

The 150-Credit Requirement for Accounting Majors

[00:00:00] **Erin Leigh:** Hi, my name is Erin Leigh. I'm the Career Recruiting and External Relations Manager for the UConn Accounting Department. I'm going to make a short video on some common questions that we get from Accounting students about 150 credit hours and what that means. So the most important thing to know is why 150 credit hours. 150 credit hours is what makes you educationally compliant for getting a Certified Public Accounting or CPA license. The firms that recruit our students, the public accounting firms that recruit our students, will not let students start in a full-time role until they have 150 credit hours. So that's kind of a goal that our students have. And therefore the 150 credit hours is tied to that goal.

[00:00:46] There's three key things to remember about 150 credit hours. The first thing I want you to remember is your Bachelor's at UConn does not require 150 credit hours. You can get a Bachelor's from UConn with 120 credit [00:01:00] hours. So just like the other business majors, the CPA is what is driving that 150 credit hours.

[00:01:07] The second thing I want you to remember is it's not just 150 credit hours and whatever credits you want to take. There is a breakdown of how many accounting credits, business credits, and gen ed credits that you need within that 150 credit hours. That's actually determined by the state in which you want to get licensed.

[00:01:26] And it is different depending on the state in which you want to get licensed, which is why planning for our students is very, very important and a big part of what I do in my role. The third thing I want to talk about is how do you get 150 credit hours. There's a bunch of different ways. There's three very common ways.

[00:01:43] And then there's a fourth one that we're starting to introduce right now. So I'll go over those briefly. The first way our students are getting 150 credit hours is in four years. It's a lot of credits in four years. But a lot of our students are coming in with either AP, early college [00:02:00] credit, some sort of credit they're coming in with already and they have advanced credit standing. So they're able to take heavy credit loads and complete their 150 credit hours using accounting electives and internship credits and that sort of thing to be 150 credit hour compliant for the CPA within their four years at UConn. That's about a third of our students are doing that.

[00:02:22] I would say the next common way for our students – and a way I really recommend - is doing a fifth year graduate degree. So students will do their 120 credit hour Bachelor's degree, they will graduate, and then they will matriculate into either our Master's of Science in Accounting program or another one if they choose. It's usually a fifth year and will get them the 30 credits, the accounting credits everything they need, to be compliant for the CPA.

[00:02:48] And they have a graduate degree with, with those credits. The third way our students are doing 150 credit hours is they might take an extra semester. So they might take four and a half years. They [00:03:00] might graduate at UConn and then finish at a community college. They might take an extra semester at UConn.

[00:03:05] They're just extending it about four and a half years. Then the way that we're pretty excited that we're, we're introducing now is called an Accelerated Master's of Science in Accounting. So basically it is for those students who came in with a decent number of credits they can actually finish their Bachelor's and their Master's in four years and a summer.

[00:03:24] So it doesn't take an extra semester. It doesn't delay when you can start full-time. Basically how it works is our students can take a few graduate level classes during their undergraduate time. They would graduate in about three and a half years and then finished the Master's degree by the end of that following summer.

[00:03:42] So it would give them a Bachelor's degree, a Graduate degree, and they would only have to take an extra summer to finish them. The key thing I want students to know is. 150 credit hours takes a lot of planning and it really depends on the state you want to get licensed. So please feel free to reach out to me with [00:04:00] questions.

[00:04:00] This is what I do. I'm here to help and hopefully this was helpful. Thanks.