

# Master of Science in ACCOUNTING



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

LEADERSHIP

ETHICS

HYBRID COURSE FORMAT

EXAM PREPARATION

### The College of Graduate and Continuing Education

at Westfield State University is proud to offer a variety of graduate programs designed to accommodate the personal and professional needs of today's busy student. With no difference between our in- and out-of-state tuition, Westfield State University is a great option for students all over the Northeast!

We share the values of the modern adult learner. Our high quality programs are affordable, flexible, and rewarding. We welcome the opportunity to tell you more about our programs, division, and university and also to guide you through the admission process. We encourage you to work with our outreach specialists who are here to answer your questions.

**Westfield**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF  
**Graduate &  
Continuing Education**

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The curriculum for the Master of Science in Accounting program is designed to advance students in their knowledge and skill level beyond the existing bachelor's degree program. The curriculum demands group work, thus fostering leadership skills. The social science electives have been included to provide awareness and professional development in interpersonal skills, management skills, and understanding organizational culture.

The M.S.A. curriculum is divided into two components: the Foundation Curriculum and the Advanced Curriculum. The Foundation Curriculum is applicable for students who have not fulfilled all necessary prerequisite courses. Students complete the Foundation Curriculum prior to beginning the Advanced Curriculum. Foundation Curriculum courses may be waived based on prior coursework. Students who have already completed all prerequisite accounting courses can apply for advanced standing and begin the Advanced Curriculum upon acceptance into the M.S.A. program.

Combined with prerequisite coursework, completion of the 30 credit-hour Advanced Curriculum satisfies the educational requirement necessary for the Certified Public Accounting license in Massachusetts. Current Westfield State students completing an undergraduate degree in Accounting can combine the two programs into a five-year, 150 hour program.

## WE ARE FLEXIBLE

- Classes offered during the fall and spring sessions
- Full-time and part-time options

## WE ARE AFFORDABLE

- Our Master of Science in Accounting program is a fraction of the cost of private institutions
- No difference between in- and out-of-state tuition

## WE ARE ACCOMMODATING:

- Register for classes online, in-person, by fax, mail, or phone
- Receive lifetime career assistance through our Career Center
- Writing assistance offered through our Reading and Writing Center
- Various eateries on campus open late
- Access to disability services through the Banacos Center
- Mental health resources available through the Counseling Center

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Master of Science in Accounting program is to prepare accounting students for management positions in accounting. Additionally, the program will serve accounting professionals interested in increasing the depth and breadth of their accounting knowledge. The program will build on the knowledge and tools from the students' undergraduate education to allow them to achieve a greater degree of sophistication in accounting. This will provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to have successful careers in public and private accounting.

## THE PROGRAM WILL:

- Fulfills the 150-hour educational requirement for the professional certification as a public accountant in Massachusetts and several other states.
- Strengthen students' theoretical foundation in multiple areas of accounting.
- Expand students' critical thinking and research skills in accounting and business.
- Develop students' oral and written communication skills.
- Aid students in developing interpersonal skills such as leadership and teamwork.
- Enhance students' understanding of ethical and professional issues in accounting and auditing, and their ability to respond to ethical dilemmas in the profession.
- Students will be better prepared for examinations required for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designations.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND LENGTH

The M.S.A. program offers a variety of completion options designed to fit your needs.

### Foundation Curriculum (up to 21 credits)

The Foundation Curriculum offers students who have an undergraduate business degree, but lack the necessary coursework in accounting, to complete a series of prerequisite courses as part of the master's program. The Foundation Curriculum prepares students for the Advanced Curriculum.

### Advanced Curriculum (30 Credits)

The Advanced Curriculum is comprised of ten courses. The majority of courses are offered in a hybrid format, and certain courses are 100% online. The Advanced Curriculum can be completed in just two semesters.\*  
*See required courses insert for individual prerequisite courses for the foundation curriculum.*





## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Students applying for the Advanced

**Curriculum:** A Bachelor's degree with either a major or concentration in accounting from an accredited institution\*.

### **Students applying for the Foundation and**

**Advanced Curriculum:** A bachelor's degree with either a major or concentration in a business related discipline from an accredited institution. Other degrees may be acceptable; however students would likely need to take additional courses to meet the requirements for the Certified Public Accounting Examination and subsequent licensing.

