What do Nike, Apple and your local hardware store have in common? “The language of business” — all of these businesses have accountants who analyze and interpret financial transactions to help them become more successful.

Accounting is one of the most versatile majors, offering a foundation in business as well as providing a strong orientation for those who choose to pursue the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) license.

An accounting degree is portable, allowing you to easily relocate anywhere. With an accounting degree you can work in CPA firms, large corporations, small businesses, not-for-profit entities or government organizations at all levels (federal, state and local). You might even choose to operate your own business!

UAF’s accounting program is the only accounting program in Alaska accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the premier global accrediting body for business and accounting programs and schools. Small class sizes and several active professional organizations offer students opportunities for career guidance, networking, internships and soft skill development to compliment the technical skills gained through the classroom.

Student Highlight

MYZAH TUILETUFIGA, BBA ACCOUNTING 2019

The SOM Accounting Program offered me so much more than a degree—it enabled me to establish a career, develop my professional skills, learn from experienced professionals and build connections with the accounting community.

For me, the most valuable thing I gained from the SOM Accounting Program is community. Knowing that I am supported, cared for, and accepted for who I am creates a powerful sense of belonging. This community has been the catalyst for my success and has motivated me to persevere through challenging times. The program provides countless opportunities for students to grow, learn and build invaluable relationships—you just have to be willing to seek them out and take advantage of them.

CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Accounting clerk
- Banking
- Budget analyst
- Certified Fraud Examiner
- Certified Internal Auditor
- Certified Management Accountant
- Certified Public Accountant
- Controller
- Corporate analyst
- Credit authorization
- Criminal investigator
- Entrepreneurship
- Executive management
- Financial management
- Government
- Intelligence
Alumni Highlight

RYAN ADICKES, BBA ACCOUNTING 2018

The SOM Accounting Program does an outstanding job of equipping students with the skills they need to achieve professional success. I feel very lucky to have attended a university where the faculty are committed to seeing their students thrive rather than just earn a degree. I can honestly say every accounting professor I encountered at UAF took the time to get to know me on a personal basis and was genuinely interested in helping me thoroughly learn the material in their classes – as well as figure out what I wanted to do with my life afterward. Students would be hard pressed to find anything close to this level of faculty commitment and personal involvement at any other accounting program.

The SOM Accounting Program gave me the skills and exposure I needed to obtain an internship in the assurance department of the BDO USA, LLP Anchorage, AK office. This resulted in an offer for full-time employment after graduation from them even though I was still working on obtaining my bachelor’s degree. My education through the SOM Accounting Program did a thorough job of preparing me for employment and the particular nuances of public accounting in Alaska. In addition, the coursework has proven very beneficial to me in taking the licensing exams required to earn a CPA license. I am very happy to have attended the SOM Accounting Program and look forward to putting the skills learned from it to use for the rest of my life.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

• Get involved in one of our student organizations:
  » Great Alaskan Accounting People (GAAP)
  » Active and Innovative Minds (AIM)
  » Associated Students of Business (ASB)
  » Cadet Club (ROTC)
  » Native Alaskan Business Leaders (NABL)
  » Students Offering Leadership Development (SOLD)

• Examples of where our students are now:
  CPA Firms
  » Bethe Davis - Partner, RJG
  » Alyssa Larsen - Senior Assurance Associate, BDO
  » Kara Moore - Partner, Cook & Haugeberg
  » Kevin Walsh - Partner, Walsh Kelliher & Sharpe
  Business
  » Charlie Kozak - CFO, ASRC
  » Linda Thomas - CEO, Alaska Brewing Co.
  Government / Not-for-Profit
  » James Lynch - CEO, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
  » William O’Leary - CEO, Alaska Railroad

ACCOUNTING PROGRAM STRENGTHS

• Approachable and engaging faculty
• Internships, with most leading to job offers
• High CPA pass rates among students
• Many opportunities for experiential learning
• Approximately 150 undergraduate students
• Faculty who have professional experience and certifications
• Opportunities for students to participate in active management of $1.4 million portfolio of stock and real estate investments (Student Investment Fund course)

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review the admission requirements at www.uaf.edu/admissions/apply
2. Scroll down and select the yellow ‘Undergrad & grad application’ button to begin the application
3. Contact our office to schedule an advising appointment

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