and get connected with the broad network of Merage School alumni. You will be immersed in a curriculum, that coupled with your prior coursework, will enable you to meet new State of California Board of Accountancy education standards, for licensure as a Certified Public Accountant. Upon successful completion of the MPAc program, you will be awarded a Master’s Degree in Professional Accountancy.

UC Irvine’s MPAc program offers the following benefits:

- More than 80 firms and companies recruit our graduates including the Big Four, Mid-Tier, Regional, and Local Firms.
- Paid internship opportunity with some of the top firms in the industry
- Career management and advising; professional development workshops
- Access to recruitment fairs, speaker events, campus interviewing and job postings
- Classes and networking opportunities with current MBA students
- Interaction with top-notch researchers, faculty and professionals in all areas of accounting

“In the ever-changing accounting industry, it is important for our employees to be as dynamic as the clients we serve. A Master of Professional Accountancy provides students with not only the technical skills they need to succeed, but also the business skills to be competitive in today’s job market.”

Alan Herrmann
Southern California Tax Practice Leader and Partner in Charge
Irvine, Grant Thornton LLP
Program Structure

The Merage School MPAc program requires a minimum of 11 courses (44 units) to include seven graduate level accounting and taxation courses and four electives. Among the required courses is a distinctive Career and Professional Development ProSeminar workshop, a unique program designed to hone professional and career building skills including technical and soft skill creation, career choice counseling and networking skills. Electives, including a paid winter-quarter internship opportunity timed around the accounting industry’s busy season, allow you to gain experience, earn credit toward your MPAc, and in the case of the internship, partially offset the cost of tuition.

Coursework & Admissions Requirements

The seven courses required for the MPAc include:

- **MPAc 230**: ProSeminar: Career and Professional Development (must be taken Fall and Spring quarters)
- **MPAc 231A**: Financial Statement Analysis and Forecasting
- **MPAc 232**: Taxes and Business Strategy
- **MPAc 235**: Advanced Managerial and Cost Accounting
- **MPAc 238**: Advanced Auditing and Assurance Services
- **MPAc 239**: Ethics in Accounting and Business (capstone course)
- **MPAc 291**: Professional Research and Communication

Electives

In addition to your required courses, you will be expected to enroll in and successfully complete at least 16 units of elective coursework in the Winter and/or Spring quarters. Students can select from a number of elective offerings across all Merage School masters programs.

- Accounting Internship
- Accounting Policy and Research
- Advanced Financial Statement Analysis
- Business Law
- Corporate Governance
- Data Analytics
- Forensic Accounting
- Independent Study
- International Accounting
- Non-for-Profit Accounting

More information is available at [merage.uci.edu/mpac](http://merage.uci.edu/mpac)

Admission Requirements

Applicants must apply online and must meet all prerequisite requirements at the time of matriculation into the program.

Admission to graduate standing in The Paul Merage School of Business is accorded to those possessing an undergraduate degree with an acceptable level of scholarship from an institution of recognized standing. Applicants for admission will be evaluated on their academic record and potential for leadership as demonstrated in submitted application materials including:

- Official transcripts from all institutions attended to obtain undergraduate degree (with English translation if needed)
- The GMAT or GRE is not required but strongly recommended for applicants with GPAs below 3.3. While these tests are not required, the Admissions team is looking for evidence of strong verbal and quantitative skills. Note that GMAT and GRE scores are good for up to five years.
- Two letters of recommendation
- Two essays
- Resume
- Official TOEFL, PTE, or IELTS (international applicants)
- $150 application fee
- A personal interview (by invitation only)

"We at PwC continue to be extremely impressed by the quality of graduates from the Merage School’s MPAc program. They are extremely well rounded and very prepared for the demands of a career in public accounting, having mastered technical accounting skills, gained an understanding of business issues, developed a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges of a global economy, and honed their leadership skills."

Suzanne Fradette
Audit Partner, PwC

"Merage's MPAc program is unique because of the emphasis on career development and the quality of the faculty and staff. The program focuses on helping students obtain the skills and connections needed to start a successful career through ProSeminars, one on one meetings, and access to esteemed professionals."

Luke Hatch, MPAc ‘17
Assurance Associate, PwC
Highly qualified applicants who do not meet the entrance requirements to begin the program in the Fall quarter will be offered an opportunity to enroll in an intensive summer pre-session at The Paul Merage School of Business.

The pre-session will be required of those who possess an excellent undergraduate record of achievement, strong letters of recommendation, and a clear focus relative to a career in accounting; and, who need specific prerequisite coursework in accounting and business. Students must successfully complete all of the pre-session coursework to meet the course prerequisites of the MPAc program in order to enter the program in the Fall quarter.

