Tab 1

FAQ

General Academic Help

How do you recommend studying for Accounting 229?

- Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a great resource to get started if you just need more practice and a little help understanding the material
- The Help Desk can be a great resource on top of getting your quiz checked they can help explain some of the material to help you understand it
- Before any of the exams make sure you do the practice exams given to you as they are old exams for the class and the same style as the exam
- For more general study tips the Academic Success Center has great resources here

How do you recommend studying for ISTM 210?

- Plan to finish all HW at least a day early (the earlier the better) since there can be weird technical glitches this way you have a chance to resolve the issue before it is due
- Prepare to spend more time than expected on the assignments as they are hard to estimate the time they take to complete
- For more general study tips the Academic Success Center has great resources here

Can I take X business class at community college?

- You will be able to if they offer it but you should talk to an advisor about that specific class along with their recommendation
- The biggest thing is to make sure and take ACCT 229 at Texas A&M if you want to be an accounting major (you will be required to at least audit the class as an accounting major)

Do I need to follow my degree plan to the letter?

- No feel free to talk to your advisor to switch classes due to availability or to separate harder classes over more semesters
- In fact, we recommend not following the degree plan, especially in the case of taking ACCT 327, FINC 341, MGMT 311, and MKTG 321 in the same semester due to the time commitment involved in each class we recommend taking two max together a semester

What are the best ways to manage harder classes within Mays with your other classes/electives?

- Use study resources available for that class from practice exams to SI if offered
- Get advice from people who have taken that class already you know (Reach out to your mentor!!!)
- Find friends who are going to make you feel comfortable and don't push your boundaries, but most importantly who will keep you accountable

What resources have you found most useful within Mays?

- Accounting help desks
- Honestly just finding a friend in each class so you have someone to talk about the class with is an amazing resource. They also can help keep you accountable for the class.

PPA & Career FAQ

When do I need to apply for PPA?

- Apply for PPA when you are in 327 or in the Spring semester if you take 327 in the fall

What are the requirements for PPA?

- 3.0 GPA (Recommended is higher and will be told to you the semester you apply)
- B in ACCT 327 (A is nice but definitely not needed)
- In ACCT 327 or completed it
- They also like to see involvement besides school whether that is in an organization (Like AAA!) or a job

What can I start doing to prepare for PPA?

PPA is looking for well-rounded students

- Being involved on campus (AAA is a great way to do this)
- Maintaining a minimum 3.0+ GPA
- Building professional skills so you are ready for PPA recruitment

When do I do my PPA internship?

- Traditional PPA internship is done during your spring semester of senior year (This should be your second spring semester in PPA)
- Some lines do internships at different times including some summer but those are rarer with the expectation of IT Audit who does most of their internships during the Fall

What track should I do/ be thinking about?

It depends on which one you want to do but here are some things to think about

- You should choose a track either because you want to learn more about that subject or because you want a career that's aligned with that track. For example, the Financial Planning/Wealth Management track covers the education needed for Certified Financial Planning (CFP)
- Don't be afraid of making your track decision as you can reasonably change it until you get deeper into the master classes with the one expectation being changing to Finance due to its application process

What do I do if I want to major in accounting but end up not liking/doing badly in Accounting 229/327?

There are still options depending on what you would like to do.

- If you still want to pursue being a CPA and you don't get into PPA you can still do a master's degree in accounting even at TAMU without doing PPA which gets the same Big4 recruiting that PPA does
- You can also go into government accounting. This has many options, including some with lower GPA averages and less needed accounting classes.

Certificate Programs & Certifications

Should I do an accounting certificate program?

Depends on what you want out of the program

- Learning more about that topic from classes and professionals go for it
- Want to expand your knowledge and boost your resume go for it
- Want to have more networking opportunities go for it
- These programs do not grant a professional certification as there are TAMU Certificates but can help you prepare for them like is the case for the Internal Audit Program which can prepare you for the Certified Internal Auditor certification

Should I pursue X certification?

It depends on what you want to do

- CPA is a great certification with many firms and companies even offering bonuses for it on top of paying for the study materials. Still, it is not needed for everyone and you do not have to get it if you do not want to. The only people who legally need to be a CPA is an Audit Partner signing off on the audit report, otherwise many other professionals in accounting do not need it. That is not to say it is useless, it is very useful and CPA's do on average make more than non-CPAs but there are other paths.
- Enrolled Agent (EA) is a tax-only designation that gives people the same rights as CPAs & Attorneys to represent people on taxes along with providing the same services.
- There are also specific certifications that can make career sense depending on what you would like to do in accounting. These certifications are Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Management Accountant (CMA), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), CFP, and many more.