

To: WSU Faculty Senate

From: Ryan H. Pace, MTax, J.D., LL.M. 
Program Director, Master of Accounting (MAcc)

Date: September 2, 2009


Re: Summary - Master of Accounting Program Restructuring

The School of Accountancy proposes to restructure the Master of Accounting program. I have provided this summary for your convenience.

- **Current MAcc Program.** The current MAcc degree program consists of two tracks—the “professional track” and the “tax track”. Each track requires 30 hours of coursework. Upon completion a student receives a Master of Accounting degree with a designation of the selected track.
- **Proposed Restructuring.** The School of Accountancy faculty has voted unanimously to restructure the MAcc program so as to eliminate the two separate “tracks.” In place of one master’s degree with two tracks, we propose to offer two distinct master’s degrees—the Master of Accounting degree and the Master of Taxation degree. This proposal has been presented to and unanimously approved by the School of Accountancy’s advisory council.
- **New and Deleted Courses.** There are no changes to what exists currently. All classes are currently in place and being taught by existing, terminally-qualified faculty. The only modifications are to the course prefixes from “MAcc” to “MTax” and to add the Master of Taxation degree to the catalog.

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

To: Ryan Pace
School of Accountancy Faculty
University Curriculum Committee Members

From: Matthew Mouritsen, MBA Program Director 

Subject: Proposed Masters of Taxation (MTAX) degree

Date: August, 2009

This memorandum is written to express support for the proposed Masters of Taxation (MTAX) degree. The MTAX degree has potential to create a niche for WSU and its business graduate students. The MBA program welcomes future opportunities to collaborate with the School of Accountancy in finding ways to better serve WSU graduate students through the MBA, Master of Accounting, and Master of Taxation degrees.

**NEW
PROGRAM PROPOSAL
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY**

Submission Date: August 18, 2009

College: Goddard School of Business & Economics

Department: School of Accountancy

Program Title: Master of Taxation

1. Complete Program Description

Present the complete, formal program description.

The MTax degree is designed to provide students with the highly technical and demanding skills necessary to be effective tax and business consultants. Students also acquire important tools necessary for effective research and communication in taxation. The program prepares students for positions in taxation and provides graduate-level education for tax professionals.

» **Grade Requirements:** A Master of Taxation student must complete all MTax program courses, including electives, with a grade of "C" or higher. In addition, the overall program GPA must be 3.0 or higher.

» **Credit Hour Requirements:** The program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond a bachelor's degree in accounting.

The MTax Program Director must approve each MTax student's plan of study which will show all courses that the student plans to take. A plan of study must be filed when a student is accepted into the program, when the student wishes to make changes, and each year the student remains in the program.

2. Purpose of Degree

Summarize why the institution should offer this degree and the expected outcomes.

The tax laws are vast, complex, and constantly changing. Basic tax courses at the undergraduate level do not provide sufficient breadth or depth of coverage for future CPAs and tax consultants. Consequently, instruction at the graduate level is necessary. Tax is a major branch of accounting. The Master of Taxation degree gives more recognition to a graduate as a tax specialist than does a "tax track" designation within the Master of Accounting degree. Other universities recognize this as well, including Arizona State University, University of Denver, University of Southern California, University of Alabama, and University of Illinois, among others.

The AACSB (our accrediting body) indicates in its accreditation standards that a person with a graduate degree in taxation is academically qualified to teach taxation. This standard may open up

many doors for our graduates if they desire to teach at various colleges and universities at some point in their careers. This further helps alleviate the extreme shortage of Ph.D graduates to fill teaching positions in taxation. The state of Utah currently has no AACSB-accredited MTax programs.

Weber State is located in an area close to IRS offices. The MTax degree would offer students and IRS employees the opportunity to obtain the necessary education for advancement. Of course, many area accounting firms have a continuing need for tax specialists each year. With an MTax degree WSU can establish certain "branding" that will assist in establishing a recognized niche in the taxation area. This could lead to opportunities for faculty to provide continuing education seminars, etc., for area professionals.

