Master of Science in Accounting
Forensic Accounting

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Whether you are a seasoned or aspiring accountant, you can prepare for your CPA exam and earn your master’s degree online at New England College.

The online Master of Science in Accounting – Forensic Accounting (MSAFA) program is designed for bookkeeping, accounting, and financial management professionals as well as those ready to move into accounting. The program’s mix of theory and professional practice is structured to help you prepare for the CPA exam. It also contributes to the 150-hour requirement of most states — paving the way for you to enter or pursue advancement in the accounting field. Accurate and correct application of the principles and standards of accounting is taught by accountants who hold multiple professional designations and attorneys who teach business law and ethics.

Online, Convenient, Flexible
The MSAFA online program consists of 10 courses for a total of 40 credit hours, and can be completed in less than two years. The course delivery method is specifically designed for working professionals like you to make the most efficient use of your time and to optimize your learning experience.

You can start the program six times per year in spring, summer, or fall.
Learning Outcomes

Find out for yourself how New England College’s curriculum can enrich your career.

The Master of Science in Accounting – Forensic Accounting online degree program is an exciting companion to traditional accounting. Forensic accountants investigate white-collar crime in two broad areas: litigation support and investigative auditing. They work closely with law enforcement, lawyers, and other professionals, using investigative accounting techniques to collect and present evidence during litigation. Most accounting firms, and all the largest accounting companies, have specialist forensic accounting departments. In addition to working as a specialist for accounting firms, graduates can pursue work at the IRS, legal firms, and the FBI.

Graduates of the MSA’s Forensic Accounting concentration will be able to demonstrate:

- **Proficiency** in the legal and ethical background in which fraud investigation takes place, and the roles and responsibilities of various parties.

- **A clear understanding** of the common methods of financial statement fraud detection techniques, including quantitative and statistical evaluation.

- **Competency** in fraud detection and prevention techniques as it applies to cash larceny, billing and disbursements, payroll, check alteration and tampering, and expense reporting.

- **An understanding** of the legal process and the role of expert witnesses in fraud cases.
NEC’s curriculum provides a way for students to achieve their lifelong learning goals.

The Master of Science in Accounting – Forensic Accounting online program at NEC consists of 10 courses for a total of 40 credit hours. It is possible to complete the program in less than two years. You will take two online, seven-week courses per semester, focusing on one course at a time. Depending on your undergraduate course of study, you may be required to take prerequisite courses. On the following pages are a list of the prerequisite and core courses.
Prerequisite Courses

**Business Statistics**
This course is designed to familiarize students with the basic concepts of business statistics and provides a comprehensive overview of its scope and limitations. Students perform statistical analysis of samples, compute the measures of location and dispersion, and interpret them for descriptive statistics. Linear regression, multiple regression, and correlation analysis are performed, as is model building, model diagnosis, and time series regression using various models. Basic concepts of probability are described, and the discrete and continuous distributions of probability are applied. Other topics include constructing a hypothesis on one and two samples, performing one-way and two-way analysis of variance, and applying nonparametric methods of statistical analysis. Making decisions under risk and uncertainty are also examined.

**Financial Accounting**
Students in this course explore basic accounting concepts and procedures, and the interpretation of financial statements. The principles of accrual and deferral accounting are presented, including proper use of debits, credits, and fiscal year-end procedures. Students also examine merchandising transactions, inventory costing and valuation, cash management, and accounts receivable. The reporting of long-term assets, liabilities, and bonds are also discussed.

**Managerial Accounting**
This course focuses on the identification, gathering, and interpretation of information for planning, controlling, and evaluating the performance of a business. It studies the measurement of the costs of producing goods or services and how to analyze and control these costs. It also analyzes managerial accounting principles and systems through both process and job order costing. Additional managerial accounting topics include: cost behavior, cost-volume-profit analysis, budgeting and standard cost systems, decentralized operations, and product pricing.
AC 6310 | International Accounting | 4 credits
Under the current business environment all businesses, directly or indirectly, compete in the global marketplace. Understanding international issues, therefore, is critical to the education of a well-rounded, competent business student. This course provides an overview of comparative accounting issues and practices posed by the global environment through introduction and examination of accounting issues unique to international business activities. Course topics will encompass issues faced by international firms around the world in areas of auditing, external financial reporting and standards, ethical, social, legal, cultural, control, taxes, foreign exchange, and accounting systems.

AC 5620 | Government and Non-Profit Reporting | 4 credits
This course focuses on government/non-profit accounting and financial analysis, budgeting control, revenues and expenditures, accounting for capital projects, related account groups, and endowment management to include investments, accounting for business type and trustee activities, issues of reporting, disclosure, and non-profit organizations.

