

Re: Additional registration information  
From: Jim Seida and Tabitha Kingsbury  
Date: July 20, 2023

Hi MSAs,

The purpose of this message is to clarify some curriculum and procedural items related to the MSA Program but, more specifically, for the upcoming course registration. Some of the items discussed are in response to specific questions we have received. In addition to the information below, I also want to let you know that Tabitha and I will host an open registration question session [via Zoom](#) on **Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. EST.**

Initial course registration takes place on **July 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm EST.** We encourage you to log on right at 12:00pm EST that day to register. You will register for the Fall 2023 semester which includes: semester long courses, Module 1, and Module 2 courses. As noted in our registration webinar, there are procedures in place to be put on a waitlist for a particular course. The waitlist will open July 28th at 5:00pm EST and is found here: [Waitlist Request form](#).

Before getting into specific registration process and course information, I want to clarify the basic MSA degree requirements and terminology regarding the Data Analytics Concentration/Major because there have been several questions about this.

### **Data Analytics Concentration/Major and related courses**

Both tracks in the MSA program (ASAS or TAX) require a minimum of 30 credit hours regardless if you decide to complete the Data Analytics Concentration/Major. Each student needs to decide between the Assurance and Advisory Services (ASAS) track and the Tax Services (TAX). Students in both tracks can elect to add the Data Analytics Concentration/Major.

The terminology around the Data Analytics Concentration/Major requires some clarification. Specifically, the terms *concentration* and *major*. When the data analytics course options were created the ND Accountancy Department referred to it as a *Concentration* because we wanted to create a formal mechanism that would note the package of data analytic courses on the student's official transcript. During the later process of STEM designating the MSA with the Data Analytics Concentration a separate degree code and major was necessary to meet federal requirements for the STEM designation. Thus, the degree name reflected on the official transcript for students completing the Data Analytics Concentration is 'Master of Science in Accountancy with Data Analytics.' This is why the term *major* is also used when referring to the Data Analytics Concentration. If one elects not to complete the Data Analytics Concentration, the official degree name on the transcript is 'Master of Science in Accountancy'. The actual Notre Dame diploma looks the same for both degrees.

The STEM designation is important for international students (i.e., non-U.S. citizens) because international students that receive a STEM designated degree have an additional 24 months of optional practical training (OPT) period. The STEM designation does not affect the employment status of other students. The decision to complete the Data Analytics Concentration/Major is typically based on one's assessment of your existing data analytic skills, career goals, and curriculum constraints. Many of the data analytics courses are geared to take you from the introductory level in a specific tool (e.g., Tableau, Alteryx, and Python) and develop expertise and connections to accounting applications. The courses do not have prerequisites. Students can enroll in the data analytics courses regardless if they have elected the Concentration/Major or not.

## Curriculum and Procedural Items

-The MSA program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours. You can complete more than 30 credit hours and many do complete more than 30 credit hours. The tuition cost for each semester does not change with your credit hour load. For example, the tuition for a fall semester schedule with 14 credit hours is the same as that for a schedule with 17 credit hours.

-You should identify a track (ASAS or TAX) prior to the July 26<sup>th</sup> registration date. Make sure that you are enrolled in the required courses for your chosen track and note the term that the course is offered. Most MSA courses are only offered during a particular semester/module. Please consult the [track sheets](#). If you change your track between registration and classes starting, please make sure you adjust your schedule. If you wish to update your track or concentration/major you can do so via this [form](#).

-You have considerable flexibility when creating your schedule in Notre Dame's MSA program. You must make sure that you will complete the specific requirements for your chosen track and, if applicable, the Data Analytics Concentration/Major. Your remaining credit hours to complete your degree requirements can come from any courses listed on the track sheet. For example, you can take several track specific electives, MBA finance courses, and/or some data analytic courses to meet the 30-credit hour minimum requirement. You can take other Notre Dame courses outside Mendoza not shown on the track sheet but those will not count toward the 30-credit hour requirement.

-Some MSA and MBA courses will fill up during the registration period. If your desired course is full, please follow the waitlist procedure. We will do our best to accommodate your class preference. If for some reason you are not able to register for a required MSA track course during registration, we will resolve this issue. In some cases, the MBA elective classes will quickly fill up due to the limited available MSA seats. If there are unused seats available in the MBA course, we can often add you to the class after MBA registration is complete.

