



Students benefit from compressed semester



TU MAcc students are given the opportunity to participate in a spring busy season accounting internship using the compressed semester format.

Under this format, students can take a full graduate-level course load while completing an eight-week full-time internship during the beginning of the spring semester.

“Having just completed a ‘busy season’ audit internship at a Big Four accounting firm, I cannot imagine a better opportunity for accounting students to gain real-world experience in the public accounting industry. The faculty and administration at The University of Tulsa have created an excellent program that allows students the chance to observe and participate in audit engagements firsthand before returning to campus to take compressed classes. I would strongly advise any accounting student who has the ability to fit this internship into their schedules to do so. My internship was invaluable in terms of not only learning technical skills and auditing procedures, but also networking with industry professionals.”

— **Hannah Smith, intern at Deloitte**

“This experience has proved beneficial because I now have work experience in auditing and at the same time, did not forgo a semester of classes. I’m happy that I will graduate with a master’s degree, have real-world experience in auditing and meet the CPA requirements for the state of Oklahoma in just one year. I think managing three graduate classes might be a little challenging, but our professors are supportive and are trying to make the compressed classes as accommodating and meaningful — in terms of context — as possible.”

— **Aqsa Zahid, intern at Ernst & Young**

Keys to success: Integrity and hard work

TU accounting alumnus Paula Kuykendall (BSBA '86) has been the chief accounting officer and senior vice president at Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. since January 2004. At Hilton, she leads the global accounting functions for the company that includes 4,300 hotels in 94 countries.

Kuykendall lives in Tulsa and commutes weekly to Washington, D.C. She took the time to speak with TU students in the Collins College of Business about her rewarding career and the opportunities in the accounting profession. During her presentation, she emphasized two principles that helped her build a rewarding career: integrity and hard work.



What is MIS, and is it right for you?

As information technology (IT) professionals, MIS (Management Information Systems) graduates focus predominantly on issues at the interfaces

between different computing technologies and the most important assets to any company — its employees, customers and suppliers. The University of Tulsa’s MIS program provides students with a firm foundation of IT fundamentals (programming, networks, databases, systems analysis and project management) so that they can help people solve problems. An MIS degree is incredibly flexible: Knowledge and skills developed in TU’s MIS program translate well to all industries, types of organizations and geographic locations. The range of career opportunities for TU MIS graduates is very broad and includes business system analysts, IT consultants, application developers, healthcare informatics specialists and information security professionals. The median starting salary for TU MIS graduates in 2014 was \$64,000 with 100 percent successful post-graduation employment.

The two most common questions we receive at TU about our MIS program are: (1) Is an MIS degree the same thing as a degree in computer science? And (2) Is MIS mostly about computer programming? The answer to both questions is no. Computer science graduates often focus on developing cutting-edge technology tools primarily through computer programming, while MIS graduates focus on the use of those tools to solve real problems or provide developers a better understanding of real-world issues or opportunities that need to be addressed. Many MIS graduates do not program at all in their careers, but the fundamentals of programming learned in the MIS program, coupled with the other foundational elements of IT, are essential to helping people solve problems using different technologies. If you answer yes to the following questions, you should seriously consider exploring MIS for your future studies.

- Do you enjoy collaborating with people and helping them become more efficient and effective?
- Do you enjoy analyzing and solving problems?
- Do you enjoy working with, and possibly creating, new problem-solving technologies?



Use this QR code
to watch a YouTube
video about TU’s
MIS program.



My MIS degree at TU has given me amazing opportunities I never would have dreamed of having when I started my first classes at TU in 2007. The program was extremely challenging, but the personalized attention from professors was a major advantage when compared to other programs. We worked on rewarding projects. The relationships I made and the well-rounded curriculum laid a solid foundation that has allowed me to thrive in a professional environment. When I graduated with an MIS degree, I had the opportunity to relocate to Anchorage, Alaska with ConocoPhillips and begin an exciting career with unlimited possibilities. I now administer major enterprise systems and have the opportunity to work on projects on the North Slope of Alaska in the Arctic Circle. I have The University of Tulsa, some amazing professors and my MIS degree to thank for this opportunity.

Mentor/Mentee Spotlight



Tyler Caldwell has been Chase Bovaird's mentor since September. The two regularly meet to discuss careers. Tyler has been invaluable in helping Chase navigate an unusual networking situation that arose after recruiting season was over. Tyler also provides great advice on the differences between the work environments in industry and public accounting.

Coast to coast

This spring, our TU Master in Accountancy (MAcc) graduates are spanning the country, getting jobs from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles, as well as in Oklahoma. Even though students may want to work outside of the region, they were still able to begin their job search in Tulsa.

