# Features & Advantages

## SF State Scholars (4+1) Program in Accounting vs. Traditional Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA)/ Master of Science in Accounting and Analytics (MSAA)

The SF State Scholars (4+1) Program in Accounting provides an accelerated, more affordable pathway to an advanced accounting degree, while also offering clear career advantages over the traditional MSA/MSAA route.

### 1. Accelerated Pathway to the MSAA Degree

- Earn both a BSBA and an MSAA in just five years with careful planning.
- Regular MSA/MSAA students typically spend 18–24 months after the bachelor's degree to earn only the graduate degree.

### 2. Significant Cost Savings

- Graduate courses taken during the undergraduate program are billed at the undergraduate tuition rate.
- Average savings: $5,643 (based on Fall 2025 tuition) for four graduate courses taken early.
- Traditional MSA/MSAA students pay full graduate tuition for the same courses.

### 3. Streamlined Admission Process

- No GMAT/GRE required
- No letters of recommendation required
- No application fee
- Traditional MSA/MSAA applicants must typically submit test scores, recommendations, and pay fees.

### 4. Career Advantages

- Earlier workforce entry: Complete both degrees in five years instead of six or more.
- Enhanced CPA preparation: With careful advising, the curriculum fulfills the 150-unit requirement for licensure. Note: Beginning Jan 1, 2027, the new AB 1175 alternative pathway takes effect.
- Stronger job market competitiveness: Signals academic excellence and efficiency in preparation.
- Higher earning potential sooner: Master's graduates often command higher starting salaries.

# SF State Scholars Program in Accounting

**BSBA + MSAA (4+1) Program | Spring 2026 Admission**

### Minimum Eligibility

- Accounting major only (no double majors, minors are acceptable)
- 3.0+ Cumulative GPA
- ACCT 100 & 101 or equivalent transfer courses (B- or higher)
- ACCT 301 (B- or higher) – students taking it in Fall 2025 may apply
- Not applied for BSBA graduation
- Apply before completing 90–105 units (as of Fall 2025), but some flexibility may be allowed
- Strong English fluency & communication skills
- After admission, students must maintain **undergraduate standing for at least two semesters** (Spring 2026 and Fall 2026) before transitioning to the graduate program. Students must also maintain **graduate standing for at least two regular semesters.**

### Application Instructions

- Complete the **application form** using the link below. Please note: a **resume** must be uploaded as part of the application.
  https://sfsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3rgF16ZAaHyx6C2
- Deadline: Tuesday, **December 2**, 2025, by 11:59 p.m.

***Late or incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.***

### Required Actions After Submitting Application:

- Admission decisions: Department review (completed after fall 2025 ends) → University final decision (made at the beginning of the spring 2026)
- Applicants **must respond** to all communications regarding 4+1 program admission from the department or university within the specified deadline. Failure to do so will result in admission being **revoked or denied**.
- Applicants are required to **attend an online advising session** during the designated time frame (to be announced at a later date) if their admission is recommended by the Department.

### 4+1 Application Q&A and Program Info Session via Zoom (Fall 2025)

**Zoom Meeting ID: 864 5565 5834** **Passcode: Meetamy**

- Fri, September 19 | 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Fri, October 10 | 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Fri, November 7 | 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact MSAA Director, Professor Amy Chang: amychang@sfsu.edu
(Do not contact General Academic Advising for this program)

# Overview of the SF State Scholars Program in Accounting

## Combined BSBA + MSAA Pathway (Spring 2026 Admission)

The SF State Scholars Program in Accounting is a combined pathway that awards both the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA – Accounting concentration) and the Master of Science in Accounting and Analytics (MSAA).

The SF State Scholar Program in Accounting provides a clear, structured pathway to earn both BSBA and MSA degrees efficiently, with cost-saving opportunities and early access to graduate-level coursework.

### Program Overview

- Students earn both degrees upon completing all requirements.
- BSBA is awarded once all undergraduate requirements are met (typically the semester before transitioning to graduate status).
- MSAA is awarded separately after completing all graduate requirements.
- Students may participate in both University-wide and Department of Accounting graduation ceremonies for BSBA and MSAA degrees, but must apply for each graduation separately.

### Degree Requirements

- Completion of all BSBA requirements plus 10 graduate courses (30 semester units).
- Up to 4 graduate courses may be taken during the undergraduate program (with advising approval).
- Graduate courses taken while still an undergraduate are billed at the undergraduate tuition rate.
- Students must maintain undergraduate standing for at least two semesters (Spring 2026 and Fall 2026).
- First semester as an SF State Scholar: Spring 2026.
- Earliest possible BSBA degree conferral: Fall 2026.
- Earliest full transition into MSAA program: Spring 2027.
- Students must maintain graduate standing for at least two semesters after transition.
- Earliest possible MSAA degree conferral = Fall 2027 (if transitioned in Spring 2027).

### Tuition & Fees

- Undergraduate phase: Tuition is charged at the undergraduate rate (based on total enrolled units, including graduate courses). Non-residents, including international students, pay an additional per-unit surcharge.
- Graduate phase: Tuition is charged at the graduate rate.

- Tuition rates are based on Fall 2025 and subject to change. See details at: https://bursar.sfsu.edu/students/upcoming-academic-year.
  - Example 1 (Based on Fall 2025 rate): CA resident, 12 graduate units → $9,807; Non-resident → $15,135.
  - Example 2 (Based on Fall 2025 rate): CA resident, 6 graduate units → $5,797; Non-resident → $8,461.

- Per University policy, students with 120 applicable units must transition to graduate status, even if undergraduate requirements are not yet complete. Graduate tuition applies once this transition occurs.

## Financial Aid

Students should contact the Office of Financial Aid for information on aid eligibility and support under the Scholar Program.