



Preparing students for the CPA Exam and beyond

A powerful redesign

In 2018, Baldwin Wallace University (BWU) replaced its MBA program with a new Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program. During the program's development, Dr. Linda Chase, chair, Accounting and Business Law, and professor, Business Administration, and the rest of the BWU team made it a point to ensure students were fully prepared for a successful career upon graduation. "We are teaching to the profession," said Dr. Chase. "Passing the CPA Exam is a short-term goal. Ultimately, we want students to be ready to thrive in their careers within the accounting profession." BWU understood that the CPA Exam is where a successful career starts and didn't want to leave anything to chance. "Historically, once you graduate a student, they're on their own to either show up at an in-person CPA study session or do the self-study option," said Chase. "And you just have to keep your fingers crossed that they're putting the time in before they actually sit. We decided in that one year of development that we would partner with Becker. And it has been incredibly successful."

In 2021, Ohio lowered its requirements to sit for the CPA Exam from 150 to 120 credit hours. This put BWU students in the perfect position because the structure of

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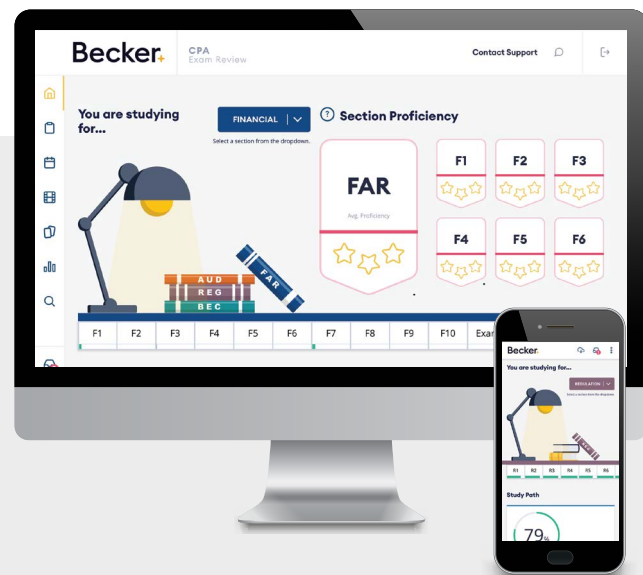


Dr. Linda Chase, Chair,
Accounting and Business Law, and
Professor, Business Administration

their program was already helping them get Exam Day ReadySM. "We align the content in our courses to match the responsibilities within the Becker course," said Dr. Chase. Students are tasked with completing all their assigned Becker modules before class each week, and

MATERIALS AND SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

- Integrated CPA Exam Review
- Partnership for potential student savings
- Custom offering
- Account manager partnership and support



then faculty work with them on the most challenging areas. Faculty also incorporate other Becker materials within the curriculum, such as projects, case studies and quizzes. All of this sets BWU students up to learn and pass all four CPA Exam sections before graduation. Dr. Chase sees this as a key indicator that a student is ready: “Our accounting profession has a fantastic model, in the CPA Exams, that reference the work being done out in the field.”

Customized for every professor

While each class that enters BWU’s MAcc program has learned the same material up until that point, that doesn’t mean all their needs are the same once they’re in the program. “In one class, we might need to cover more bonds or leases, instead of one particular audit report that everybody seems to be getting an understanding of right away,” said Dr. Chase. On top of that, each professor teaches in their unique way, which makes Becker’s adaptability a game changer. With a wide range of on-demand course offerings and tools, BWU faculty can personally shape how Becker is used within their courses on a class-by-class basis.

Identifying curriculum gaps

BWU’s MAcc program champions student success through its capstone courses. A chance to review all the knowledge having been taught along the way, these courses are embedded into the MAcc program at no cost to students. And to provide the best review experience possible, BWU uses Becker CPA Exam Review to guide students along the way, section by section. “I recommend that universities that partner with Becker dig into their curriculum to see where it could support CPA Exam Review material,” said Dr. Chase. “A capstone course that is placed strategically within the curriculum makes a big difference in student learning.”

Results

With a strategically designed MAcc program and strong Becker partnership, BWU is achieving its goal of fully preparing students for a successful career upon graduation. A recent BWU MAcc graduate, Kelly, was thrilled to share her successful journey with Dr. Chase: “And that’s a wrap. I am so happy to tell you, I officially passed all four CPA [Exam sections] on the first attempt.”

Becker⁺

Results are as reported by Baldwin Wallace University.
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