The Master of Science in Accounting (MAcc) program at the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business prepares students for high-growth accounting careers at organizations of all types. The full-time, 30-credit program covers the critical content areas of the CPA exam and can be completed in one year by students with a bachelor's degree in accounting. However, people with a bachelor's degree in another major are also encouraged to apply and can usually complete the program within 18 months.

Katz MAcc graduates earn a master's degree that enhances their long-term career prospects. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accounting jobs have a median salary of $62,000 and are expected to grow by 16 percent through 2020. Job prospects are promising for Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and individuals with additional accounting certifications. National publications such as Forbes, CNN Money, and others consistently rank accounting jobs and accounting firms on their best jobs and best employer lists, respectively.
**BECOME CPA READY**

When Katz MAcc students combine the program’s credits with their undergraduate course work, they earn the 150 academic credit hours that are required to become licensed as CPAs in Pennsylvania and most other states. What differentiates our program is the extent to which the Katz MAcc graduate courses cover the subject matter of the CPA exam. In fact, the University of Pittsburgh has a 75 percent pass rate for its first-time test takers who complete the exam within one year of graduation, compared to the average pass rate of 61 percent by all Pennsylvania institutions (NASBA 2012 Uniform CPA Examination School Performance results). Their success is due, in part, to instruction from our faculty, who have a thorough mastery of critical accounting skills. For incoming students who have already passed the CPA exam, the graduate-level accounting courses are an opportunity to greatly expand their accounting skills and improve their career prospects. Additionally, students can take MBA electives to broaden their business acumen.

**ALL ACADEMIC BACKGROUNDS WELCOME**

The Katz MAcc program is designed to accommodate domestic and international students with a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent in a business field, the humanities, or the sciences. We gladly welcome “career switchers,” although such students must complete up to 18 credits of additional undergraduate accounting prerequisites. For people new to accounting, the program is an intense immersion into advanced accounting courses. They receive in-depth accounting training that prepares them for the CPA exam and for a career in public or private accounting jobs.

**EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER**

The Katz MAcc program is guided by the philosophy of experience-based learning. For students, this style is more active and rigorous than the traditional educational model, but it prepares them to be better problem solvers and leaders. To connect accounting skills to real-world applications, our faculty members deploy an array of case studies, competitions, software applications, and examples plucked from businesses and organizations such as U.S. Steel, UPMC, and the City of Pittsburgh. Many faculty members have experience working in the accounting field, which they can relate directly to the class material.

“As someone who came into the program with an economics degree, I had the opportunity to transition from a broad business background to a more specialized field, which jump-started my career. The professors were very welcoming and had the wisdom to recognize the value of experiences from a non-accounting student like myself.”

**Barry Kaufman (MAcc ’11)**

*In-Charge Tax Accountant*

*Schneider Downs & Co.*

“The Katz MAcc program prepared me for the working world. The professors have high expectations for their students and the program’s course load ensures that students experience multiple facets of accounting. I’m really proud of the work that I’ve performed during my first year at PwC based on what I learned in the program.”

**Carrie Lotz (MAcc ’12)**

*Experienced Tax Associate*

*Personal Financial Services Group*

*PricewaterhouseCoopers*
THE PITTSBURGH ADVANTAGE

The University of Pittsburgh’s urban location, less than three miles from downtown Pittsburgh, gives our students a competitive edge in jobs and internships. Pittsburgh features a growing, well-diversified economy, and its expanding downtown business core, abundance of cultural opportunities, and world-famous sports teams make the area a great place to live and work. From an accounting standpoint, Pittsburgh is a land of opportunity, home to offices for all “big four” accounting firms, numerous regional accounting firms, and an impressive number of major corporations and large privately held companies.

Pittsburgh, once known for its steel mills, has reinvented itself. Major employers represent the health care, energy, financial services, banking, computer sciences, manufacturing, and higher education fields. The city is gaining international attention for its livability and rugged beauty, ranked by Forbes, The Economist, National Geographic, and Places Rated Almanac as a top place in the U.S. to live or visit. Pittsburgh has the affordability and low crime rate associated with a small town, and the lively restaurant scene, theater districts, shopping options, music venues, sports and recreational activities, and entertainment choices typically associated with a much larger metropolis.

CAREER-FOCUSED, INTEGRATED APPROACH

The Katz Career Management Center is a committed partner in the professional development of every student. A dedicated team of advisors ensures that each student’s career focus aligns with his or her academic path. To that end, students receive one-on-one career coaching from Katz Executive-in-Residence Lou Testoni, a retired managing partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, who draws upon his

“The Katz MAcc program let me explore advanced accounting topics that I couldn’t fit into my undergraduate course schedule. I broadened my overall knowledge and also refined existing skills in the areas of accounting research and in making influential formal presentations. When it came time to take the CPA Exam, I was ready.”

David Kirby (MAcc ’11)
Senior Auditor
PNC Financial Services Group

“As a CPA and former auditor in a big four firm, I can provide real-world examples to illustrate the ideas we discuss in my forensic accounting and fraud examination classes. The Katz MAcc program is special because it gives students the best of both worlds: a mixture of faculty who are researchers and faculty who are practitioners.

Vicky Hoffman
Professor of Business Administration and James H. Rossell Endowed Faculty Fellow
Katz Graduate School of Business
more than 35 years of experience as a senior business executive and financial services expert.