AC 5230 | Intermediate Accounting | 4 credits
A comprehensive view of financial statements including balance sheets, income statements, ratio analysis, and cash flow statements. Some discussion of reporting of financial activities such as bonds and corporate debt will also be covered — all with consideration for generally accepted accounting practices.

AC 5240 | Cost Accounting | 4 credits
A study of the concepts, procedures, and tools associated with reporting performance data to decision-makers. Emphasis is on the tools associated with planning, directing, and controlling an organization’s activities, all with the goal of performance improvement. Topics include activity-based costing, earned value management, and budgeting activities.
Core Courses

**AC 5550 | Federal Taxation | 4 credits**
This course explores corporate and personal income tax laws and their effects on private, public, and non-profit organizations. Emphasis is placed on business strategy and tax considerations.

**AC 5730 | Accounting for Mergers and Acquisitions | 4 credits**
This course focuses attention on all key stages of the M&A lifecycle, including conception, planning, the first 100 days post-merger/acquisition, due diligence of intellectual property, and ongoing evaluation and improvement.
Concentration Courses

**AC 6640 | Fraud Risk Management and Interrogation | 4 credits**
An in-depth study of the responsibilities of the auditor in detecting fraud, focusing on Statements of Auditing Standards No. 53, 82, and 99. The roles and responsibilities of the audit committee, senior management, financial management, and internal and external auditors will be reviewed. Securities and Exchange Commission Staff Accounting Bulletins 99 on Materiality and 104 on Revenue Recognition will also be covered. Specific fraud audit methods and checklist will also be studied.

**AC 6230 | Internal Audit and Fraud Risk Management | 4 credits**
In this course students will explore the tools available to recognize capital management and its formation and relationship to the financial stability of the organization and decision making process. Emphasis is placed on developing a core set of skills in financial modeling, debt and equity issues, valuation, mergers and acquisitions, financial planning, risk management, financial reporting and analysis, and taxation.

**AC 5660 | Litigation Services, the Role of the Accountant as an Expert | 4 credits**
This course studies the value of the accountant in the field of litigation services. Econometric valuation and statistical estimation will be studied. Cost of capital, valuation of losses, and intellectual property damages will be among the subjects covered.

**AC 6440 | Business Crime and Ethical Behavior | 4 credits**
A deeper look into the acts, necessary intent, and defenses related to organizational, occupational, and white-collar crimes. The course will review crime prevention, the criminal justice system, and punishment. The code of ethics of the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA), the Association of Fraud Examiners (ACFE), and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines will be reviewed.
The Online New England College Experience

New England College (NEC) has a rich tradition of academic excellence. Our online programs are designed for professionals who have already achieved success in their careers and who want to enrich their knowledge with advanced study.

We understand how important it is to be able to pursue a graduate degree without disrupting your career or uprooting your family. NEC’s programs satisfy those needs while delivering a highly respected online degree that is as demanding and rewarding as our traditional on-campus programs.

The Convenience of Learning Online

Online learning can be even more satisfying than traditional classroom learning because it focuses on you. You learn from the convenience of your home or office, at the time of day that suits you, while maintaining communication with faculty and fellow students. Here are some examples of the many benefits of e-learning.

**Flexible scheduling**

E-learning is designed for busy professionals like you. You plan your study time around your schedule and work at your own pace. The program is based on an innovative, asynchronous model, so there is no need to disrupt your work and family life. Your instructor lays out the course in a detailed schedule, so you know what to expect and how to prepare.

**Accessible resources**

All printed materials and textbooks are conveniently delivered to you before the start of each seminar. Our extensive online library and resource center are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year long. Many students report that using the online library is easier and more convenient than visiting a traditional “brick-and-mortar” library.

**Immediate responses**

With just a click, you can send questions or requests to professors, fellow students, and student services advisors. Our faculty and staff will respond within 24 hours.

**Intimate classes**

You will progress through the program with a small group of 12 to 15 fellow students. This cohort system ensures that you are part of a community of your peers, which provides support, challenges your abilities, and encourages discussion.

**Individual attention**

Because the virtual class size is so small, you will receive individual attention from your professors. They are experienced professionals who are also highly trained in online instruction. Your instructor also serves as a group instructor who encourages you and your classmates to develop into a learning community eager to engage in discussions of current issues and realistic scenarios.
The NEC community is committed to offering support and attention to each student.

Helping our master’s degree candidates is the goal of each member of the New England College online learning team. We’re here to help you every step of the way by providing you with:

- Your own personal enrollment advisor.
- Your own personal student services advisor.
- Your own personal instructor.
- NEC’s most highly regarded faculty.

We also provide helpful live technical support. This allows you to talk with a highly qualified professional technician whose goal is to provide you with helpful, friendly advice on resolving your hardware and software issues.

