

Undergraduate International Student Requirements: Accounting Internship Early Recruitment (AIER) Program

Student Eligibility

- ✓ Completion of or enrollment in ACCO 3001 during the semester of AIER interviews.
- ✓ Completion of 90 credits and senior standing by the start date of the internship.
- ✓ Completion the following courses by the start of the internship:
 - ACCO 3001 Intermediate Accounting
 - ACCO 4010 Advanced Accounting
 - Three additional upper-division ACCO courses

Position Eligibility

- ✓ All internships posted through the AIER Program are eligible for ACCO internship credit.
- ✓ Responsibilities are similar to those of a first-year accountant.

AIER Program Process: 2023/2024

- ✓ Dec 8: Participation Agreements Due
- ✓ Jan 18 at 6:00pm: Attend the AIER Roundtable & Networking Event
- ✓ Jan 23: Student Applications Due
- ✓ Jan 26-31: Sign up for interviews
- ✓ Feb 5-9: Interviews
- ✓ Feb 12: Student ranking forms with internship preferences are due
- ✓ Feb 23: Internship outcomes shared

Internship Requirements: Work Hours & Assignments

- ✓ Training and work hours for spring semester internships often begin in early January. Summer internships often begin in June.
- ✓ Submit monthly timesheets of activity during field work (500 hours in spring semester, 400 hours in summer).
- ✓ Complete a Reflection Paper answering specific internship questions.

Earning Academic Credit

- ✓ **Spring Semester Interns:** Spring semester internships will earn 6 credits. 3 credits will be available as upper-division business elective credit. 3 credits will be available that will not fulfill a graduation requirement but will count toward total credits earned (for CPA eligibility).
- ✓ **Summer Interns:** Summer internships will earn 3 upper-division business elective credits.

Course Registration

- ✓ Register for a 0-credit ACCO 3986 or 3987 course during the semester when you are interning and complete an internship survey. A survey link will be shared with the permission number e-mail.
 - **Spring Semester Interns:** The ACCO 3987 course will label a student as “enrolled full time” within University records. During the semester in which you are enrolled in ACCO 3987, you will not be charged tuition and will not pay student services fees. As a result, you will not have access to the Student Medical Clinic, gym or the UPASS program.
 - **Summer Interns:** The 3986 course is a 0-credit course, so you will not be charged tuition.
 - **International Students:** Completion of curricular practical training (CPT) paperwork should accompany your ACCO 3986 or 3987 enrollment. This paperwork must be completed prior to your first day of work.
 - For successful completion of the internship, you will be awarded 3 ACCO elective credits through enrolling in ACCO 4986 during the fall semester. ACCO 4986 will count toward your credit load. Permission numbers will be distributed prior to the fall semester.
- ✓ **Final Semester Interns:** If you are completing the AIER program internship as your last undergraduate course at MU, you will need to co-enroll in ACCO 3986 and ACCO 4986 and complete internship assignments.
- ✓ **Incoming MSA/MSAA Students:** If you will complete all undergraduate credits at MU prior to your internship semester AND if you are accepted into the MU MSA / MSAA program, you may use the internship credit as your first MSA or MSAA course and toward MSA or MSAA elective credit.

Off-Campus Work Authorization

Completion of curricular practical training (CPT) paperwork should accompany your ACCO 3986 or 3987 enrollment. This paperwork must be completed prior to your first day of work. For successful completion of the internship, you will be awarded 3 ACCO elective credits through enrolling in ACCO 4986 during the fall semester following your internship. ACCO 4986 will count toward your credit load. Permission numbers will be distributed prior to the fall semester.

Graduate Considerations

If you are considering the MU MSA or MSAA program, please remember that to be eligible for CPT or optional practical training (OPT), students must be enrolled full-time in the MU undergraduate **OR** graduate accounting program for two full-time semesters (fall + spring or spring + fall). ***If you will enter the MU MSA program one semester prior to your internship, you will not have been enrolled in the MSA / MSAA program for two semesters and will not be eligible for CPT or OPT.*** As you consider how you will complete 150 credit hours or when you will begin a MU MSA program, please keep this two semester enrollment eligibility rule in mind.

Please also consider how the timing of an internship within a MSA /MSAA program could impact your OPT eligibility (1) should you earn a full-time offer and (2) based on different firms' full-time start dates. While there is not a guarantee that an internship employer will offer a full-time position, students certainly want to be prepared and eligible to work if offer is extended. Most firms offer full-time start dates in summer or early fall. Some firms offer start dates in January. A student who completes his/her accounting undergraduate degree at MU typically needs two full-time semesters to complete the MU MSA / MSAA program. If the student completes the fall + spring (or spring + fall) semesters required for CPT or OPT eligibility, followed by an internship, (1) the student may have fulfilled MSA / MSAA requirements or (2) there may be only one semester of coursework needed to complete the MSA / MSAA requirements following the internship. Please consider different program completion timing would align with different firms' full-time start dates and the OPT eligibility rule that students may not accrue more than 90 days of unemployment following the program completion date.

Suggestion for international MU accounting undergraduates: If you are considering the MU MSA or MSAA, completing the accounting internship in the final semester or two of your undergraduate coursework (and even as your last undergraduate course) may offer the most CPT/OPT eligibility and flexibility related to MSA / MSAA completion date and possible full-time employment start dates. Please remember to discuss your specific plans with OIE staff.

Planning for 150 Credits

As you plan to complete 150 credit hours and consider your preferred program as well as internship and graduation timelines, please consider the two semester CPT guideline and the guideline related to the maximum days of unemployment within OPT. After considering course planning with your accounting advisor, international accounting students are **strongly encouraged** to also meet **Office of International Education staff to confirm plans, timelines, OPT/CPT eligibility and eligibility for an undergraduate program completion extension** (if completing 150 credit hours through undergraduate coursework is desired).