Master of Science in Taxation
CSUN: A LEADER IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

Founded in 1958, California State University, Northridge (CSUN) is a vibrant, diverse community located in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. One of the nation's largest single-campus universities, CSUN encourages students to combine academic pursuits with hands-on experience. It also serves as the intellectual, economic and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

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WHY A CSUN MASTER’S DEGREE IN TAXATION

CSUN's M.S. in Taxation (MST) is offered by the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics — one of the nation’s largest business schools.

This advanced degree was created to help those in the field of taxation progress and excel in their professional careers. Our flexible program gives participants the choice to attend virtually or in-person to get the preparation they need to become professional tax advisers and consultants, as well as leading practitioners in both the private and public sectors.

A graduate degree in taxation offers practitioners the opportunity to advance in this increasingly complex field and command higher levels of compensation. According to the Robert Half 2015 Salary Guide, annual earnings of tax practitioners in large public accounting firms range from $63,250 to $83,250 for individuals with one to three years of experience. Individuals with master’s degrees typically earn up to 10 percent more.

In addition, this 18-month program provides the advanced knowledge and strong grounding in technical skills necessary for promotion to more senior positions in this complex, growing and rewarding field.

This graduate-level tax program helps to fulfill the most recent educational requirements for the California CPA licensure of 150 credit-unit hours.

Eighty-nine percent of the most recent graduating M.S. in Taxation cohort received a promotion or a raise within six months after graduation.

CSUN’s David Nazarian College of Business and Economics is recognized in the Princeton Review’s list of Best Business Schools.
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF CSUN'S MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TAXATION

SKILLS-BASED FOCUS: The program focuses on developing the highly specialized writing and research skills essential for the growth and success of today’s tax practitioner.

MIDCAREER-PROFESSIONAL STUDENT BODY: This cutting edge program is tailored to prepare midcareer professionals for advancement in the field of taxation.

COHORT FORMAT: Students enter the MST program and proceed through the curriculum as a group. This format provides students with the advantages of guaranteed enrollment in every class and a predetermined schedule of classes for the entire program. The cohort format also provides opportunities for maximizing interaction with the faculty and developing valuable networking relationships with fellow students.

CONVENIENT SCHEDULING: The program offers students the flexibility to attend class in-person or connect virtually – during scheduled class times – from home or in the office. Courses are scheduled one weeknight per week and some Saturdays, and no classes are held during tax season.

PRACTITIONER-FACULTY: Courses are taught primarily by leading practitioners in the field. This blend of active experience and outstanding scholarship in the field of taxation adds immeasurably to the learning experience.

PRACTICE-ORIENTED: The program integrates theory and practice throughout the curriculum and provides multiple outstanding clinical experience opportunities, including participation in the Bookstein Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, the Bookstein Community Outreach Tax Clinic, the CSUN Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic, and involvement with the student-run Tax Development Journal. Each of these clinical experiences serves to integrate the material learned in the program while providing unique opportunities to gain valuable practical experience.

TAX-PLANNING FOCUS: The program incorporates a seminar on innovative tax-planning strategies.

EXTERNAL CONNECTIONS: The Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation facilitates advanced tax education, research projects and scholarships, and attracts outside support from business professionals and leaders. Both the program and the Bookstein Institute are committed to developing mutually beneficial relationships with the business community that allow for networking opportunities and exchanges of knowledge.

ACCREDITATION: The MST program is offered through CSUN’s David Nazarian College of Business and Economics, which is accredited by the leading business school accrediting agency, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).
IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL – CSUN’S M.S. IN TAXATION PROGRAM ALLOWS YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR MODE OF PARTICIPATION

Life doesn’t stop so you can earn your degree, so CSUN has made innovative use of today’s technologies to give you a choice between the benefits of a traditional classroom experience and the flexibility of a virtual option. CSUN has developed this highly adaptable approach to allow you to adjust the way you choose to attend class based on your preferences and schedule constraints each week.

This new freedom permits you to attend class in-person or connect virtually at the scheduled class times. With this approach, you can participate in weekly classes, listen to lectures, and engage in discussions, all from your computer — at home, in the office, or on the road. You can also change your mode of participation week-to-week. That means you might choose to attend class on the CSUN campus and interact with faculty and fellow students in-person one week, and then participate virtually the next. Some program participants may choose to attend in-person nearly all the time while others might find virtual participation more appealing.

The power to choose between in-person and virtual attendance gives program participants firsthand practice with mixed-mode teamwork and technologies that play a crucial role – and serve as an important professional skill – in the globally-connected business world.

