DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
The Babson MSA degree requires 30 credits of coursework:

• 21 credits – core program
• 9 credits – graduate elective courses

CORE CURRICULUM (21 credits)
Advanced Financial Statement Analysis (3 Credits)
The objective of this course is to sharpen the skills you will need to analyze and interpret financial statements effectively. Some of the topics we will cover in the course are earnings quality, off-balance sheet financing, inter-corporate investments and consolidations, equity carve-outs, employee stock options, derivatives, foreign currency translation, leases, pensions, and deferred taxes. We also will delve more deeply into the topics of earnings management and ratio analysis and discuss techniques commonly utilized in the valuation of common stock.

Strategic Business and Tax Planning (3 Credits)
Tax planning is a crucial part of any strategic business plan. This course provides the opportunity to become familiar with sophisticated tax as well as related corporate and securities law concepts as they might be encountered within typical business transactions. We will cover tax implications associated with choice of legal entity, pass through entities, securities offerings, distributions, buyouts, acquiring and selling a business and doing business across borders. We will follow the life of a company through its life cycle from start-up to a multi-national enterprise.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation in Service Industries (1.5 credits)
This course focuses on appreciating and understanding the role of entrepreneurship and innovation in service industries; specifically in the areas of Accounting, Financial, Law, Audit and Tax Services (AFLAT). You will learn the tools, concepts, and methods of the disciplines of entrepreneurship and innovation at the broad level and then apply them in the AFLAT context. The application of the learning will come in a team Signature Learning Experience (SLE) that will run throughout the course.

Advanced Accounting Topics (3 credits)
This course introduces you to engagements such as forensics, compilations, reviews and other services, a conceptual comparison of IFRS and US-GAAP, foreign currency transactions, nonprofit and government accounting and reporting, and other industry and international specific current complex accounting topics.

Intro Data Science Business Analytics (1.5 credits)
This course is an introduction to data science – the science of iterative exploration of data that can be used to gain insights and optimize business processes. We will discuss the data analytics lifecycle, and introduce predictive analytics techniques in the context of real-world applications from diverse business areas such as database marketing, financial forecasting, and operations. The focus is on framing business problems as analytics problems. A brief map of applications and an overview is provided for advanced methods for data visualization, logistic regression, decision tree learning methods, clustering, and association rules. You will gain exposure to different software packages for data visualization as well as R, the most popular open-source package used by data scientists around the world.

Accounting Analytics (1.5 credits)
Data and analytics are being used to assist businesses in preparing decision-ready accounting information of the highest quality as efficiently as possible. This course will improve your ability to critically analyze accounting data from the lens of a financial statement user, a manager and an auditor in order to make better business decisions and to communicate this information effectively to your audience. We will innovatively use analytics tools in financial statement, operational, tax, audit and forensic analyses.
Accounting Information Systems and Business Processes (3 credits)
This course examines the interplay between accounting functions, control and automated information systems as commonly found in business. You will learn how to use, evaluate, and audit automated systems, and understand state-of-the-art information systems as they relate to the organization and presentation of accounting data. In addition to concepts of information data quality, storage, retrieval and visualization, the course also introduces advanced technologies such as robotic process automation (RPA), blockchain, and cognitive computing. We will get “hands-on” with several applications and, working with a business, evaluate the internal controls of one of their business processes and corresponding systems.

Strategic Writing for Managers (1.5 Credits)
This course helps you become more efficient and effective writers of strategic corporate communications. Cases, readings, and assignments illustrate challenging communication problems that demand readable, succinct, substantive, persuasive writing. Assignments may range in applications to such issues as ownership structure, finance, investor relations, internal communications, production planning, and media and public relations. Class activities involve extensive peer review and editing of students’ writing.

Persuasive Business Presentations (1.5 Credits)
Managers and entrepreneurs need effective presentation skills to persuade key audiences, such as current and prospective clients, employees, team members and investors. A successful presentation depends on delivery and nonverbal factors as well as careful preparation and a logical organization of ideas. In this workshop format class, you will deliver formal presentations, which will be recorded to evaluate and enhance your techniques.

Professional Ethics, Responsibility, and Liability for CPAs (1.5 Credits)
This course provides in-depth coverage of the legal and professional ethical duties of accountants and auditors. The successful student will learn how to minimize the risk of catastrophic personal liability being prepared to recognize ethical questions encountered in the practice of accounting and respond to them, identify and apply legal and professional ethical standards, identify alternative decisions in analyzing an ethical dilemma, identify the impact of business actions on external stakeholders of the company and demonstrate the ability to make decisions based on professional standards.

Elective Curriculum (9 credits)
- Finance and U.S. Business Law must be taken as part of the elective courses if not taken prior to beginning the MSA program.
- Graduate level elective courses are either 3 or 1.5 credits.

Electives are available in many disciplines and can be chosen based upon your interest or intended career path. Below are a few suggested electives for different career path tracks. In addition, a wide variety of electives are offered each semester beyond the list below.

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If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at 781-239-4317.