Pre-session coursework will be done over the two designated Summer Sessions. Students will enroll in a curriculum of two courses in Summer Session I and two courses in Summer Session II.

**Session I:**
- Intermediate Accounting Intensive I
- Auditing Intensive

**Session II:**
- Intermediate Accounting Intensive II and Special Topics
- Fundamentals of Taxation Intensive

**Coursework Requirements**

**Minimum coursework to apply:** The following courses must be completed or in progress at the time of application submission:

- Financial Accounting
- Managerial Accounting

We recommend these courses are taken at your 4-year university, university extension, or community college program. You are responsible for demonstrating how you will meet the above requirements as part of the application process.

**Fall Applicants**

The following courses will need to be completed before the program begins in fall:

- Intermediate Accounting I
- Intermediate Accounting II
- Individual Taxation or Federal Taxation
- Auditing
- 2 Upper Division Accounting Electives (Recommended electives include: Corporate and Partnership Taxation, Accounting Information Systems, Advanced Accounting, Cost Accounting, International Accounting)

Students lacking up to two upper-division undergraduate accounting elective courses will be permitted to petition to enroll in those courses as an additional part of the MPAc program. At the discretion on the Admissions Committee, provisional admission status will be offered to highly qualified candidates who have met most, but not all of the prerequisite requirements and will satisfy the requirements prior to matriculation.

**Application Deadlines**

Applications are submitted online and are evaluated as they are received. Admissions decisions are usually made within four weeks after the interview. Upcoming deadlines and additional application information are available at merage.uci.edu/mpac.

Note: If you are an international applicant, we encourage you to apply early to allow sufficient time to obtain your student visa.

**Financial Aid**

Pursuing your MPAc is an important investment in your future – that is why the Merage School has dedicated professionals working on your behalf in our Merage School Financial Aid office. When you meet with our staff, they will share information with you regarding loan programs and merit-based fellowships. Once you have been admitted into the MPAc program, you will also have the opportunity to apply for existing merit-based scholarships available to accounting students through the Accounting Association and other campus organizations.

For more information on financial support, contact Alda Ruggiero at The Paul Merage School of Business Financial Aid Office at 949.824.7967 or aruggier@uci.edu.

"I chose to join the Merage School's MPAc program because it gives students more choices to determine their academic and professional goals. Not only does the program give students the opportunity to compete for a winter internship, but also it allows us to take multiple MBA courses. Giving students the autonomy to define their own education is a unique addition that other programs do not provide for their students."

Matthew Marnell, MPAc '15
Assurance Associate, PwC

**MPAc Summer Pre-Session Offered**

Highly qualified applicants who do not meet the entrance requirements to begin the program in the Fall quarter will be offered an opportunity to enroll in an intensive summer pre-session at The Paul Merage School of Business.

*“I chose to join the Merage School's MPAc program because it gives students more choices to determine their academic and professional goals. Not only does the program give students the opportunity to compete for a winter internship, but also it allows us to take multiple MBA courses. Giving students the autonomy to define their own education is a unique addition that other programs do not provide for their students.”*  

Matthew Marnell, MPAc '15
Assurance Associate, PwC
The quality and caliber of students graduating from UCI MPAc continues to impress us at EY. We place value on those students with a graduate degree in accounting from UCI MPAc, where we have seen students emerge professionally-ready to enter the public accounting field with us and are CPA-eligible upon graduation."

Kim E. Letch
Orange County Office
Managing Partner, EY LLP

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**MPAc Career Advising Structure**

One of the benefits of attending the MPAc program is employment and career coaching. Students receive individualized career preparation guidance and training to prepare them for interviews, and networking events to help them land an internship or full-time position. We also focus on building each student’s personal brand, professionalism and executive presence for a successful career in accounting.

Our MPAc career advisors partner with students to help them focus their career objectives to achieve their personal career goals using our four key pillars of Career Advising:

### Consultations and Workshops

**Initial Career Consultation:** Meet one-on-one with a career advisor to discuss your career goals and receive an overview of MPAc Career Services. MPAc career advisors will help you explore the various career options you may pursue and consider which accounting area fits best with your strengths and skills.

**Resume and Cover Letter Reviews:** A well-written cover letter and concise resume are important to making a good first impression. MPAc Career Services provides guidance and assistance to help you create a quality cover letter and resume.

**Mock Interviews:** Once an employer has reviewed your cover letter and resume, it is imperative that you perform well during an interview. MPAc Career Services conducts mock interview sessions and provides constructive feedback to prepare students for phone, video and in-person interviews.