*Please see required courses insert for prerequisites.*

### 2. A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students should access the graduate application online at [explore.westfield.ma.edu](https://explore.westfield.ma.edu) or request an application packet at [GoBackNow.com](https://GoBackNow.com) and send it to Graduate and Continuing Education. The following materials must be received for an application to be reviewed:

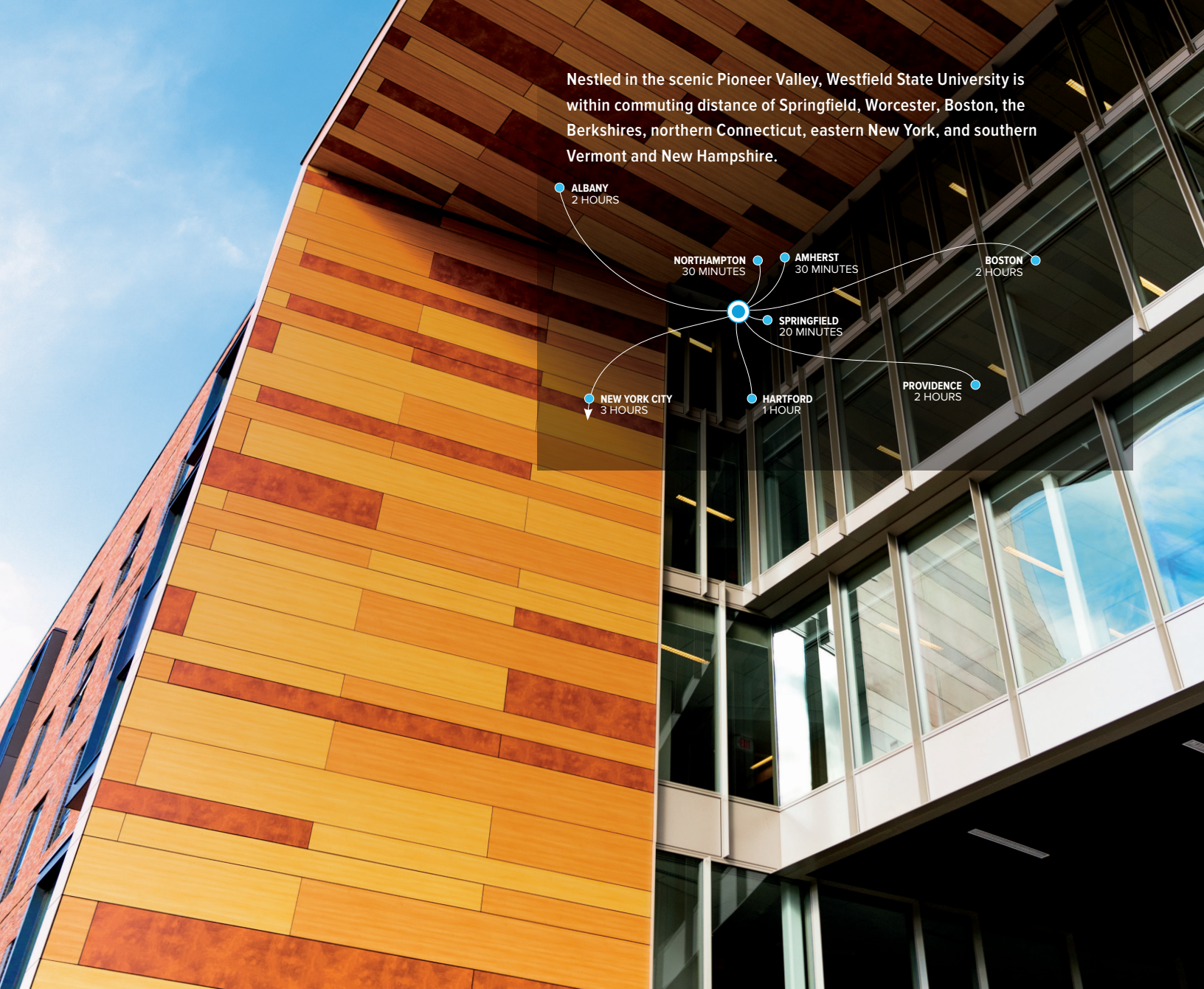
1. Completed graduate application and \$50 application fee.
2. Official (sealed) transcripts from all accredited colleges and universities previously attended.
3. Three letters of recommendation; at least one academic recommendation is required.
4. A written statement of purpose and intent to complete the Master of Science in Accounting.

## DEADLINES AND NOTICE OF DECISION

- All materials must be received by March 1st for your application to be reviewed for fall admission.
- For admission into the spring semester, it is recommended that all application materials are received by November 1st.
- Students can expect to hear about the status of their admission within six weeks of application completion.

*\*Based on U.S. regulations*





Nestled in the scenic Pioneer Valley, Westfield State University is within commuting distance of Springfield, Worcester, Boston, the Berkshires, northern Connecticut, eastern New York, and southern Vermont and New Hampshire.



# Westfield State University

## Graduate and Continuing Education

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