3. Institutional Readiness

Describe how the existing administrative structures support the proposed program and identify new organizational structures that may be needed to deliver the program. Describe how the proposed program will or will not impact the delivery of either undergraduate or lower-division education.

The administrative structure as it currently exists within the School of Accountancy will be sufficient for the new program. Proposed changes will not impact undergraduate education.

4. Faculty

Identify the need for additional faculty required in each of the first five years of the program. State the level of preparedness of current faculty and the level of preparedness that will be needed by the fifth year. Clearly state the proportion of regular full-time, tenure track faculty to part-time and non-tenure contract faculty. Describe the faculty development procedures that will support this program. See Requirements in the Institutional Readiness Section.

No additional faculty needs are anticipated during the first five years. Strong enrollment growth beyond current levels, however, may necessitate adding additional faculty. Current faculty members are presently teaching the classes as part of the Tax Track in the Master of Accounting program. The courses are primarily taught by two full-time, tenure track faculty with Juris Doctor degrees and Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees in taxation from top tax law schools in the country (New York University and Georgetown University). As the need arises, perhaps a course or two may be taught by professionals in the community with expertise in a particular area of taxation. The current faculty maintains its readiness by constantly staying abreast of changes in the tax law.

5. Staff

List all additional staff needed to support the program in each of the first five years; e.g., administrative, secretarial, clerical, laboratory aides/instructors, advisors.

No additional staff is needed beyond what is currently in place.

6. Library and Information Resources

Describe library resources required to offer the proposed program. Does the institution currently have the needed library resources?

The University currently has sufficient library resources to offer the program. These resources consist of electronic tax research databases.

7. Admission Requirements

List admission requirements specific to the proposed program.

- A four year Bachelors degree in Accounting or a four year Bachelors degree in another major as well as completion of Leveling Courses.
- An acceptable GMAT score. (Average MAcc applicant score currently: 559)
- Acceptable Grade Point Average (on a 4 point scale) in each of the following three areas:
 - a. Overall (Average MAcc applicant GPA currently: 3.38)
 - b. The last 60 credit hours of undergraduate work
 - c. Accounting course work only

8. Student Advisement

Describe the advising procedure for students in the proposed program.

For questions concerning academic advisement, the primary source of contact will be the Master of Taxation program director. For issues regarding registration and scheduling, students will contact the School of Accountancy department secretary. Career services will be offered through the Goddard School of Business and Economics.

9. Justification for Graduation Standards and Number of Credits

Provide graduation standards. Provide justification if number of credits or clock hours exceeds 63 for AA or AS, 69 for AAS, 126 credit hours for BA or BS; and 36 beyond the baccalaureate for MS.

The Master of Taxation will require 30 credit hours, which is consistent with the current MAcc degree program. The 30-hour requirement meets AACSB accreditation standards as well as the education requirements to sit for the CPA exam in Utah.

10. External Review and Accreditation

Indicate whether any external consultants, either in- or out-of-state, were involved in the development of the proposed program, and describe the nature of that involvement. For a career and technical education program, list the members and describe the activities of the program advisory committee. Indicate any special professional accreditation which will be sought and how that accreditation will impact the program. Project a future date for a possible accreditation review; indicate how close the institution is to achieving the requirements, and what the costs will be to achieve them.

External input has been provided by the School of Accountancy Advisory Council, which is made up of accounting professionals in Northern Utah. Recently the School of Accountancy Advisory Council unanimously recommended that we elevate the tax track to the Master of Taxation degree. Since the program is virtually already in place in the form of the tax track, the program has been developed over several years. The Goddard School of Business & Economics as well as the School of Accountancy are accredited by the AACSB. It is anticipated that the Master of Taxation will be reviewed and receive accreditation as part of the accreditation of the Goddard School of Business & Economics and the School of Accountancy.

