Accounting and Legal Studies Department

MAJOR
- Accounting

MINOR
- Accounting

About the Department
The Department of Accounting and Legal Studies mission is to produce graduates who possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to meet the challenges they will face in a globally competitive environment while maintaining high ethical standards in the discharge of their responsibilities. The required coursework for the major satisfies all of the requirements to sit for the Uniform CPA examination in Maryland. In order to satisfy Maryland’s 150 credit hour requirement for actual licensure, interested students may take additional undergraduate coursework or earn the Perdue School Master of Business Administration. See www.dllr.state.md.us/license/cpa/cpareq.shtml for a detailed description of the CPA licensure requirements for candidates in the State of Maryland.

Your Own Sim Company
All accounting majors complete the Business Activity Model simulation. BAM introduces students to a fictitious company during the first seven years of its life cycle. Students divide into teams and are provided with client-prepared financial statements and records. They are charged with determining whether the financial statements are in accordance with GAAP. By means of in-class interview sessions with the “client”, i.e., the professor, as well as through outside research of the underlying subject matter, they assess the propriety of the client’s treatment of the transactions in question. Based on their research they prepare and present correcting journal entries followed by a complete set of financial statements and note disclosures. This process is repeated for each subsequent year of the fictitious company’s life. During this process, the students research the major topics typically covered in the intermediate accounting sequence.

Community Service Audit
All accounting majors also complete the Community Service Audit Internship as an experiential component of the auditing class. Under guidance and supervision of the professor, students conduct live reviews of various non-profits, religious organizations and neighborhood associations. The client base includes Habitat for Humanity, the Maryland Agricultural Extension and other notable organizations. This component of the course provides invaluable experience and a unique learning opportunity to the students as well as professional service to the aforementioned client groups that they might otherwise be unable to afford. These services are not perfunctory in nature—prior engagements have uncovered actual fraud on the part of client personnel.

Internship Experience
Many accounting majors elect to participate in an elective Applied Business Learning Experience (ABLE) internship with a public accounting firm, private corporation or a government agency. Typically, students participate in these paid internships in the summer after their junior year of studies, and in many cases, they receive offers of full-time employment upon graduation after completing their internships.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Students who have graduated from the Accounting and Legal Studies Department have gone on to careers in:
- International, national, regional and local public accounting firms
- Private industry
- National, state and local governmental agencies
- Graduate school
- Academia

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow by 18 percent for the period spanning 2006 to 2016, which is faster than the average for all occupations.

www.salisbury.edu/AcctLegal