

CERTIFICATE IN FORENSIC ACCOUNTING

Forensic accounting is the application of general theories and methodologies of accounting for purpose of resolving financial issues in a legal setting. The **Forensic Accounting Certificate** provides in-depth learning opportunities to advance students' knowledge of fraud examination and to develop skills in the use of investigative and analytical techniques to resolve allegations of fraud and other potential white-collar and financial crimes. The certificate provides comprehensive coverage of all types of financial crimes, but concentrates on fraud prevention, fraud detection, fraud investigation and remediation. The types of fraud schemes studied include corruption schemes, asset misappropriation, and fraudulent financial statements.

The required sequence of courses is beneficial for anyone who wants to help reduce the cost of fraud in business, government or non-profit organizations. The certificate also provides students the opportunity to improve their career prospects by developing practical skills and providing learning outcomes valued in both the private and public sectors. The certificate covers the four main sections of the professional certification in fraud examination offered by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. These sections include: (1) financial transactions and fraud schemes, (2) law, (3) investigation, and (4) fraud prevention and deterrence.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – 24 CREDIT HOURS

ACC 250 Introduction to Accounting

This course will consider topics that are basic to the accounting process while giving attention to criminal accounting manipulations. Students completing this course will have a broad understanding of the accounting cycle. Students will gain knowledge of the basic accounts found in the accounting system including revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity accounts. Students will learn how to prepare basic financial statements and analyze them to determine the fiscal viability of an organization. Attention will be given to cases involving accounting scandals and frauds. This course prepares students for ACC 307 Forensic Accounting I.

Prerequisite: ENG 101

ACC 251 Introduction to Managerial Accounting

This course introduces financial and managerial accounting, with an emphasis on managerial reporting. It provides students with the necessary skills to interpret, analyze, and research financial statement information. Students will acquire a basic understanding of how financial accounting affects the managerial accounting process and how to use financial statements to monitor budgets. Students will apply these skills to supervise daily operations, plan future operations and develop overall organizational strategies. The course prepares students for ACC 307 Forensic Accounting I.

Prerequisite: ENG 101

ACC 264 Business Law (Same course as LAW 264)

This course covers the role of law in business with a focus on contractual and other civil law. Topics include the legal environment, agency, the Uniform Commercial Code, debtor-creditor relationships, government regulation of business, and business structure. The course requires case analysis, problem solving, and oral and written communication.

Prerequisite: ENG 101

ACC 265 Digital Forensics for the Fraud Examiner

This course provides an overview of processes and techniques used by digital forensic examiners. Best practices for securing, obtaining, and analyzing digital evidence pertaining to fraud investigations are studied. Basic knowledge of computer hardware, equipment and specialized forensic software applications is also covered. This course is designed for students who want to work more effectively with computer forensic specialists and students who want to prepare for more advanced and specialized study in digital forensics.

Prerequisite: ENG 101

ACC 307 Forensic Accounting I

This course provides students with an overview of forensic accounting. It will examine methods and approaches used to uncover fraud, fraud theories, fraud patterns and schemes, fraud concealment strategies, evidence collection and legal elements of fraud. Case studies will be used to make distinctions between intentional deceptions and negligent misrepresentations or omissions. Income statements and balance sheets will be used for risk analysis. Students will learn to detect concealment in financial statement notes and analytical methods to infer income concealment.

Prerequisites: ENG 102 or 201, and ACC 250

ACC 308 Auditing

This course is a study of the processes conducted by independent, internal and government accountants to provide auditing and assurance services on information provided by management. Theoretical concepts of materiality, audit risk, and evidential matter are explored, along with the auditor's understanding of internal controls, with an emphasis on fraud prevention.

Prerequisites: ENG 102 or 201, and ACC 307

ACC 309 Forensic Accounting II

This course provides an understanding of how specific types of frauds are committed against an organization and on behalf of an organization. By learning how managers and employees commit frauds, students will be better prepared to prevent, detect and investigate those frauds. Expert witnessing and reporting are also covered.

Prerequisites: ENG 102 or 201, and ACC 307

ACC 410 Seminar in Forensic Financial Analysis

This seminar course provides an understanding of financial statement analysis techniques and commercial data-mining software. Statistical and analytic methods are used to evaluate potential fraud activities.

Prerequisites: ENG 102 or 201, ACC 308, ACC 309

"You may find, to your surprise, that fraud examination and forensic accounting are not only rewarding and challenging, but they are also intriguing and endlessly interesting (what good mystery isn't?). We hope you enjoy the adventure."

- W. Steve Albrecht