The College of Business (COB) offers the following graduate degrees:

- Master of Accountancy (MACC)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MS in MIS)
- Master of Science in Taxation (MST)

The COB partners with the School of Law to offer concurrent MBA-JD and MST-JD degrees and with UAMS to offer concurrent MBA-PharmD and MBA-MD programs. In addition, the COB offers Graduate Certificates in Accountancy, Taxation, Management, and Management Information Systems. A brief description of each of these programs follows.

The Master of Accountancy (MACC) is designed for students holding an accounting undergraduate degree or its equivalent. The goals of the MACC are:

1. to facilitate entry and career growth in the field of Accounting, including the completion of the 150-hour CPA exam requirements;
2. to add significant value to participants’ previous Accounting education, and;
3. to provide an integrated yet diverse graduate program in accounting education.

Students interested in the MACC program should contact the Chair of the Department of Accounting at (501) 569-3351.

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) is for students with liberal arts, scientific, or other professional backgrounds as well as students with prior business studies. At the completion of the MBA program, students should be able to demonstrate the following:

1. an understanding of the strategically interrelated functional areas of business;
2. the use of analytical skills, critical thinking skills, and technology to solve contemporary business problems;
3. an understanding of the impact of diversity and global and ethical perspectives in business; and
4. effective teamwork and communication skills.

Students interested in the MBA program should call the Associate Dean for Graduate Business Programs at (501) 569-3356 or email mbaadvising@ualr.edu.

The Concurrent MBA Programs (MBA-JD, MST-JD, MBA-PharmD and MBA-MD) allow students to concurrently complete the requirements of their primary professional program (JD, PharmD or MD) and the MBA. Attorneys, pharmacists and medical doctors find that the business skills provided by the MBA are extremely useful in their professional practices. Students in these concurrent programs can count two courses from their primary program as MBA electives, and two courses from the MBA program are allowed as electives in their primary program. Law students interested in the MBA-JD should contact the Associate Dean of the Law School. Pharmacy students interested in the concurrent MBA-PharmD program should contact the program coordinator at (501) 686-6498 or email mbaadvising@ualr.edu. Medical students interested in the concurrent MBA-MD program should contact the program coordinator at (501) 686-8499 or email mbaadvising@ualr.edu.

The Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MS in MIS) is designed to integrate knowledge of information technology (IT) and the functional areas of business with emphasis on strategic IT applications and the development of project management, team, and communication competencies vital for IT managers. The program can be customized to meet varying career goals for those with or without previous technology or business course work. The goal of the program is to position graduates for advancement in the information systems field. Students interested in the MS in MIS program should contact the Chair of the Department of Business Information Systems at (501) 569-8854.

The Master of Science in Taxation (MST) is designed for students holding an accounting undergraduate degree or its equivalent. The goals of the MST are:

1. to facilitate entry and career growth in the field of Accounting, including the completion of the 150-hour CPA exam requirements;
2. to add significant value to participants’ previous Accounting education, and;
3. to provide an integrated yet diverse graduate program in accounting education.

Students interested in the MST program should contact the Chair of the Department of Accounting at (501) 569-3351.
The Graduate Certificate Programs in Accounting and in Taxation (ACCT-GC and TAXN-GC) each consists of 12 graduate credits. The ACCT-GC is designed for accountants seeking to expand their professional knowledge and/or meet the academic requirements to sit for the Uniform CPA Exam. The TAXN-GC is designed for either accountants or attorneys. Courses taken in these programs may be used to fulfill Continuing Professional (or Legal) Education requirements. Credits earned in these certificate programs may also be applied towards the MACC or MST. Students interested in these certificate programs should contact the Chair of the Department of Accounting at (501) 569-3351.

The Graduate Certificate in Management (MGMT-GC) is a 12-credit program designed to develop conceptual, interpersonal, and practical problem-solving skills that apply to the management of for-profit, non-profit, and governmental organizations. Students in this program will learn to demonstrate the ability to apply relevant managerial models and theories/approaches in situational analysis, an understanding of the principles of human resources management, and an ability to apply the concepts underlying effective interpersonal relations and group/team leadership skills. Students interested in this certificate program should contact the Chair of the Department of Management at (501) 569-3383.

The Graduate Certificate in Management Information Systems (MGIS-GC) is a 12-credit program designed to provide a focused collection of course work in management information systems, providing students pertinent knowledge and skills necessary to enter into or progress their careers in the information systems field. The program is designed for post-baccalaureate students and working professionals who are interested in enhancing their current technical and managerial skills for career advancement or preparation for entering a master’s program. Course work completed for the certificate may be applied to the Master of Science degree in MIS. Students interested in this certificate program should contact the Chair of the Department of Business Information Systems at (501) 569-8854.