Curtis French will have the most opportunity to return to TU while working in Bartlesville. Josh Josephson and Alex Schneider will be much further away, pursuing careers on the east and west coasts, but will still have strong ties to the TU community. All three were graduate assistants in the School of Accounting and Management Information Systems. We wish them the very best in their careers.



— Karen Cravens, Chapman Professor of Accounting

Curtis French

“With the prospect of becoming the third generation of my family to graduate from TU, attending The University of Tulsa for my undergraduate and graduate accounting degrees was a natural choice for me.

I was drawn to the Master of Accountancy program not only by the opportunity to further my knowledge of accounting theory, but also the unique ability to complement that knowledge with oil and gas industry-focused elective courses through the School of Energy Economics, Policy and Commerce. This has allowed me to gain a strong understanding of how the oil and gas industry operates, which will be invaluable as I start my career as an accountant with Phillips 66 in Bartlesville, Okla.

The Collins College of Business succeeds in balancing the intimacy of a smaller university with the opportunities of a larger one. This balance has given me the ability to create personal relationships with my professors and to take an active role in many student organizations, such as serving as president of Beta Alpha Psi. I also took advantage of internship opportunities in the Tulsa area with Samson Resources, Phillips 66 and Ernst and Young during my five years at TU. I am confident that my time at TU has equipped me with all of the skills necessary for a successful career.”

Joshua Josephson

“Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Washington and Lee University helped mold me into the person I am today through its rigid honor system and inherent core values. As big as the world is, the world is that much smaller — the accounting department chair approached me with an opportunity to continue my education at her best friend and research partner's master's program. In a position to fulfill my dream of becoming a CPA, I took the leap of a lifetime by coming to Tulsa.

And I can say it is the second best decision I have made (only behind attending W&L). TU introduced me to potential lifelong friends, outstanding professors and faculty and a unique culture in a state I never imagined living in, all the while sculpting me into a mature, young adult. The Master of Accountancy graduate program offers the core classes needed for a career in audit, yet allows flexibility to study subjects I personally enjoy, such as business valuation and financial management.”

Alex Schneider

“I was working in Los Angeles as a low-level assistant for a film and television production company, trying to make it in the proverbial Hollywood entertainment industry when I first talked to a friend about going to TU for accounting. Seeking a significant change in career paths, I enrolled in TU's MAcc program.

With an undergraduate degree in business but not accounting, I was concerned about my ability to fulfill the CPA education requirements. My academic adviser at

TU worked closely with me to ensure I took the necessary classes; and in my last semester, I was able to begin CPA exams while getting college credit through TU's CPA review course.

To obtain an internship and eventually a job, I attended career fairs, Beta Alpha Psi meetings, community service events, and professional luncheons. I quickly landed an internship at Grant Thornton in the tax department, giving me real-world accounting experience, which became a full-time offer.

I took advantage of the career services provided by the TU MAcc program and also served as the social chair for TU's Beta Alpha Psi chapter. This participation will give me an edge in years to come as I continue my future in the accounting profession.

While I love the friendliness of the people and the low cost of living in Tulsa, the sunny weather of Southern California beckons. I will begin working in Los Angeles this fall as a full-time auditor with Grant Thornton — exactly the job I wanted. I am very thankful for the time I spent at TU and even more excited about where my TU degree will take me. Or to use some So Cal slang, ‘I'm stoked.’ ”

Case study with unique twist surprises students

“When Wray Bradley

informed our Fraud Accounting class we would have a guest lecturer, I tried to keep an open mind when hearing Lea King talking about fraud. What began as a traditional fraud story turned the plot upside down by the end. After listening to Mrs. King's story about her father's experience of theft via check and mail fraud, I could sense the class start to get restless and anxious when the case was adjudicated. I was happy to hear justice — albeit not enough — was served. However, a state of emotion I was not anticipating flowed over the class: utter shock. Her own sister was stealing from her dad! Fraud is illegal for obvious reasons, but fraud performed by a family member is disheartening. I can't speak for the class, but I felt empathetic that Mrs. King no longer speaks with her sister, yet thrilled to know Mrs. King fought for her dad's justice.”



—Josh Josephson, MAcc '15

Faculty Spotlight: Li Sun

Li Sun (Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 2007) joined The University of Tulsa as an assistant professor in accounting in 2014. He currently teaches managerial accounting. Sun's research pertains to the areas of financial accounting, cost accounting, accounting choices and international accounting issues.

Sun received his B.S. in Business Administration degree at Zhejiang University of Industry and Commerce in China. He brings his international experience and more than 10 years of teaching experience to the classroom.