“I really enjoyed the MST program at CSUN; it has opened new opportunities and horizons to me. Our instructors not only polished our technical and professional skills but also mentored us throughout the entire program and inspired us to make a difference in the field of taxation.”

— Stanislava Niatylka, MST, CPA
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be able to

- Research tax literature and apply their conceptual understanding of taxation to both structured and unstructured problems;
- Communicate their analyses of complex taxation problems in clear, effective writing;
- Analyze and solve tax problems through the application of critical-thinking skills;
- Recognize and analyze ethical and professional responsibility issues in tax practice; and
- Conduct comprehensive analytical reviews of client’s tax returns.

CSUN’S APPROACH TO SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS OF MIDCAREER PROFESSIONALS

CSUN provides a number of student-support services, designed to assist midcareer professionals in completing their graduate programs successfully.

- Program coordinators are assigned to each cohort and assist students from application through graduation. They provide direct personal support and address any program-related concerns so students do not have to navigate the university’s administrative systems.
- Academic leads are designated faculty members who provide academic guidance, respond to students’ questions, and coordinate the work of the program’s faculty to ensure a comprehensive learning experience.
- Dedicated financial aid experts are skilled in assisting professional students in the process so they receive aid quickly and efficiently.
- Specialized online application system for midcareer professionals enables a timely response and easy communication with applicants.
- Additional support services geared specifically to working professionals are available.

“The master’s in taxation program has given me the skills to move from tax preparation to strategic tax planning.”

— Leslie Sobol, CPA, MST
Tax Partner, Lucas, Horsfall, Murphy & Findreh LLP
THE ADVANTAGES OF THE CAREFULLY CRAFTED CURRICULUM

CSUN's MST program has a carefully crafted curriculum designed for the cohort format. In this format, each course builds upon prior courses to provide students with essential and versatile professional knowledge, skills and abilities.

COURSE LIST (30 UNITS)

To earn the MST, candidates must complete 30 units of coursework (as described below), with at least a 3.0 grade-point average. For full course descriptions, visit tax.csun.edu.

CORE SKILLS (3 UNITS)

ACCT 509: TAX ETHICS, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION
In this foundation course, students will develop vital skills to research and critically interpret tax authority. They will also acquire and build the specialized oral and written communication skills needed to interact internally and externally with clients and government agencies. This course will also introduce students to the professional responsibilities and ethical dilemmas that face tax practitioners in today's challenging and increasingly complex professional environment.

CORE KNOWLEDGE (15 UNITS)

These five courses provide in-depth knowledge of key areas in the field of taxation. Each course integrates tax research, written communication and critical thinking skills with the curriculum and pedagogy. Certain courses also integrate skills in analytical review, compilation and oral communication and provide advanced instruction in professional ethics and responsibilities.

ACCT 520: INCOME TAX CONCEPTS AND THEIR BUSINESS APPLICATIONS
This course covers basic tax law concepts that affect business and investment-management situations. Topics include tax alternatives in business organizations, tax-policy management, and compliance with government directives.

ACCT 629: INCOME TAXATION OF CORPORATIONS AND SHAREHOLDERS I
Income tax principles relating to the organization, capital structure and operations of a corporation are examined as well as the tax effects of corporate distributions, stock redemptions and liquidations on shareholders.

ACCT 633: INCOME TAXATION OF PARTNERSHIPS
Students learn about the tax principles that apply to the formation, operation and liquidation of partnerships, including the effects of the transfer of partnership interests and transactions between the partnership and its partners.

ACCT 640: ACCOUNTING METHODS AND PERIODS
This course covers comparative principles of tax and financial accounting as they relate to individuals, corporations, partnerships, estates and trusts. The allocation of income tax expense for financial statement purposes is also examined.
ACCT 645: FEDERAL TAX PROCEDURE
Administrative procedures for settling tax controversies, rules governing tax collection and criminal prosecution, and the rights of taxpayers are among the topics explored in this course.

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATIONS (9 UNITS – COURSE OFFERINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

ACCT 631: INCOME TAXATION OF CORPORATIONS AND SHAREHOLDERS II
This continuation course examines tax principles involved in the division, reorganization, combination and affiliation of corporations as well as the tax effects of these actions on shareholders.

ACCT 635: FAMILY WEALTH PRESERVATION: INCOME TAXATION OF ESTATES AND TRUSTS
This course focuses on the income-tax principles involved in the operation of estates and trusts, including special types of trusts such as grantor and employee trusts. The taxation of grantors, descendants and beneficiaries is also explored.

