

Texas State University-San Marcos
Department of Accounting
Exit Survey – MAcy and MSAIT Students
Spring 2010

1. Which of the following best describes your status when beginning the MAcy program? (N=23)

Status	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Received baccalaureate at another university in Accounting	2	9%
Received baccalaureate at another university in a field other than Accounting	7	30%
Received baccalaureate at Texas State in a field other than Accounting	2	9%
Received baccalaureate at Texas State in Accounting	3	13%
Enrolled in the integrated Texas State 150 hour program	9	39%

2. How many masters' level courses have you completed in the MAcy program? (N=23)

Number of master's courses completed in MAcy	Frequency	Percentage of Response
8	1	4%
9	3	13%
10	11	48%
11	3	13%
12	2	9%
13	2	9%
15	1	4%

Have you been a part-time or full-time student? (N=23)

Areas	Frequency	Percentage of Response*
Part-time	3	13%
Full-time	20	87%

3. In what area of Accounting do you intend to practice? (N=23)

Areas	Frequency	Percentage of Response*
Public Accounting	15	65%
Industry	4	17%
Governmental/NFP	2	9%
Other: Undecided	2	9%

What influenced your choice? (N=23)

Areas	Frequency	Percentage of Response*
Salary	3	13%
Family	4	17%
Internship	8	35%
Job Availability	3	13%
Previous Work Experience	2	9%
Professor/Class	-	-
Other: Personal Choice	1	4%
Location	2	9%

4. Which professional exams do you anticipate taking?(N=23)

Professional Exams	Frequency	Percentage of Response*
CPA	21	91%
CMA	-	-
CIA	2	9%
Other: CFP CFA Project Management	3	13%
None	2	9%

(In this question, the percentage is greater than 100 because a person may respond to more than one choice)

5. Are you registered with Career Services? (N=23)

Registered with Career Services?	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	20	87%
No	3	13%

6. Did you do an accounting internship? (N=23)

Internship?	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	14	61%
No	9	39%

7. With how many companies have you interviewed? (N=23)

Number of companies interviewed with	Frequency	Percentage of Response
0	6	27%
1	-	-
2	4	17%
3	1	4%
4	5	23%

5	3	13%
6	-	-
7	1	4%
8	1	4%
12	1	4%
15	1	4%

a. If yes, did you feel confident about your academic background (your classroom preparation)? (N=23)

	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	16	70%
No	1	4%
Did Not Answer	6	26%

b. In what academic or personal areas did you not feel confident? (N=23)

Academic or Personal areas not confident?
Financial Accounting
Auditing

c. If you have not interviewed yet, why not? (N=6)

Reasons for Not Interviewing	Number of Respondents
Not ready for a job	2
Happy at current job	2
Plan to return to own country	1
Not sure of location after graduation	1

8. How many job offers have been extended to you? (N=23)

Number of job offers extended	Frequency	Percentage of Response
0	4	18%
1	9	39%
2	2	9%
3	1	4%
6	1	4%
Did Not Answer	6	26%

Were the job offers from registering with Career Services? (N=23)

	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	6	26%
Some	1	4%
No	6	26%
Did Not Answer	10	44%

What were the job titles offered? (N=13)

Job Titles Offered	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Staff Auditor	8	62%
Staff Accountant	2	15%
Staff Tax Accountant	3	23%
Senior Accountant	-	-
Other: Internship	1	8%

(In this question, the percentage is greater than 100 because a person may respond to more than one choice)

What were the salaries offered? (N=13)

Salaries Offered	Frequency	Percentage of Response
<\$35,000	1	8%
\$35,000 – \$39,999	-	-
\$40,000 – \$44,999	1	8%
\$45,000 – \$49,999	4	31%
\$50,000 - \$54,999	8	62%
\$55,000 +	-	-
No Answer	10	77%

(In this question, the percentage is greater than 100 because a person may respond to more than one choice)

9. Have you accepted a job offer? (N=13)

Accepted Job Offer?	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	11	85%
No	2	15%

If yes, what is the job title? (N=13)

Job Title Accepted	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Staff Auditor	8	62%
Staff Accountant	1	8%
Staff Tax Accountant	2	15%
Senior Accountant	-	-
No Answer	2	15%

With whom? (N=13)

Company	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Deloitte	3	23%
Weaver & Tidwell	3	23%
Ernst & Young	3	23%
Grant Thornton	1	8%
Department of Veterans Affairs	1	8%
Preferred not to answer	2	15%

In what city? (N=13)

City	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Austin	1	8%
Dallas	2	15%
Houston	5	39%
San Antonio	3	23%
Out of State	-	-
No Answer	2	15%

What is the starting salary? (N=13)