11. Projected Enrollment

Year	Student Headcount	# of Faculty	Student-to-Faculty Ratio	Accreditation Req'd Ratio
1	40	*	**	***
2	40			
3	42			

4	42			
5	44			

- * Two full-time, tenure-track faculty will teach the five required core tax courses. Other elective tax courses will be taught by the two full-time faculty and professionally qualified individuals from the community on an as-needed basis (one or two courses per year). Students may also take up to four courses outside the MTax program, two of which must be MAcc courses. Up to two courses may be approved MBA courses. Consequently, the number of faculty ultimately teaching students enrolled in the MTax program is at least four and perhaps as many as six.
- ** As mentioned above, if one considers the elective courses available to students, the students could realistically take courses in the MTax program from six different professors (two tax professors and four others for their MAcc/MBA electives). Given that MTax students must take at least two MAcc electives, students will have at a minimum four different professors during the MTax program (two tax professors and two MAcc professors). Thus, the student-to-faculty ratio varies depending upon whether one considers the number of faculty available as four or six.
- *** At least 60% of student credit hours must be taught by professors that are “academically qualified.” At least 90% of student credit hours must be taught by professors that are either “academically qualified” or “professionally qualified.” The MTax program will not have difficulty meeting these standards.

12. Expansion of Existing Program

If the proposed program is an expansion or extension of an existing program, present enrollment trends by headcount and by student credit hours (if appropriate) produced in the current program for each of the past five years for each area of emphasis or concentration.

	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 08	Fall 09
Continuing Macc Students	21	23	27	21	25
Newly Admitted Students	40	35	22	60	56
Professional Track	24	13	15	32	22
Tax Track	16	12	7	28	34
Total Students	61	58	49	81	81
Professional Track	39	34	31	43	40
Tax Track	22	24	18	38	41

Need

13. Program Need

Clearly indicate why such a program should be initiated.

The tax courses in the MAcc program have been developed over the past several years and are currently existing as part of the “tax track”. The accounting profession is becoming more and more specialized as tax laws and accounting standards change and become more complex. A Master of Taxation degree will help students establish recognition for their specialty and qualify them for the private and public sector demand for individuals with knowledge of complex tax rules and regulations. As can be seen in the response to Question #12 above, the enrollment in the tax track has nearly doubled since Fall 2005.

14. **Labor Market Demand**

Include local, state, and national data, and job placement information, the types of jobs graduates have obtained from similar programs. Indicate future impact on the program should market demand change.

Market demand for accountants remains comparatively strong despite the current down economy. In fact, accounting is one of the most in-demand majors for graduates. Tax, of course, is a major branch of accounting. In a recent article on the Careers-in-Accounting website (careers-in-accounting.com), it states:

“The future of accounting is bright according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics which projects a 16% increase in job openings by the year 2016. Much of this reflects the increasing complexity of corporate transactions, the introduction of Sarbanes-Oxley requirements after the Enron scandal and growth in government. *Demand is especially high in the tax and health care areas.*” (Emphasis added)

An October 2008 article by Suzanna de Baca on the JobsintheMoney website states:

“The demand for corporate accounting exists but the supply of qualified candidates with distinct skill sets is limited.....According to the Salary Guide [from Robert Half International], among the positions most in demand in corporate accounting are tax accountants, financial analysts, cost accountants, and directors of financial reporting. These specific needs are largely driven by the slumping economy as well as tax, and regulatory changes.”

Finally, another October 2008 news article, from www.cpa2biz.com website, indicates the following:

“Based on starting salary increases and demand patterns, the following are some of the most sought-after professionals on the corporate accounting front:

Tax accountants are seeing rising salaries, thanks to new tax regulations and increased attention by businesses to potential tax-derived cost savings. According to the Salary Guide, managerial-level tax accountants at large companies (\$250 million and above) can expect average starting salary increases of 4.9 percent to a range of \$76,500 to \$100,750, while senior-level accountants can expect a 4.7 percent average increase, with base compensation ranging from \$61,000 to \$77,500.”

The WSU School of Accountancy’s own statistics show that of 26 MAcc graduates in 2008, 24 of them reported being employed upon graduation. The other two were listed as “unknown,” which may be simply that the two students failed to respond to the survey. This shows that despite a downturn in the economy, students with accounting and tax skills are still in demand.