ACCT 637: TAXATION OF FOREIGN TRANSACTIONS AND TAXPAYERS
This course provides students with an understanding of taxation of foreign income of U.S. citizens and corporations, taxation of foreign persons and corporations on their income from U.S. sources, and tax considerations in organizing foreign business operations.

ACCT 655: REAL ESTATE TAXATION
This course provides students with the understanding of the federal tax consequences associated with real estate acquisitions, leases, operations, disposition, and securitization of real estate investments.

ACCT 661: STATE AND LOCAL TAXES
Students gain an understanding of the structure of state and local taxes; the principles governing income, sales, property and other taxes levied by state and local governments; and the interrelationship of state, local and federal taxes.

ACCT 668: REAL ESTATE TAXATION
Prerequisites: Acct 509, Acct 520. This course provides students with an opportunity to learn about specialized and emerging topics in the field of real estate taxation.

TAX PLANNING FOCUS (2 UNITS)
ACCT 650: CONTEMPORARY TAX PLANNING ISSUES SEMINAR
Students participate in a seminar focusing on contemporary tax-planning issues affecting local industries.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE (1 UNIT)
As part of their culminating experience, students have the option of participating in the Tax Challenge Project, the Bookstein Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, the CSUN VITA Clinic, the Tax Development Journal or the Bookstein Community Outreach Tax Clinic.

ACCT 697TX: DIRECTED COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES IN TAXATION
This course provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate competency in the field of taxation through practice-based simulations or experiential learning.
### SAMPLE COHORT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Meeting Time &amp; Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 509</td>
<td>Mid-October</td>
<td>Early December</td>
<td>One weekday evening per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 645</td>
<td>Late October</td>
<td>Mid-December</td>
<td>Five Saturdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 520</td>
<td>Early January</td>
<td>Mid-February</td>
<td>One weekday evening per week plus two Saturdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 629</td>
<td>Late April</td>
<td>Late May</td>
<td>One Saturday per week plus two weekday evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 633</td>
<td>Late May</td>
<td>Early July</td>
<td>One Saturday per week plus two weekday evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 668</td>
<td>Mid-July</td>
<td>Mid-August</td>
<td>One Saturday per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 640</td>
<td>Mid-October</td>
<td>Early December</td>
<td>One weekday evening per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 637</td>
<td>Late October</td>
<td>Mid-December</td>
<td>Five Saturdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 650</td>
<td>Mid-January</td>
<td>Early February</td>
<td>Three full-day Saturdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 661</td>
<td>Late April</td>
<td>Late May</td>
<td>One Saturday per week plus two weekday evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 698</td>
<td>Late April</td>
<td>Mid-May</td>
<td>One weekday evening per week (online)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schedule is subject to change.

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"The program is scheduled for working professionals in the field. For example, there are no classes during our busy season. And I liked the cohort format because I got to network with students with different experience levels from other firms. The structure definitely helped me to balance everything."

— Carrie Ngao, CPA, MST Tax Staff, EY, LLP

Earn your master’s degree in taxation in just 18 months!
John Balian, M.S. (Taxation), J.D.
Managing Partner
The Law Office of John Balian

With over 20 years of professional work experience, Professor Balian is the managing partner of the Balian Law Group, a tax and estate planning law firm. Prior to becoming an attorney, Professor Balian was a Revenue Agent with the Los Angeles District of the IRS, where he conducted tax audits of corporations, trusts and individuals. Professor Balian is a Certified Specialist in Taxation Law, certified by the Board of Legal Specialization of the California State Bar. He received both his B.S. in Accounting and M.S. in Taxation degrees from CSUN and his J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law. He is the past chair of the California Society of CPAs Los Angeles Chapter’s West Valley CPAs. Professor Balian teaches the Culminating Experience. Sharyn M. Fisk, J.D., LL.M.

James P. de Bree, CPA
Deloitte Tax LLP, Tax Partner, Retired

Professor de Bree is a retired tax partner who worked at Deloitte Tax LLP for over forty years. He is a co-author of the leading tax treatise on REITs. He has also authored numerous articles dealing with tax issues affecting passthrough entities. He has been involved in numerous public and private REIT related transactions including the first UPREIT and several REIT conversion transactions. He is associated with numerous professional organizations including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (serving as an Appointed Member, Partnership Taxation Committee, 1989-1992), California Society of Certified Public Accountants, National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (serving as a member of the Government Relations and Accounting Committees). He is a member of CSUN’s MST Advisory Board. He co-teaches the real estate taxation course.