Salaries Offered	Frequency	Percentage of Response
<\$35,000	-	-
\$35,000 – \$39,999	1	8%
\$40,000 – \$44,999	-	-
\$45,000 – \$49,999	3	23%
\$50,000 - \$54,999	7	54%
\$55,000 +	-	-
No Answer	2	15%

Will you be paid for overtime? (N=13)

Overtime?	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	1	8%
No	10	77%
Don't Know	2	15%

Is the CPA license a requirement for the job? (N=13)

Requirement?	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	6	46%
No	5	39%
Don't Know	2	15%

Will your employer pay for CPA review courses? (N=13)

Pay?	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Yes	11	85%
No	-	-
Do not know	2	15%

What type of reward will you receive for passing the CPA exam? (N=13)

Reward	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Raise	-	-
Bonus	1	8%
Bonus if CPA passed w/in time	6	46%
Don't Know	3	23%
None	1	8%
No Answer	2	15%

10. Which course or courses in the MAcy Program have been especially valuable to your professional or personal growth? (N=23)

Where 1: Not Valuable; 2: Least Valuable; 3: Somewhat Valuable; 4: Moderately Valuable; 5: Quite Valuable; 6: Most Valuable

Most Valuable Courses	Average Rating (0-6)	Did Not Take
Financial/Managerial Accounting	4.64	1
Intermediate Accounting I	5.09	1
Intermediate Accounting II	5.05	1
Advanced Accounting	4.44	5
Topics in Financial Accounting (5360 or 5315)	4.5	1
Auditing	4.67	2
Cost and Management Accounting	4.20	3
Advanced Tax Concepts	5	4
Seminar in Audit	3.82	12
Fraud	4.4	8
Tax Research	5.08	11
Professional Accounting Research	4.08	11
Accounting Information Systems	3.87	-
Financial Statement Analysis	4.67	20
Partnership Tax	4.91	12
Business Information Consulting	4.17	17
Corporate Governance & Ethics	4.24	2
Tax Practice	4.75	19
MBA Elective	3.94	7

Why?

I feel like my tax courses – partnership, practice and advanced concepts really helped me understand tax and related to real world situations.

I got the most or the least out of a class mostly depending on the professor. For my job I will use tax including tax research and financial accounting skills. One thing as a staff accountant you have to do is year-end journal entries in multiple types of software. We didn't learn those types of simple transactions, which I now feel I should know without having to ask.

11. Which course or courses should be added to the MAcy curriculum in order to enhance the professional growth of students in the future? (N=23)

Class	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Additional Tax Courses	7	30%
IT Auditing	11	48%
None	5	22%
Other: Outline courses around CPA exams More Audit Governmental Accounting	3	13%

(In this question, the percentage is greater than 100 because a person may respond to more than one choice)

Why?

For students to be able to have a wider election of graduate accounting courses.
Texas State need to compete with other schools that have a tax route so other firms will recruit students to work in tax.
Governmental accounting is only offered for the undergraduate program and it would be beneficial to take the course for the MAcy program because the material will be on the CPA exam.
The focus of the current accounting program focuses too much on audit. If it were not for Dr. Thompson, anyone pursuing a career as a tax accountant would be at a huge disadvantage.
Not a big fan of having students lecture/present problems in class. If we need to work on public speaking, make that a required course for the MAcy program. Noticed quite a bit of classes have that teaching style at Texas State. Slows the class down and provides little value.
When you decide on taking an internship, for most people the only tax class you've had is individual. We should offer a basic Tax 101 class for undergrad so students have a better understanding of what they're getting into tax or audit. And the audit classes I think should be switched, internal to graduate and external to undergrad.
Growing career field.

12. Which course or courses should be deleted from the MAcy curriculum? (N=23)

Courses	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Advanced Accounting	1	4%
Auditing	1	4%
Fraud	1	4%
Cost and Management Accounting	1	4%
Accounting Information Systems	1	4%
Partnership Tax	1	4%
Business Information Consulting	1	4%
Professional Accounting Research	1	4%
None	18	78%

(In this question, the percentage is greater than 100 because a person may respond to more than one choice.)

Why?

They are all valuable courses.
The seminar in audit class is a pointless class for anyone who wants to go into public accounting. There is no reason to learn concepts related to a CIA when we want to be CPAs.
I feel that the MAcy program is a well balanced program that integrates many different topics of accounting.
The accounting research covers way too many research databases. This class should be tailored to either tax or audit or financial and students can then learn and remember how to use certain databases correctly. I don't think you get the full benefit of these databases by using them only once or twice.

13. What are the strengths of the MAcy Program? (N=23)

Strengths	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Professors	13	57%
CPA Preparation	13	57%
Accounting Administration	5	22%
Class Size	17	74%
Advising	1	4%
Other	-	-

(In this question, the percentage is greater than 100 because a person may respond to more than one choice.)