15. Student Demand

Describe evidence of student interest and demand that supports potential program enrollment.

The MAcc (Tax Track) program currently has 41 students. Of those, a significant number would choose a Master of Taxation if it were offered. In a December 2008 survey of WSU MAcc students, of 33 tax track students surveyed 26 would choose a Master of Taxation degree over a Master of Accounting degree if WSU offered a Master of Taxation degree.

As evidenced by these numbers sufficient demand is already in place for a Master of Taxation program. Enrollment is expected to grow even further as the existence of the program is made known and relationships are made with various employers and other stakeholders. The program also has other future opportunities such as establishing a certificate program that would be appealing to government workers such as IRS employees. Also, given the relatively few MTax programs in the Intermountain Region and other affordable MTax programs in the western United States, WSU will be attractive to potential students from out-of-state.

16. Similar Programs

Are similar programs offered elsewhere in the state or Intermountain Region? If yes, cite justifications for why the Regents should approve another program. How does the proposed program differ from similar program(s)? Be specific.

No other accredited Master of Taxation programs exist in Utah. The University of Denver and Arizona State University are the only other schools offering this degree in the Intermountain Region. There are some online and distance learning master's programs in taxation (not AACSB accredited) in Utah and nationwide.

17. Collaboration with and Impact on Other USHE Institutions

Describe discussions with other USHE institutions that are already offering the program that have occurred regarding your institution's intent to offer the proposed program. Include any collaborative efforts that may have been proposed. Analyze the impact that the new program would have on other USHE institutions.

No collaboration with other USHE institutions has occurred since no other USHE institution offers a MTax program. The program should have little to no impact on other USHE institutions.

18. Benefits

State how the institution and the USHE benefit by offering the proposed program.

This allows Utah residents who would otherwise go out-of-state to obtain a Master of Taxation degree to stay in Utah. Moreover, out-of-state residents may find WSU's MTax program attractive given the high quality and relatively low cost compared to other Master of Taxation programs.

19. Consistency with Institutional Mission

Explain how the program is consistent with and appropriate to the institution's Regents' approved mission, roles, and goals.

The Master of Taxation degree is consistent both with Weber State University's mission and the mission of the Goddard School of Business & Economics. The University's mission, in part, is to offer "associate, baccalaureate and master degree programs in a broad variety of liberal arts, sciences, technical and *professional* fields." [emphasis added]. Moreover, the GSBE's mission is to provide "a quality education for career-oriented students. Degree programs are founded upon: the synthesis of theory across disciplines, and the *application of theory to practice, and the enhancement of professional skills.*" [emphasis added].

The Master of Taxation offering at Weber State University will increase the quantity and quality of students prepared to enter the professional world competent and proficient in the technical and complex area of taxation. Recent government studies have shown a significant percentage of tax returns have been prepared incorrectly. Moreover, tax consulting errors are increasingly common as the Internal Revenue Code and related tax regulations and court cases become more and more complex and dynamic. Master of Taxation graduates will be much better equipped to handle sophisticated tax consulting and tax return preparation situations than professionals that lack such specialization.

Program and Student Assessment

Program assessment and performance standards information, which is required for Regents' review, will serve as information only during University Curriculum Committee review.

20. Program Assessment

State the goals for the program and the measures that will be used in the program assessment procedure to determine if goals are being met.

The goals for the program would be for students to demonstrate a strong understanding of the tax law and ability to apply the law to factual situations frequently encountered in the business world. Moreover, students should understand the practice of taxation, procedures involved in working with government agencies such as the IRS, and certain policies underlying the tax laws. Assessment procedures would be exams, projects, letters and memoranda to hypothetical clients and supervisors, and the preparation of tax returns. Students graduating with a Master of Taxation degree from Weber State University should be able to contribute meaningfully for their employers early in their careers.

21. Expected Standards of Performance

List the standards and competencies that the student will have met and achieved at the time of graduation. How or why were these standards and competencies chosen? Include formative and summative assessment measures you will use to determine student learning.