-There are more requests for RA/TA positions than we have positions in Mendoza. Notre Dame does not employ as many TAs as other schools due to the nature of our undergraduate curriculum. Some students desiring some employment do find other part-time positions at Notre Dame. The MSA program is rigorous and will keep you busy.

-In early August, you will receive an email from Lisa Michaels (MSA Career Development Coach) inquiring if you plan to utilize Notre Dame's Career Development office to find a full-time job opportunity. If you plan to participate in fall recruiting at Notre Dame, she will request that you send a resume to her directly to be reviewed by her office. Additionally, Lisa will provide additional details on upcoming career prep workshops and events. Recruiting activity starts very early in the fall semester so be prepared to begin working with Lisa when you arrive on campus during orientation. If you have any questions, please reach out to her directly at [lmichael@nd.edu](mailto:lmichael@nd.edu).

If you plan on taking advantage of Notre Dame's career services to find a job position, I encourage you to reach out to Lisa Michaels ([lmichael@nd.edu](mailto:lmichael@nd.edu)) in Career Services to review your resume and to possibly set up a mock interview. Recruiting activity starts very early in the fall semester and it is best to start preparing before the semester begins.

-CPA exam eligibility. If the state that you plan on sitting for the CPA exam has some specific requirements, please make sure that you sign up for the correct courses. For example, Texas requires the Ethics in Accounting course and an approved business communication course. For those sitting for the exam in Illinois and New York, there are not any specific course requirements under existing rules.

## Courses:

-Sustainability courses. There are two courses offered in the sustainability area. Professor Easton offers a 3-credit hour course titled *Accountability in a Sustainable World* to the Notre Dame community during the fall semester. This course (MSA 70173) is considered a general elective for both the ASAS and Tax track. Prof. Vera- Muñoz offers a 2-credit hour course titled *Corporate Sustainability Reporting*, MSA 70190, during module two. This course is only open to MSA students and was added for the 23-24 academic year. Please consult the course descriptions for additional information and any restrictions.

-International Tax (tax elective). There are a considerable number of tax electives available. The International Taxation (MSA 70171) course is an elective course. The course meets on Monday evenings during module one. International tax is an important area of tax. This course starts on day one of the semester and I strongly encourage tax track students, and other interested students, to consider this course.

-Ethics in Tax. Professor Brian Levey is offering a revamped 2-credit hour Ethics in Tax (MSA 70176) course during mod 2. This will be the first time this specific version of the course is being offered. Professor Levey also teaches a 3-credit hour Ethics in Accounting course during the spring semester. There will be some overlap in the ethical framework across these two courses. The Ethics in Tax course will **not** meet the 3 credit hour ethics CPA requirement in Texas.

-Graduate Why Business? The *Why Business?* course is a distinctively Notre Dame course. It is designed to engage ideas from the Catholic tradition with perspectives drawn from moral philosophy, business, and economics. There are not any prerequisites for this course. This 3-credit hour course is a cross-listed course with the ND undergrad honors program course and includes a Monday large lecture session and a Wednesday discussion session. The course is offered in both semesters. Many MSA students that have taken this course in prior years have commented favorably about their experience in this course.

-Grow Irish Week (Interterm) courses. There will be 1-credit hour course offered over the interterm periods. Corporate Valuation and Financial Modeling are being taught by Training the Street during the Fall Grow Irish. The Spring Grow Irish Week courses are Applied Excel and Merger Consequences & Leveraged Buyouts.

-Textbooks. A number of MSA courses do not have a required textbook because the instructor compiles materials for the students. For those courses that require books, please make sure to purchase the books prior to the course. The Notre Dame Bookstore should carry the required books. Books can be purchased and then picked up at the bookstore upon your arrival.

If you have any additional questions on your courses or the MSA program, please contact Tabitha or myself, or log on to the open registration question session [via Zoom](#) on **Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. EST**. We look forward to welcoming you on campus soon!

Zoom Link: <https://notredame.zoom.us/j/94700779099>

Go Irish!