This program has been structured for those seeking both challenging graduate studies and the tools needed by legal and financial services professionals. Integral to this degree is the online collaboration among you, your small group and instructor, and the outstanding NEC faculty members, all in the privacy and convenience of your home or office.
Admission Requirements

New England College gives you the opportunity to fulfill your goals.

**Domestic Students**
- Applicants should have a bachelor’s degree from a college or university in the United States, accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies.

**International Students**
- Applicants should have the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor’s degree.
- Students are required to use a credentialing organization such as WES.org, ECE, or ACCRO.
- Students for whom English is not their first language may require a TOEFL score of:
  - 550 (pbt)
  - 213 (cbt)
  - 80 (ibt), or
  - IELTS 6.5.

**All Students**
- Depending on your undergraduate course of study, prerequisite courses may be required.
- Acceptance with a 2.75-3.0 GPA range (exceptions based on individual circumstances)

*Standardized tests are not required for entry into the online graduate programs. Admission is based on your experience and professional accomplishments.*
Tuition and Fees

New England College gives you the opportunity to advance with a relevant, practical, and affordable education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost per credit hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course tuition</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation application fee</td>
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Grand total = $27,450

*Approximate book cost. This is based on the purchase of new copies from the NEC Bookstore. All prices are subject to change without prior notice. The prices provided by the Admissions Department are for the current academic year and may be changed for future academic years.

Course tuition is due on a course by course basis and must be paid at the start of each class. Students using financial aid should have all requirements completed prior to the start of class.

Financial Aid

The ability to pay for your education is an important consideration. Our Admissions Office can assist you in exploring alternative financing options. If you’re a resident of the United States and want to apply for financial aid, please complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be obtained from the FAFSA website at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students may be eligible for a range of loans available specifically for graduate study and are encouraged to apply. Financial aid eligibility is renewed each year, and revisions or adjustments are made to ensure that aid is proportionate with each family’s financial circumstances.

Employer Tuition Assistance

Many organizations offer employee tuition assistance and, in some cases, cover 100 percent of tuition costs. Programs and policies vary among employers, so be sure to consult your human resources department to learn more about employer tuition assistance at your organization.

Don’t forget to fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
Frequently Asked Questions

We are here to support you and answer your questions from enrollment to graduation.

How is New England College accredited?

Is the online graduate degree any different from degrees earned on campus?
No, you will receive the same degree and your diploma is the same as the on-campus student diploma.

How many credits and courses do I take each term?
There are six terms per year with one course offered per term. Each course is worth four credit hours. In total, you must complete 10 terms to earn your degree.

How much does the online graduate program cost?
The online graduate program is competitively priced. See tuition and fees on page 12. For more information, please contact our Enrollment Advisors.

How much time is required for the online graduate programs?
The online graduate programs are designed for working professionals with demands of work and home. Most students study 15 to 20 hours per week. Your instructor will help keep you on track, and your fellow students will be a tremendous source of support.

Do I need to take the GRE, GMAT, or other standardized tests?
No, standardized tests are not required for entry into the online graduate programs. Admission is based on your experience and professional accomplishments.

Do you accept transfer credits?
We will assess transfer credits that may reduce the total number of credits required to complete the program, up to eight credits. This will be done on a case-by-case basis. NEC does not grant credit for work experience.
Since 1946, New England College has been providing learners with the opportunity for a quality and rigorous education.

New England College was created to serve the educational needs of servicemen and women after World War II. It pioneered the three-year baccalaureate degree that combined critical thinking skills from the arts and sciences with practical and professional education in business and engineering.

NEC has retained its mission to be a pragmatic liberal arts and professional college, committed to understanding the needs of all humanity in an interconnected world. It seeks to develop self-confident, informed individuals able to find their way to a rewarding life with professional success and personal service. Students drawn from a range of social and cultural backgrounds choose among academic and professional disciplines, and enhance their learning through a broad range of internships.

In the coming decade, NEC will build on its strengths and the values of its founders while embracing the social, technological, and ethical challenges of contemporary civilization. NEC will provide a liberal arts education for the 21st century. Human rights and social responsibility will remain crucial to our learning and living community, where students will make reasoned academic choices and explore imaginative career options, with a maximum use of alumni connections. Recently the college has grown from 700 to 1,000 undergraduates and from 75 to 1,100 graduate students, while adhering to the philosophy of our founders by providing curricular and co-curricular programs for integrated learning with respect for diversity of thought and expression.

Statement of Fair Practices
NEC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, pregnancy, veteran’s status, or disability in regard to treatment, access to, or employment in its programs and activities, in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities needing accommodation should contact the ADA compliance officer.

Accreditation
NEC is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education.