Similar to the statements in #20 above, students should be competent at preparing individual, corporate and partnership tax returns. Moreover, the students should be familiar with the organization of the Internal Revenue Code and related IRS promulgations and competent at researching those documents. Students should understand the tax laws applicable to a wide variety of tax areas, but individual taxation, corporate taxation, and partnership taxation in particular.

Program Curriculum

22. All Program Courses

List all courses, including new courses, to be offered in the proposed program by prefix, number, title, and credit hours.

Required Courses—15 Credits

- MTAX 6400 Tax Research & Communication (3)
- MTAX 6425 Tax Practice, Procedure & Ethics (3)
- MTAX 6430 Advanced Individual Taxation (3)
- MTAX 6460 Advanced Corporate Taxation (3)
- MTAX 6470 Advanced Partnership Taxation (3)

At least one of the following—3 Credits

- MTAX 6410 International Taxation (3)
- MTAX 6440 Exempt Entities and State & Local Taxation (3)
- MTAX 6450 Real Estate Taxation (3)
- MTAX 6480 Retirement Planning and Employee Benefits (3)
- MTAX 6490 Mergers, Acquisitions and Consolidations (3)

In addition to meeting the requirements set forth above, MTax students are required to complete 12 credit hours of electives. At least two of the elective courses must be selected from MACC courses (totaling at least 6 credit hours). Electives may include a maximum of 3 hours of non-MTAX and non-MACC courses selected from approved 5000 or higher-numbered courses which were not taken in the student's undergraduate program. Certain MBA courses approved by the MTax program director may also be used.

23. New Courses to be Added in the Next Five Years

List all new courses to be developed in the next five years by prefix, number, title, and credit hours. Use the following format:

No additional courses are anticipated unless changes in tax law require them.

INFORMATION PAGE

Did this program proposal receive unanimous approval within the Department? yes If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?

Explain how this program will differ from similar offerings by other departments. Also explain any effects this proposal will have on program requirements or enrollments in other departments including the Bachelor of Integrated Studies Program. In the case of similar offerings or affected programs, **you should include letters from the departments in question stating their support or opposition to the proposed program.**

This program will be unique and very distinct from any other department offerings at Weber State and as such will not effect any program requirements or enrollments in other departments. No other department offers any tax course except the MBA program, which offers a basic tax course for non-tax specialists.

A Master's Degree program must have a minimum of 30 credit hours with a maximum of 36 credit hours.

A Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, or Bachelor of Integrated Studies must have a minimum of 120 credit hours with a program maximum of 126 hours (This is a state system-wide requirement). Exceptions for the maximum number of program hours are allowed if accreditation issues require a set number of courses within a given program, i.e. Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Radiology.

An Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science must have a minimum of 60 credit hours with a program maximum of 63 credit hours. An Associate of Applied Science must have a minimum of 63 credit hours with a program maximum of 69 credit hours.

Major programs that require a minor will consist of not fewer than 30 credits and not more than 48 credits in the major field. Major programs that do not require a minor shall consist of not more than 63 credits in the major field.

A minor is a program of study generally selected to complement and strengthen a student's major and/or enrich the student's overall educational program. A minor consists of not fewer than 15 credits. Courses that are used to satisfy the general education requirements can be used as part of the minimum number of hours needed for the minor requirements, unless prohibited by a particular college or department.

Indicate the number of credit hours for course work within the proposed program. (Do not include credit hours for General Education, SI, Diversity, or other courses unless those courses fulfill requirements within the proposed program.)

This program will require 30 credit hours beyond a bachelor's degree, which is consistent with the current MAcc program requirements.

Submit the original to the Faculty Senate Office, **MC 1033**, and an **electronic copy** to kbrown4@weber.edu

Master of Accounting

(MAcc)

Program Director: Ryan Pace, 801-626-7562

An accounting professional in today's environment must possess a high level of technical competence, a sense of commitment to service, communication skills, analytical skills, and the ability to work well with people. To obtain the required body of knowledge and to develop the skills and abilities needed to be successful accounting professionals, serious consideration must be given to study beyond a four-year baccalaureate program. The Master of Accounting (MAcc) Program provides an additional year of training for the professional accountant. In addition, the MAcc satisfies the requirements of the Utah Certified Public Accountant Licensing Act for those wishing to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination. The MAcc program gives the students an opportunity to increase the depth of their understanding in key areas and allows a broadening of perspective by providing course work in a variety of areas that cannot be considered in an undergraduate program due to time constraints.