**Career and Skill Development Workshops:** Professional skill development workshops help you acquire and hone the skills you will need to be successful, not only in today’s competitive marketplace, but throughout your career.

### Recruitment and Proseminar

**Strong Relationships with Big 4, Mid-Tier, Local Firms and Companies:** The MPAc Career Advising Team is focused on building and maintaining strong relationships with accounting firms and companies to develop our recruiter base. During fall quarter, MPAc students attend numerous recruiting events such as Meet the Firms, Recruiters’ Panel, Firm, Faculty & MPAc Mixer and firm speaking engagements. During spring quarter, MPAc students have the opportunity to attend a Spring Career Fair to network with corporate and private companies for industry positions.

**Fall and Spring Proseminar Courses:** The Proseminar courses are designed to hone career building skills and prepare students for a successful future in accounting. During the fall, we have guest speakers and panelists from various accounting industries. In the spring, we focus on preparing students for long-term career success in the accounting field.

### Winter or Spring Internship Opportunity

**Winter or Spring Internship:** Students who attend the MPAc program and are eligible to work during winter quarter may apply and recruit for a part-time or full-time winter internship. Alternatively, students may complete a part-time internship during spring quarter. Internships and the overall recruiting process will be covered in detail during orientation. If a student enrolls in the MPAc Accounting Internship course, 2 units of academic credit will be granted upon completion of the course and internship.

### Career and CPA Exam Preparation

As a graduate of the MPAc program, you will have met the educational requirements necessary to sit for the CPA exam. In addition, we offer information sessions and provide guidance on how to apply and study, so that students are well prepared to pass the exam.
The University of California, Irvine

Founded in 1965, the University of California, Irvine combines the strengths of a major research university with the bounty of an incomparable Southern California location. UC Irvine’s unyielding commitment to rigorous academics, cutting-edge research, and leadership and character development makes the campus a driving force for innovation and discovery that serves our local, national and global communities in many ways.

The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine consistently ranks among the top 10% of business schools in the world. Our pioneering curriculum and dynamic network attract business leaders, the best and brightest students, and the global companies that recruit them. Our reputation includes accolades from BusinessWeek, U.S. News and World Report and the Financial Times. At the Merage School, you will build close relationships with a diverse group of students, receive personalized attention from faculty, and gain access to the Tech Coast’s leading industries – all as part of the prestigious University of California system.

Life in the O.C.

The Land of Beaches, Business, and Big Ideas

Irvine is strategically located in the heart of Orange County, the second largest county in the state. It’s also at the center of Southern California’s Tech Coast, with Irvine being the primary breeding ground for on-the-rise businesses and industries – mainly biotech, medical, fashion, real estate, finance and auto design. Innovative companies, such as Allergan, Broadcom Corporation, Disney, Google, Oakley, PIMCO and Taco Bell, are all just minutes away from the Merage School.

Orange County is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the north by Los Angeles County and on the south by San Diego County. A perennially warm Mediterranean climate and 42 miles of sandy beaches make it the ultimate environment for balancing original thinking with exhilarating adventure.

The famed sailing and surfing beaches of Newport, Laguna and Huntington are a short bike ride from campus. Hiking trails, desert camping and mountain resorts for snowboarding and skiing are within two hour’s travel distance from Irvine. Adjacent to the campus, the San Joaquin Marsh serves as a natural classroom of peaceful refuge, with its eleven-plus miles of trails.

“We have been involved with UCI’s MPAc students since the start of the program. It has been a great relationship from its inception. The quality and caliber of students graduating from the program is and continues to be outstanding. We continue to use the MPAc program as a primary source for our recruiting in Southern California.”

Craig Weaver
Partner-in-Charge Tax Services, Squar Milner
“There is high demand for employees with master’s level training. With the field of accounting so highly competitive, a master’s degree helps students differentiate themselves from others and enhances their long-term earnings and career potential.”

**Patricia Wellmeyer**
Clinical Assistant Professor of Accounting  
Academic Director, MPAc, Paul Merage School of Business

“As businesses globalize and digitize, and industries face disruptive innovations, the demand for skilled accountants and auditors has never been higher. UCI’s Master of Professional Accountancy program emphasizes the development of technical, professional and real world practical skills that allow the graduates to hit the ground running and deliver real value to organizations.

**Michael Juergens**
Principal, Deloitte
Apply Today!
Application Deadlines:
August 15     March 15     July 15
November 15   May 15
January 15    June 1

Get Connected
Visit: merage.uci.edu/mpac
Contact: mpac@merage.uci.edu

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