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

The online Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) 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 MSA 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.

New England College’s MSA online degree is a 40-credit-hour program designed to help expand your breadth and depth of knowledge in taxation, financial reporting, cost accounting, auditing, and mergers and acquisitions. This program lays the foundation for careers in auditing and risk management, corporate accounting, management consulting, banking and financial services, government and not-for-profit organizations, and taxation practices.

Our online MSA was developed based on the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ (AICPA) core competencies for entry into the accounting profession. The aim is to provide the tools that can help you achieve a successful career in the field.

The program addresses these core competencies:

**Personal**: professional demeanor, problem solving, decision-making, interaction, leadership, communication, and project management.

**Functional**: risk analysis, measurement, reporting, and research.

**Broad Business**: strategic/critical thinking, industry/sector perspective, international/global perspective, marketing/client focus, legal/regulatory perspective, and resource management.

Based on these competencies, the MSA online program contributes to the 150-hour requirement for the CPA examination in most states. The program can also be helpful in preparing for other professional certification programs such as:

- Certified Management Accountant (CMA)
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)
NEC’s curriculum provides a way for students to achieve their lifelong learning goals.

The Master of Science in 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 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 page is a list of the prerequisite and core courses.
Required Courses

**AC 5620 | Government and Nonprofit Reporting | 4 credits**
This course covers the environment of 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 5730 | Accounting for Mergers & 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.

**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. The International Accounting course provides an overview of and a platform for understanding and discussion 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 presentation and probe of 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 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 on business strategy and tax considerations.
Required Courses

**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.

**AC 5230 | Intermediate Accounting | 4 credits**
This course provides 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 be covered, all with consideration for generally accepted accounting practices.
Elective Courses

**FI 6310 | Finance for Leaders | 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 6430 | Performance and Ethical Standards of the Audit Professional | 4 credits**
This applied ethics course focuses on the obligations of accountants based on ethical mandates in the business environment. Topics include ethics from the perspective of accounting and auditing, taxation, and consultation; a review of the content and function of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Code of Ethics; consideration of the environment in which ethical practices are judged; and expectations of accountants with respect to corporate responsibility. Students will have opportunities to consider notable cases as well as the evolving role of Sarbanes-Oxley, pressures for voluntary compliance, and how accountants exercise leadership within their organization with respect to ethical behavior.

**MG 5660 | Business Law | 4 credits**
Application of law to managerial decisions and the relationship between legal and business strategy examining the role of the courts; litigation and alternative dispute resolutions; fundamentals of contract, tort, and criminal law; government regulation of business; legal forms of business organizations; ethical considerations in business; and international business transactions.

**AC 5640 | Auditing and Attestation | 4 credits**
This course introduces the student to the audit process, with an emphasis on the perspective of management in a CPA firm, while keeping internal processes in consideration. Topics include implementing control procedures and assessments using both the compliance and management methods. Audit planning, staffing, and training are considered. Special topics include enterprise risk management and auditing non-profit and public organizations.
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.
Five Levels of Support

The NEC community is committed to offering support and attention to each student.

1. Your own personal enrollment advisor.
2. Your own personal student services advisor.
3. Your own personal instructor.
4. 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.
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 (some 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.*
New England College gives you the opportunity to advance with a relevant, practical, and affordable education

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Application fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost per credit hour</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.

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

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.
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.