» **Grade Requirements:** A MAcc student must complete all MAcc program courses, including electives, with a grade of "C" or higher. In addition, the overall program GPA must be 3.0 or higher.

» **Credit Hour Requirements:** The program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond a bachelor's degree in accounting.

The MAcc Program Director must approve each MAcc student's plan of study which will show all courses that the student plans to take. A plan of study must be filed when a student is accepted into the program, when the student wishes to make changes, and each year the student remains in the program.

Admissions Requirements

The primary criteria in determining eligibility for admission to the Goddard School MAcc Program are previous academic achievement and performance on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) and other factors such as work experience and career progression.

Applicants must submit a completed application form and current resume, as well as transcripts from every institution of higher education attended. Two letters of recommendation are required. At least one of these letters should come from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's academic abilities. All letters should address the applicant's potential for successful graduate study. Each applicant is considered on an individual basis.

Additional Admission Requirements for International Students:

All international students and any applicant educated outside the U.S. must demonstrate proficiency in English. Those whose native language is not English, or whose language of instruction for their undergraduate degree was not English, will be required to submit a score from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) which is not more than two years old and on which a minimum score of 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based) has been earned.

Application

Application for admission to the Master of Accounting Program should normally be made by **August 1, December 1, and April 1** of the year during which admission is sought. Application for admission must include GMAT scores, official undergraduate transcripts, resume, and two letters of recommendation.

It is expected that the Master of Accounting Program will entail approximately two semesters of full-time study for a student with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Students with other business-related degrees can expect to spend about two years in the program. Those with non-business related undergraduate degrees should plan to spend at least three years in the program.

Contact the School of Accountancy for a separate and detailed bulletin on the Master of Accounting Program.

Professional Accounting Track (30 credit hours)

All MAcc students in the Professional Accounting Track are required to complete the following courses (21 credit hours):

- MACC 6120 Financial Accounting and Reporting (3)
- MACC 6130 Government and Not-for-Profit Accounting (3)
- MACC 6160 Financial Statement Analysis (3)
- MACC 6330 Strategic Management Accounting (3)
- MACC 6560 Advanced Auditing and Assurance Services (3)
- MACC 6570 Information Systems Auditing (3)
- MACC 6610 Advanced Accounting Information Systems (3)

And one of the following tax courses: ~~MACC-MTAX~~ 6400, ~~MACC-MTAX~~ 6425, ~~MACC-MTAX~~ 6430, ~~MACC-MTAX~~ 6460, or ~~MACC-MTAX~~ 6470 (3 credits).

In addition to the courses listed above, MAcc students in the Professional Accounting Track are required to complete 6 hours of electives. They may select any other ~~MACC~~ or ~~MTAX~~ courses. Electives may include a maximum of 3 hours of non-~~MACC~~ and non-~~MTAX~~ courses selected from approved 5000 or higher-numbered courses which were not taken in the student's undergraduate program. Certain MBA courses approved by the MAcc program director may also be used.

Tax Track (30 credit hours)

All MAcc students in the Tax Track are required to complete the following courses (15 credit hours):

- ~~MACC 6400 Tax Research & Communication (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6425 Tax Practice, Procedure & Ethics (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6430 Advanced Individual Taxation (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6460 Advanced Corporate Taxation (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6470 Advanced Partnership Taxation (3)~~

And at least one of the following (3 credits):

- ~~MACC 6410 International Taxation (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6440 Exempt Entities and State & Local Taxation (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6450 Real Estate Taxation (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6480 Retirement Planning and Employee Benefits (3)~~
- ~~MACC 6490 Mergers, Acquisitions and Consolidations (3)~~

In addition to meeting the requirements set forth above, MAcc students in the Tax Track are required to complete 12 credit hours of electives. They may select other MACC courses. At least two of the elective courses must be selected from non tax MACC courses (totaling at least 6 credit hours). Electives may include a maximum of 3 hours of non MACC courses selected from approved 5000 or higher numbered courses which were not taken in the student's undergraduate program. Select MBA courses approved by the MAcc program director may also be used.

