Earning a graduate degree in business or law can take 2-3 years (or more).

**THE INVESTMENT**

**Time**
You’ll need to set aside time to study, but online programs typically offer flexible scheduling and evening classes. Also, a MAC degree can be earned in little as one year, much less time than a JD or MBA.

**Money**
A graduate degree from a strong university isn’t cheap, but it can be a very solid investment. Of note, many schools offer fellowships, and some employers offer loan pay-down programs, that help defray costs.

**THE RETURN**

**Earnings**
Professionals with a MAC degree consistently grow their salaries, and many reach a six-figure salary in five to seven years after starting their careers. If you have a few years of experience under your belt already, you may pass this figure even faster.

**Jobs**
Jobs in accounting fields are predicted to grow at nearly twice the overall U.S. average, according to Bureau of Labor statistics. You will be in demand. Why is this important? Companies will seek you out, giving you opportunities to choose the path that best suits you.

**Choice**
The business and financial skills you gain with a MAC degree can help you succeed in any sector, from international corporations to nonprofit organizations to entrepreneurship. And, accounting isn’t just for accountants; it’s a key skill for all business leaders.

**C-Suite**
A MAC degree can put you on the path to the C-suite. CEOs and CFOs possess strong leadership and analytical skills, extensive business savvy, and a deep understanding of financial operations — the same critical skills that a MAC degree provides.

**Satisfaction**
Accounting is cooler than you think. In fact, according to a Monster.com survey, finance professionals were the second-highest ranked for job satisfaction. Why? Perhaps it’s the chance to make a real difference for the companies they represent.

**Balance**
Yes, accounting is a deadline-driven profession. It can be tough. However, firms and corporations are working to create more work-life balance by rewarding the hard work with perks like flexible hours, on-site daycare, and additional vacation days.

www.mac.unc.edu