Rafi Efrat, CPA, J.D., J.S.M., J.S.D.
Director, M.S. in Taxation Program; Bookstein Chair in Taxation; Professor, Department of Accounting and Information Systems

After becoming a Certified Public Accountant in the state of Illinois, Dr. Efrat obtained his law degree from the University of Southern California. He practiced law for five years, including a period of time at EY tax practice. Dr. Efrat then became a Teaching Fellow at Stanford Law School, where he taught legal research and writing. He subsequently obtained a master’s in law and a doctor of science of law degree from Stanford Law School. Dr. Efrat is the recipient of the university’s Preeminent Scholarly Publication Award in 2004, Extraordinary Service Award in 2008, the Professor of the Year Award in the Accounting Program in 2009, the Community Engagement Visionary Award in 2010, the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013, the University Research Fellow in 2013, the Outstanding Educator Award by the California Society of CPAs in 2014, and the CSUN’s Outstanding Faculty Award in 2015. He joined the faculty of CSUN in 1999. He teaches Tax Research and Communication.
Sharyn M. Fisk, J.D., LL.M.
Assistant Professor
Cal Poly Pomona
Professor Fisk specializes in civil tax and criminal tax controversy. She earned her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law—Newark and her LL.M. in taxation from New York University School of Law. She is also a certified specialist in taxation law, The State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization. She also coauthors a quarterly update on Important Civil Tax Controversy Developments for the ABA Section of Taxation. She has also been an attorney-advisor for the Honorable Maurice B. Foley, United States Tax Court. She teaches Federal Tax Procedure.

Monica Gianni, J.D., LL.M., CPA
Assistant Professor
Department of Accounting and Information Systems
Professor Gianni has over 35 years of professional experience in taxation in public accounting firms, law firms, government, and private practice. She advises clients on tax matters related to the formation, operation and reorganization of business entities; represents tax-exempt organizations such as public charities, private foundations, health care organizations, and social welfare organizations; and addresses legal and tax issues with U.S. clients doing business in foreign countries and foreign investors entering the U.S. market. She is a frequent speaker on subjects related to international tax, tax-exempt organizations, limited liability companies, and corporate taxation. Professor Gianni earned her J.D. from the University of Notre Dame and her LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida in 1995. She is a licensed CPA and licensed attorney. She has taught at the University of Washington and at the University of Florida. At CSUN, she teaches the International Taxation, Corporate Taxation and Partnership Taxation courses.

Robert Johnson, CPA, M.S. (Taxation)
Tax Partner and Managing Director, KPMG LLP
Professor Johnson is a Managing Director with KPMG’s State and Local Tax (SALT) practice. He has more than 20 years of experience serving the state and local tax needs of a wide variety of clients, ranging from publicly held Fortune 500 companies to privately held emerging growth firms. He holds a Master of Science degree in taxation from Golden Gate University and a bachelor of science in accounting from California State University, San Bernardino. He teaches State and Local Taxes.

“Following the advanced income tax course, I started to think about the rationale behind the law and how I can help clients beyond mechanical input on their returns. After working in the tax field for 20 years, I have gained a new perspective on my profession through this program.”

— Shuling Wu, CPA, MST
Senior Staff Accountant, Perry, Hay & Chu, LLP

“Faced with having stayed home for 26 years to raise my children and wanting to return to the accounting world, I applied to the MST program at CSUN. Upon graduation, I have experienced a huge world of growth and opportunity because of the program. At 57, I am experiencing and enjoying my second life! Thanks to the MST program!”

— Armida Acosta, MST, PwC, Tax Staff
Professor Razani has worked for the Internal Revenue Service as a Revenue Agent for over 25 years. He currently works as a subject matter expert in the Corporate Distributions and Adjustments Issue Practice Group, where he provides guidance to IRS internal stakeholders on corporate and M&A transactions. His experience with the IRS includes over 14 years as a Senior Team Coordinator in the Large Business and International (LB&I) Division of the IRS, coordinating the tax examination of some of the nation’s largest multinational public corporations. Professor Razani earned his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from San Diego State University and his Master of Science in Taxation from CSUN. He teaches Income Tax Concepts and their Business Application.

Sheila Viswanathan, JD, MBT
Tax Director, Andersen Tax
Photo of ViswanathanProfessor Viswanathan has 25 years of professional tax work experience designing and implementing wealth transfer strategies to minimize estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes. Her recent professional work experience has focused on tax and wealth planning for families with large real estate holdings, owners of closely held companies, and executives. She has significant experience with postmortem administration of large, complex estates and trusts. A member of the California State Bar, Professor Viswanathan has a master degree in taxation from USC and a law degree from Southwestern Law School. She teaches Income Taxation of Estates and Trusts.
TUITION AND FEES

Tuition for this 18-month, 30-unit program are posted on the website well in advance of the start of each cohort. Tuition does not include books and supplies, the University application fee, or the graduation application fee.