On the recruiting side, the Katz Career Management Center leverages its strong relationships with top accounting firms and corporations to secure job opportunities for graduates. Students gain an edge through on-campus recruiting opportunities, job fairs, professional development workshops, and company site visits offered through accounting clubs and organizations. The MAcc program’s location in Pittsburgh is an asset too. Not only do graduates have access to the strong job opportunities in Western Pennsylvania, they are within reach of the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED ACCOUNTING FACULTY

As part of the University of Pittsburgh, the Katz MAcc program is well equipped to carry out its mission of being a research-based institution that focuses on adding real-world experience to the classroom. Our accounting courses, taught by full-time faculty and adjunct professors, prepare students to solve the types of accounting challenges they will encounter on the job.

Katz’s full-time professors are thought leaders in key accounting trends. Faculty members come from the industry side, drawing on accounting work experience as senior financial managers and licensed CPAs, among other positions. And our faculty represent the academic side, as accomplished researchers who explore important issues in accounting and publish their work in and serve as editors of prestigious accounting journals. This intersection between research and practice gives students a holistic perspective of accounting.

Students also learn from adjunct professors, many of whom are practicing professionals in leadership positions. The Corporate Tax course, for example, is taught by a tax partner at Deloitte, the Business Law course is taught by an attorney, and the Risk Management and Compliance course is taught by the CEO of a global risk management firm. Our adjunct professors take from the challenges they encounter at work to help students formulate their own strategies for success.

“Virtually all accounting firms doing business in the Pittsburgh region have a close and personal relationship with some member of the Career Management staff or Executives in Residence. In terms of our students, we have a very talented and qualified group, and it’s my job to help them realize their huge potential in the business world and to reach high in their career aspirations.”

Lou Testoni
Executive in Residence
Katz Graduate School of Business

“The Katz MAcc program was a great opportunity to expand my accounting skills, reflect on what I had learned in my career so far, and add new knowledge in finance and economics. The frequent study of real-world issues at Katz was incredibly helpful in my career development, as after graduation I’ve advanced through several positions.”

Aaron Risden (MAcc ’11, BSBA ’03)
Controller
BBL Fleet
The 30-credit Katz MAcc program goes beyond the depth seen at the undergraduate accounting level. Students broaden their knowledge through our accounting curriculum, which encompasses forensic accounting, corporate tax accounting, international accounting, individual tax accounting, and not-for-profit and governmental accounting, among other areas. When students leave the program, they will have developed the professional skills, technical knowledge, and leadership abilities to excel in accounting roles at a wide variety of organizations.

Students have the flexibility to take a minimum of 6 credits of electives, and they work together with their advisor to select electives that best match their career goals. For some students, this means taking additional accounting courses to further enhance their accounting skills, and for others it means taking courses offered through the Katz MBA program or Pitt's School of Law. Popular Katz MBA courses include finance, management information systems, entrepreneurship, and the Consulting Field Project course, in which students complete a project that requires solving strategic management problems for a real-world client.

### Katz MAcc Degree: 30 credits

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<tr>
<th>Prerequisite Courses*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Accounting</td>
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<td>Managerial Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Accounting I</td>
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<td>Intermediate Accounting II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting Information Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditing</td>
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<tr>
<th>Katz MAcc Required Core Courses (24 credits total/3 credits each)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Tax Accounting and Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Accounting Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Tax Accounting and Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Cost Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Statement Analysis</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>MAcc Elective Courses (6 credits minimum)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Profit and Governmental Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting and Finance Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting Research and Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Management and Compliance Issues Facing International Organizations</td>
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*Credits earned in this category do not count toward the MAcc degree.*
contact us

MAcc Program
University of Pittsburgh
Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
276 Mervis Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: 412-624-0147
Fax: 412-624-5198
E-mail: macc@katz.pitt.edu

FAQ

How can I make an appointment to speak with an advisor about the MAcc Program?

If you are interested in learning more about the MAcc Program, please send an e-mail stating your name, academic background, and contact information to macc@katz.pitt.edu. An advisor will respond to your request with available meeting times.

When does the MAcc Program start?

The MAcc program begins in the fall semester. Limited exceptions may be made by the MAcc Admissions Committee to allow for other start terms.

What are the requirements for applying to the MAcc Program?

All applicants must be in the process of completing or have completed a bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. institution or its equivalent. You may take prerequisite courses while completing graduate level courses. You do not need to complete all prerequisite courses before entering the MAcc Program.

View all frequently asked questions: www.katz.pitt.edu/faq
THE KATZ MAcc PROGRAM

Experience-based Learning. Our program consistently challenges students to apply accounting knowledge to complex real-world scenarios.

Career Development. The Katz Career Management Center leverages relationships with leading accounting organizations to help graduates obtain coveted positions of all types.

World-renowned Faculty. Students have the best of both worlds: instruction from PhDs producing cutting-edge accounting research and practicing CPAs with years of managerial experience.

CPA-focused Curriculum. Graduates are prepared for the CPA exam content and complete the additional academic credits required for licensure.

The Katz MAcc program builds the accounting knowledge and skills sought by the world’s leading accounting organizations. We prepare graduates to be leaders who have the confidence to take control of challenging assignments. Katz MAcc graduates leave ready to lead and contribute immediately. That’s what we mean by Katz Ready.

Are you ready? You can be.®

KATZ READY.

APPLY ONLINE
www.katz.pitt.edu/macc-apply

University of Pittsburgh
Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
Master of Science in Accounting Program
276 Mervis Hall
Roberto Clemente Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: +1 412-624-0147
Fax: +1 412-624-5198
E-mail: macc@katz.pitt.edu
www.business.pitt.edu/katz/macc

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.