Alumni Spotlight: Carley Williams (BSBA '98)

Carley Williams, a member of BKD National Health Care Group and the firm's Oklahoma healthcare industry leader, has more than 16 years of experience providing audit and consulting services to hospitals, physicians, medical facilities and other healthcare provider groups.

He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, Oklahoma Society of CPAs (OSCPA) and Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). Williams is a past president of the Oklahoma chapter of the HFMA board of directors and has been elected to serve as the 2015-2016 regional executive for the Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas HFMA chapters.

Williams is a member of Leadership Tulsa Class 42 and was previously named as an OSCP A Trailblazer. He is a past chairman and current member of the TU Conference of Accountants Board of Directors. He also serves on the Tulsa Boys' Home, Child Abuse Network and The Summit Club boards of directors.



Student Spotlight: Nathan Barrett

“After being recruited to run track and cross country,

I chose to come from New Zealand to The University of Tulsa in August 2011 to pursue a BSBA degree in accounting. My decision was made easy because TU is well-balanced academically and athletically. The faculty cares about and respects its students and that helps maximize our learning. I am now enrolled in the Master of Accountancy program, where I continue to enjoy small class sizes and individual mentoring from my professors. Over Thanksgiving break, my parents were able to visit and were fortunate to meet some of the great accounting faculty as well as experience Tulsa highlights such as the Rhema Christmas lights and Woolaroc. They plan on returning in May 2016 for my MAcc graduation before I start full time at Ernst & Young Tulsa in the fall of 2016.”



Inspired

Inspired is how Guylaine Onanga-Issongo La-Mbossa

described her feelings after hearing Carley Williams, partner at BKD, speak during Karen Cravens' Cost Accounting class about the importance of obtaining an internship. As a loyal alumnus and strong supporter of the School of Accounting and Management Information Systems, Williams is frequently on campus speaking to classes and recruiting students for BKD. However, little did he know at the time how much of an impact his words would make on Guylaine's career plans. Guylaine is an international student and recognized that it is generally more difficult for international students to obtain an internship in the United States. She did not believe that she would be successful, but wanted to try.

With encouragement from the faculty and staff at TU, Guylaine secured an internship in the spring of 2015 with the tax department of Deloitte in Tulsa.



Beta Alpha Psi

Beta Alpha Psi is an international honorary and service organization for financial information students and professionals. The primary objective of the organization is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field.

The Eta Rho Chapter was established at The University of Tulsa in 1990. At each of the monthly professional meetings, free lunch and a speaker, usually from a local firm or organization, are provided. There also are opportunities to socialize with other students and with local professionals throughout the semester.



Collins College of Business dedicates Phillips 66 MIS Academic Technology Center

The University of Tulsa's MIS program announces the recent dedication of its Phillips 66 MIS Academic Technology Center (ATC). The generous financial support from Phillips 66 has provided TU's MIS students a fully functional multipurpose learning and collaboration area that perfectly blends the technologies of a cutting-edge computer lab with an ergonomic workspace that is perfect for simultaneous individual and group activities.

With integrated video and teleconferencing capabilities, the ATC allows a global reach to interact with MIS professionals in different fields and locations. Individual workstations, built upon virtual machine technology, provide students with all of the industry-standard software and collaboration tools required for their MIS coursework. TU provides secure remote connectivity to the Phillips 66 MIS ATC, enabling students and faculty to continue collaborative learning activities beyond the classroom. Numerous specialized technologies, such as networking and security equipment, enhance the ATC and MIS program, providing students with hands-on experience using the same types of technologies they will encounter after graduation.



Things to do in Tulsa

Tulsa has a variety of events and activities year-round for students to enjoy outside of the classroom. Home to the BOK Center, historic Cain's Ballroom and many smaller, local venues, Tulsa has a vibrant music scene that attracts top artists.

Tulsa's downtown nightlife has ballooned in recent years with significant investments from local entrepreneurs. The Blue Dome District, Brady District, Cherry Street, Brookside and Pearl District are all popular dining and nightlife destinations for young professionals.

"Moving here from Nashville, I was surprised by the availability of live music, local restaurants and community events. From the abundance of affordable golf courses to the eclectic Brookside brunch spots to discovering local live music in the historic Brady District, Tulsa has plenty to offer. It truly is a city where anyone can find fun things to do."

— **Matt Kundert, MAcc '15**

Congratulations to all of the graduating MAcc students!

This year's MAcc graduates have been placed at the following companies:

- Ryne Carman—BKD
- Anna Poplin—HoganTaylor
- Curtis French—Phillips 66
- Alex Schneider—Grant Thornton
- Joshua Josephson—Ernst & Young
- Rachel Winn—PWC
- Katelyn Karnuth—Ernst & Young
- George Zhou—Jay & Associates
- Matt Kundert—Ernst & Young

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