Fees for each program cohort are predetermined and will not change or increase once the cohort begins.

Please visit tax.csun.edu for current tuition, payment and policies.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Partial-tuition scholarships and financial aid may be available. For additional information, please visit tax.csun.edu.

“A VISIONARY GIFT

In 2005, Harvey Bookstein (B.A., Accounting, 1970), together with his wife Harriet, created the Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation at CSUN and endowed the Harvey and Harriet Bookstein Chair in Taxation, the first endowed chair in the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics. The Bookstein’s gift was among CSUN’s largest from an alumnus. Through the Bookstein’s generosity and support, the MST program provides a number of scholarships to students who demonstrate excellence and promise.

— Miesha Shelley, CPA, MST
Senior Tax Accountant,
Tanner Mainstein Blatt Glynn & Johnson

Watch M. S. in Taxation Frequently Asked Questions videos on YouTube
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To apply to the Master of Science in Taxation program, applicants must possess at the time of enrollment:

• An online application
• Have a four-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
• Personal Statement—describing:
  • How your professional, academic or personal background fits well with the M.S. in Taxation program at CSUN.
  • How an M.S. in Taxation will assist you to advance in your career.
• Strong descriptive resume
• Original or certified copies of all academic transcripts
• Two strong letters of recommendation from previous professors or supervisors.
• Successful completion of introduction to federal income taxation course and financial accounting course.
• The GMAT is not required for applicants with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.

International applicants must demonstrate a minimum TOEFL Paper-Based score of 550 or a minimum Internet-based score of 79; or a minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5 or higher; or a minimum score of 58 with the Pearson’s Test of English (PTE).

For more information, please contact the Program Coordinator at mstaxation@csun.edu or (818) 677-3952.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete and submit the online application at tsengcollege.csun.edu/programs/tax/apply.

Applications may also be submitted by mail and must be postmarked by the application deadline. For additional information on application submission, please visit tsengcollege.csun.edu/programs/tax/apply.

CONTACT US

Web: tax.csun.edu
Email: mstaxation@csun.edu
Phone: (818) 677-3952

“The MST program at CSUN was a great experience. It is set up to be flexible for working professionals, with evening and weekend classes and a schedule that doesn’t conflict with tax season. An added benefit is the networking between students and faculty. I had some amazing professors and met great people that I will continue to connect with long after graduation.”

— Lior Temkin, CPA, MST
Partner, SingerLewak, LLP
THE BOOKSTEIN INSTITUTE

The Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation is the focal point for tax education within the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics at California State University, Northridge. The Bookstein Institute serves as the hub for education, scholarship and community service in taxation in the greater San Fernando Valley.

Los Angeles philanthropist and co-founding partner of RBZ, LLP (now Armanino, LLP), Harvey Bookstein (’70), established the Bookstein Institute with his wife, Harriet, in 2005. It has been instrumental in the launching of the MST program. The efforts of those involved in the Bookstein Institute enable us to lay the groundwork for future programs focused on advancing tax education for professionals in the surrounding area.

The Bookstein Institute provides professional growth and development opportunities through advanced studies in taxation, scholarly research, networking events and service-learning projects in taxation. The Bookstein Institute promotes and supports activities that encourage a greater understanding of the dynamic field of taxation.

With the support of the Bookstein Institute, CSUN’s MST program continues to enhance its reputation as a destination program for professionals who excel and strive to enhance their expertise in taxation.

In the photo above, Mr. and Mrs. Bookstein are shown with the plaque awarded by the University to commemorate the inception of the Bookstein Chair and the Bookstein Institute.
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Department of Accounting and Information Systems in CSUN’s David Nazarian College of Business and Economics offers two undergraduate degrees: the Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems. Both programs are known for being rigorous and have fine reputations for producing graduates who possess not only technical proficiency but also excellent skills in critical thinking, teamwork and communication.

The Department also offers two graduate programs: the Master of Science in Accountancy and the Master of Science in Taxation.

To learn about other programs offered through the David Nazarian College of Business Administration and Economics, please visit www.csun.edu/busgrad.
If you have questions about program content, admission requirements or your academic readiness for the program please fill out the form on the M.S. Taxation website and a Program Coordinator will contact you shortly.

We look forward to speaking with you and showing you how the M.S. Taxation program can support your personal and professional goals.