General Policies and Guidelines

Application Deadlines for Graduate Business Programs

Completed applications with all required documentation must be received by the College of Business by the following deadlines:

- Summer Semester - April 15th
- Fall Semester - July 15th
- Spring Semester - December 10th

Prospective students are encouraged to submit their online application form and other documents well in advance of stated deadlines. (See ualr.edu/gradschool/ for application information.)

Students may enter the Graduate Certificates, MACC, MBA, MS in MIS, or MST program in any semester.

International Students

International students must present a score of 550 or more on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), 213 or more on the computer-based version, or 79 or more on the Internet version.

Alternatively, international students may present a score of 6.5 or higher on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Advising

Students entering graduate business programs should meet with their graduate program coordinator to discuss program requirements, course sequencing and program policies.

Each semester, students must have their advising flags cleared prior to registering for the next term. To clear this advising flag, graduate students should contact their advisor. If you contact your advisor via email include your name, ID#, and a list of the courses you plan to take the next semester.

Electives

Students can count only one directed independent study course as an elective. No graduate business program currently requires a thesis for graduation. Students planning to enter a doctoral program are encouraged to enroll in an independent study course to acquire experience in academic research techniques.

While electives are generally graduate business courses, graduate business students may take up to six elective hours in other UALR graduate programs. Approval of your advisor is required for electives taken outside the COB. Foundation courses may not be taken as electives. Courses eligible for credit as electives are so designated in the course description.

Students simultaneously enrolled in the MBA and a Certificate must meet the admission standards for both the MBA and certificate program.

Transfer Credits

Credit for course work completed at another college or university is applied without limit to Foundation core requirements. A maximum of six hours of course work may be transferred from other AACSB accredited programs to satisfy the course requirements in the MACC, MBA, MS in MIS or MST. Transfer credits cannot be used to waive program requirements for the Graduate Certificate Programs or for the Executive MBA.

Enrolling in Concurrent Programs

Applicants for the concurrent MBA-JD, MST-JD, MBA-PharmD, or MBA-MD programs must meet admission requirements for both programs. Once admitted to both programs, a student enters the joint program by filing a Declaration of Intent to Pursue a Concurrent Degree form. A student currently enrolled in one program may enter the concurrent program by obtaining admission to the other program and by filing the form referred to above. A student who has already completed one of the degrees in a concurrent program cannot enroll as a concurrent student.

Concurrent enrollment in a COB Graduate Certificate program and the MBA program is permitted. Courses taken in fulfillment of the Graduate Certificate can be used as MBA electives. Concurrent MBA-Certificate students must meet the admission standards for both the MBA and certificate program.

Reenrolling in Graduate Business Programs

Former graduate business students, those students who have already graduated or who have become inactive, must reapply and meet current admission standards before returning for further graduate business studies.

UALR COB graduates returning for a second master’s degree must complete at least 30 additional credits to receive a second degree.

Transient Students

Students admitted to the Graduate School in transient status may enroll for a maximum of six semester hours for transfer back to his or her original institution. To be enrolled with transient status, students must meet UALR admission standards and provide a letter of good standing from their current school.
Undergraduate Students in Graduate Business Courses

UALR seniors who are within 15 semester hours of completing baccalaureate degrees with a 3.0 GPA or higher and have a GMAT of at least 480 may enroll for a maximum of 6 semester hours of graduate business courses during their last undergraduate semester. However, if these graduate business courses are applied towards undergraduate degree requirements they cannot also be counted towards graduate degree requirements.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete all required courses and earn an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher to graduate. Students failing to earn a 3.0 GPA after completing all required courses may enroll in a maximum of six additional semester hours to attain the required 3.0 GPA. A grade below a C provides no credit toward graduation, and the course must be repeated.

Students must complete an Application for Graduation early in their final term. This application is available in BOSS.

Time Limit

All degree requirements must be completed within six years of admission to the program.

Financial Assistance

A limited number of graduate assistantships are offered each year to qualified students. Graduate assistants are expected to work 20 hours per week in the College. Duties may include assisting with faculty research projects and/or providing support services in the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center, the Institute for Economic Advancement, the COB computer labs, online programs, or executive programs. Applicants must be regularly admitted to a graduate program, maintain at least a 3.0 overall GPA, and enroll for at least nine graduate hours each semester. Applications for graduate assistantships must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Business Programs by April 1.

Definitions: An “attempt” is defined as either a full-term enrollment with a letter grade or Incomplete being posted or a partial-term enrollment that lasts beyond the drop deadline but ends with a withdrawal and a W being posted to the transcript. A “successful completion” is defined as a grade of B or greater in the course. If a student drops, withdraws, or requests an incomplete this will not be considered a successful completion.