14. What could the Accounting Department do to improve the MAcy Program? (N=23)

Improvements	Frequency	Percentage of Response
More electives	8	35%
More CPA review	14	61%
More day classes	3	13%
More night classes	3	13%
Other	5	22%

Other:

Better graduate advisors.
Finance classes as a choice.
Make classes available because I wanted to take financial report analysis but it was not offered.
Less student instructors, more prepared instructors.
Program structured in way such that students only take one class their last semester so that there is time available to study and take parts of the CPA before starting full-time employment.

N=23	Satisfaction Level in MAcy						
	Mean	Very Satisfied =5	Satisfied =4	Neutral =3	Unsatisfied =2	Very Unsatisfied =1	No Opinion
16. Written Communications	4.09	5	15	3	-	-	-
17. Oral Communications	3.91	3	15	5	-	-	-
18. Information Technology	3.65	3	10	9	1	-	-
19. Analytical Skills	3.96	4	14	5	-	-	-
20. Legal/Regulatory Issues	3.78	2	14	7	-	-	-
21. Global Issues	3.32	2	7	9	4	-	1
22. Teamwork	4.05	7	10	4	1	-	1
23. Leadership	3.70	4	9	9	1	-	-
24. Reflective Thinking	3.74	5	10	5	3	-	-
25. Cultural Understanding/Diversity	3.57	3	11	6	2	1	-
26. Ethical Understanding	4.09	6	13	4	-	-	-
27. Accounting Knowledge	4.09	8	11	2	2	-	-
28. Critical Thinking	4	8	9	4	2	-	-
29. Research Skills	4	6	12	2	2	-	1

N=23	Importance in Future Career						
	Mean	Very Important =5	Important =4	Neutral =3	Unimportant =2	Very Unimportant =1	No Opinion
16. Written Communications	4.39	13	8	1	-	1	-
17. Oral Communications	4.39	14	6	2	-	1	-
18. Information Technology	3.91	7	10	4	1	1	-
19. Analytical Skills	4.35	12	9	1	-	1	-
20. Legal/Regulatory Issues	4.26	13	5	4	-	1	-
21. Global Issues	3.83	6	10	5	1	1	-

22. Teamwork	4.43	14	7	1	-	1	-
23. Leadership	4.37	13	8	1	-	1	-
24. Reflective Thinking	4.04	7	12	3	-	1	-
25. Cultural Understanding/ Diversity	3.96	7	11	3	1	1	-
26. Ethical Understanding	4.39	14	6	2	-	1	-
27. Accounting Knowledge	4.43	14	7	1	-	1	-
28. Critical Thinking	4.48	16	4	2	-	1	-
29. Research Skills	4.17	9	11	2	-	1	-

Finally, we need to know how you feel about the following. If you Disagree or Strongly Disagree, please tell us why in the Comments section.

30. My academic work in the Texas State McCoy College of Business Administration prepared me for employment in my field. (N=23)

	Frequency	Percentage of Response
Strongly Agree	6	26%
Agree	13	57%
Neutral	3	13%
Disagree	1	4%
Strongly Disagree	-	-
No Opinion	-	-

Why?

I am going into tax, and Dr. Thompson by far exceeded any other professor or teacher I have ever had. He is a great teacher and should be used as an example of what all teachers should be like. He actually cares and shows an invested interest in our education.
I'm employed as a financial analyst. Accounting helps me gain a broader understanding of the business, but not essential to my development.
I do not feel I gained the adequate tax knowledge needed for my internship. I lacked the basic concepts needed to prepare tax returns. I relied on individual tax and my intermediates, all of which had been taken 2 years prior, to help complete my job.

Other comments or thoughts you would like to share with us:

I think it would be a great benefit to have an academic advisor that knew what was going on with the MAcy program. From my experience, the current advisor is somewhat clueless on basic issues such as the maximum number of hours a graduate student can take in a semester.
Maybe some of the professors need to be better motivated about courses they are teaching. A lot of lectures seem to be conducted in an unenthusiastic manner and the passion to teach and interest in making students learn and reflect about issues are a little lacking. I did attend a cheaper and less reputable university for my undergraduate degree and I happened to get more for my money there. During my program at McCoy, there

were lots of times I wished that our school had better educators. While my undergraduate business school left me with memories of great education albeit some organization issues, and enthusiastic professors who cared about their students & knew their stuff, McCoy will probably leave me with memories of good organization, countless opportunities for networking and employment, affordable program, and okay education.

I think the professors make a HUGE impact not only on each individual class, but on career choices in general. There should be someone who sits in on these professors to ensure the teaching style is sufficient and the students are being taught what they need to compete with other universities. It seems as I worked through my college career, there was one good professor for two-three poor ones. One of the best professors I have had was Dr. Thompson.