Master of Taxation

(MTax)

Program Director: Ryan Pace, 801-626-7562

The Master of Taxation degree is designed to provide students with the highly technical and demanding skills necessary to be effective tax and business consultants. Students also acquire important tools necessary for effective research and communication in taxation. The program prepares students for positions in taxation and provides graduate-level education for professionals who desire to enhance their skills in the field of taxation. While a student with a Master of Taxation degree from Weber State University will likely meet the education requirements necessary to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination in Utah, individual circumstances may vary. Students are therefore encouraged to contact the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing to determine their own eligibility to sit for the exam.

» **Grade Requirements:** A Master of Taxation student must complete all MTax program courses, including electives, with a grade of "C" or higher. In addition, the overall program GPA must be 3.0 or higher.

» **Credit Hour Requirements:** The program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond a bachelor's degree in accounting.

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Contact the School of Accountancy for a separate and detailed bulletin on the Master of Taxation Program.

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MASTER OF TAXATION COURSES - MTAX

Entry into all 6000 level courses requires graduate standing. (See School of Accountancy for graduate standing criteria.)

MTAX 6400. Tax Research & Communication (3)

Techniques in effective tax research, planning and communication. Also includes a discussion of tax policy.

MTAX 6410. International Taxation (3)

Principles of U.S. taxation applicable to inbound and outbound international transactions. Also covers issues related to international tax treaties.

MTAX 6420. Taxation of Gifts, Estates, & Trusts (3)

Principles of estate & gift taxation and valuation. Also includes wills and intestate succession and income taxation of estates and trusts.

MTAX 6425. Tax Practice, Procedure & Ethics (3)

Detailed study of tax procedure in the context of a tax practice. Also covers legal and ethical requirements applicable to tax practitioners and their clients in complying with tax laws.

MTAX 6430. Advanced Individual Taxation (3)

In-depth coverage of advanced individual tax issues such as alternative minimum tax, loss limitations, real estate transactions, stock options, employment taxes, tax credits, charitable contributions, interest classification, related-party transactions, and timing of income/loss recognition.

MTAX 6440. Exempt Entities and State & Local Taxation (3)

Nonprofit corporations, public charities, private foundations, excise taxes, unrelated business income, and compliance issues for tax-exempt entities. State income taxation, nexus, constitutional limitations, sales tax, excise tax, property tax, and other current state and local tax issues.

MTAX 6450. Real Estate Taxation (3)

In-depth study and analysis of the taxation of real estate transactions. Covers topics such as like-kind exchanges, personal residences, real estate development, passive loss rules, involuntary conversions, casualty losses, and real estate investment trusts.

MTAX 6460. Advanced Corporate Taxation (3)

Income taxation of corporations and shareholders. Includes in-depth analysis of tax issues related to corporate formations, operations, distributions and liquidations. Also covers the taxation of S corporations.

MTAX 6470. Advanced Partnership Taxation (3)

Income taxation of partnerships and partners. Includes in-depth analysis of tax issues related to partnership formations, operations, distributions and liquidations. Also covers issues related to limited liability companies.

MTAX 6480. Retirement Planning and Employee Benefits (3)

Consideration of tax, insurance, investment and estate planning principles from a retirement perspective. Includes discussion of sources of retirement income and anticipated retirement expenses.

MTAX 6490. Mergers, Acquisitions and Consolidations (3)

In-depth coverage of advanced corporate tax topics such as tax-free corporate reorganizations, taxable stock acquisitions, taxable asset acquisitions, affiliated groups, consolidated returns, and corporate tax shelters. Recommended Prerequisite: MACC 6460.