

# THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## Dr. Don Larsen, Chairperson

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The Department of Business Administration consists of the following options: Accounting (onsite and online), Finance (onsite only), Management (onsite and online), Marketing (onsite and online) and General Business (online only).

## Accounting Option

Accounting is a system for measuring, processing, and communicating information useful in making economic decisions. Accounting, in different forms, has existed for many years, but significant changes have occurred in the past several decades and have created greater information needs for managers. In keeping pace with these changes and increased demands for information, the need for accountants has increased in recent years, thus resulting in excellent opportunities for graduates.

The MSU Billings accounting program prepares students to sit for and pass the Certified Public Accountant Examination (CPA Exam). Requirements to sit for the CPA Exam in Montana include successful completion of 24 credits of upper division accounting courses and 24 credits of other business courses, e.g., courses in management, marketing, finance, management information systems, economics, communications and ethics. After passing the CPA Exam individuals must meet an experience requirement, possess a bachelor's degree and have earned at least 150 semester credits of college courses in order to be licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in Montana. The additional 30 credits beyond the 120 credits required for a bachelor's degree may be in any area. Transfer students and students who have changed majors often have 150 credits by the time they complete their accounting and other business courses. Due to potential changes in laws and regulations regarding licensing as a CPA, students should be sure to consult with their accounting advisor or any accounting faculty member in planning their course schedules.

All accounting courses are offered online. This allows students to complete the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with an Option in Accounting by taking all courses online if they wish. We are excited to offer this online opportunity for our accounting students.

## Finance Option

The finance option is designed to give students a comprehensive understanding of the financial markets and their relation to banking and investments as well as to acquaint students with concepts and methods relevant to financial analysis and business management. The finance curriculum trains students in the useful methods, skills, and essential knowledge that are highly valued in the banking, financial, and consulting industries.

MSU Billings offers a B.S. in Business Administration with finance major and minor. Students learn important topics of finance in these classes such as financial statement analysis, investments, corporate finance, risk management, retail and corporate banking, and portfolio management. Students also gain hands-on experience in financial analysis, investment management, and financial modeling. They use publicly available real data and information in their assignments.

Finance majors can get internships and employment opportunities to work as bankers, financial analysts, dealers and traders, financial advisers, portfolio managers, corporate financial executives, and investment bankers in the region and

beyond. Our finance program also prepares students for professional certifications and graduate education.

## Management Option

The Management Option is designed for students seeking management careers in a variety of both public and private organizations. The curriculum focuses on the development and application of analytical and ethical decision-making skills in solving practical problems.

The program emphasizes integration of a broad set of skills and abilities. Students in management receive a well-rounded exposure to accounting, business law, economics, finance, marketing, and computer applications. Management students are also taught management-specific topics relating to issues such as the structural design of organizations, the creation of a competitive business strategy, project management, the effect of human relation factors on organizational performance, and effective performance measurement and control. Students also are given opportunities to study and practice leadership, motivation, and team building and to become skilled writers and speakers through various classroom activities and projects.

Current job opportunities are broad, with graduates finding employment in private firms, nonprofit organizations, and government. Some students start their own businesses, while others gain employment in small entrepreneurial firms, mid-size companies, and large corporations.

## Marketing Option

The Marketing Option prepares students to succeed in an integrated business environment with a focus on meeting the needs of the customer. Marketing option graduates are prepared for a position such as marketing manager, sales manager, account manager, marketing representative, professional salesperson, or advertising staff. Students completing this option will understand strategic marketing planning, the marketing mix, market research fundamentals, customer relationship management, and the financial implications of marketing within firms. The integrated sequence of courses enables students to obtain a broad education in marketing decision-making.

## Online General Business Option

The Online General Business Option is designed for students who wish to complete a degree in business in a totally online environment. All courses required for this degree are offered in an online format. Students completing this option receive a well-rounded exposure to accounting, finance, management, and marketing. For more information, please contact Rakesh Sah (406-657-1652 or rsah@msubillings.edu).

- Business Administration Bachelor of Science Degree
  - Accounting Option (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/bs-business-administration-accounting-option/>)  Offered Online
  - Finance Option (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/bs-business-administration-finance-option/>)
  - Management Option (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/bs-business-administration-management-option/>)  Offered Online
  - Marketing Option (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/bs-business-administration-marketing-option/>)  Offered Online

- Online General Business Option (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/bs-business-administration-general-business-option/>) ☐ Offered Online
- Accounting Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/minor-accounting/>) ☐ Offered Online
- Business Administration Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/minor-business-administration/>) ☐ Offered Online
- Finance Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/minor-finance/>)
- Information Systems Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/minor-information-systems/>) ☐ Offered Online
- Marketing Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-business/department-business-administration/minor-marketing/>) ☐ Offered Online