

Interested in the Accounting Minor?

Frequently Asked Questions

(Updated August 2009)

What's involved in being an accounting minor?

The accounting minor at Holy Cross provides an ideal opportunity for students from diverse majors to receive a comprehensive introduction to the field of accounting. The courses in the minor are designed to provide students with a foundation in accounting while exposing them to the critical thinking and analytical skills associated with the discipline. The minor courses feature problem solving, computer assignments, oral and written exercises, cases and class discussion. The program is demanding and the courses require students to be active learners.

What courses must I take?

Accounting minors must complete the following program of study:

Required Courses:

Financial Accounting

Principles of Macroeconomics

Principles of Microeconomics

Intermediate Accounting I (Note that this is offered in the Spring semester!)

and 3 Electives

Elective Courses for Minors

Intermediate Accounting II

Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting

Corporation Finance

Federal Income Taxation

Auditing

Managerial Accounting

Advanced Accounting

Accounting Information Systems

Accounting minors must also complete the requirements in their major and the College's common requirements.

How and when do I apply for the minor?

The minor is no longer available beginning with the class of 2011.

What if I am interested in accounting and am already a junior (or senior?)

Students with an interest in accounting are welcome to enroll in any accounting courses that have available seats. You can always complete specialized coursework and note those courses on your resume or graduate school applications. The public accounting firms have special programs for liberal arts students who have only completed Financial Accounting. These students may

start their careers working part-time for the firm while they attend a firm-approved graduate program.

What can I do with an accounting minor after I complete the program?

Many students interested in careers in business or public service find that an accounting minor is an excellent complement to their liberal arts program. The benefit of the minor is that the student receives a comprehensive introduction to accounting without having to complete the extensive requirements of the accounting major. Students interested in careers in business or banking may want to consider taking Corporation Finance, Intermediate Accounting II or Managerial Accounting as electives. Students planning to enter public service might want to take Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting or Auditing. Students interested in health care or law careers may also find certain minor courses of particular interest. Minors should meet with the Accounting Coordinator to develop a minor plan.

What if I am interested in working in public accounting and becoming a CPA?

The majority of candidates hired by public accounting firms have completed a full accounting major or graduate school. Each year, the public accounting firms visit Holy Cross to hire a number of "liberal arts" (non-accounting majors) as staff accountants. Students with an accounting minor may be attractive candidates for these firms.

In order to earn a CPA license, candidates must complete individual state requirements that typically involve taking certain courses, passing a national examination and working several years at a public accounting firm. If you are interested in a career as a CPA and you have only completed an accounting minor, you will need to take a number of additional accounting courses after you leave Holy Cross.

Most states also have adopted educational requirements that mandate CPA candidates to complete a year of coursework beyond the standard four-year degree. These requirements are known as the **150-hour rule** (the number of credit hours the student must complete). Minors from Holy Cross will need to take additional courses in order to meet the 150-hour rule and the basic educational requirements in most states. If you are interested in becoming a CPA, you will need to obtain your state requirements and then meet with the Accounting Coordinator to develop an academic plan that works for you.

Questions about the Accounting Minor or the Accounting Major?

Contact the Accounting Coordinator, Professor Karen Teitel (kteitel@holycross.edu) or visit the Accounting Home Page at Holy Cross (www.holycross.edu/departments/economics/website/ecoa_homepage.htm).