

**?** FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS **?**  
**?** Full-Time MS Taxation Cohort Program **?**

**Q: What's the main difference between full time program and evening program?**

**A:** The main difference between the full time program and the evening program is the intensity of the courses and the program activities. Both programs provide students with the same degree, a Masters of Science in Taxation and the diplomas will be identical. Students are able to attend the evening program on a full time status by taking 3 courses per term which is considered a full time load. However, the evening program is completed through 16 week terms; where as the full time program will be done through a series of 8 week terms. The accelerated nature of the full time program allows the students to complete their MST degree in as little as 9 months. However, the courses are done at a faster pace than the 16 week terms, with class meetings several times a week for several hours per meeting. In addition, the full time program is administered as a cohort program, meaning that all students will be enrolled in the same courses for the same terms. This allows students to build a strong community with each other as they will be working with each other on a daily basis in all of their courses. Another difference between the full time program and the evening program is the flexibility in schedule. Evening or online students are able to tailor their course load around their personal schedules. For students who may be working or occupied with family or personal obligations, it may be advised they take only one or two courses at a time where as the cohort students must follow the class schedule already set for them. Those students in the full time program are expected to be on campus 4-5 days a week for most part of the day. The program is very much a full time responsibility and students are not expected to hold employment or attend other academic programs.

**Q: I heard that full time program students have more chances to interact with some recruiters and can attend more recruiting events than evening students, is that true?**

**A:** The full time program does have various non-class events where students will be meeting with firm representatives and recruiters through lunch time lectures and other activities outside the classroom. Many of the speakers for these events are tax professionals and firm representatives who speak to the students about different issues regarding the industry which may include finding employment with accounting firms and current topics relevant to the tax profession. In addition, the School of Taxation assists full time students with resume writing, interviewing skills, and does extensive job placement work with students.

**Q: It has been mentioned that full time students have more chances to meet with the recruiters and career center will help them with resume writing, interviewing skills, and does extensive job placement work with students. If an evening student wants to attend these events is that allowed?**

**A:** If you are going to school full time in the evening, meaning you are taking 3 courses per term, then the School of Taxation would be willing to work with you to attend the various events. However, you will need to speak to the department about attending the events and will not be able to 'pick-and-choose' the events you attend. For an evening student to be allowed to attend cohort events, they must agree to the same level of commitment as the cohort student and must

attend all the scheduled events. The School of Taxation will be able to help evening students with their resume, interviewing and placement issues as well.

**Q: What is the job placement rate for "international students" in US job market?**

**A:** Job placement for international students is highly dependent upon the student and employer. Golden Gate University has had many international students find successful employment in and around the Bay Area. Your international status may have less affect on your employment opportunities than your performance in the classroom and during interviews. If an employer finds an outstanding candidate, they may be more than willing to make an investment to hire an international student.

**Q: Does the cohort program offer any scholarships?**

**A:** There are various scholarships available to students, as well as different payment options that the university makes available to students. There are several university scholarships and recipients will be determined by the School of Taxation and the University. Some of the university scholarships may or may not require students to apply for the scholarships and may also have various regulations the student must abide by while receiving the scholarship award. Additionally, if the School of Taxation receives scholarship opportunities from outside organizations, the school will relay the information to students. For more information regarding university scholarships and also financial aid options, please contact the Financial Aid department at [finaid@ggu.edu](mailto:finaid@ggu.edu). For more information about the payment process you will need to speak to Student Accounting Services at [SAS@ggu.edu](mailto:SAS@ggu.edu).

**Q: Are there many part-time job/internship openings provided by GGU or other accounting firms?**

**A:** If you are considering working while you attend school it is recommended that you enroll through the evening program. The time consumption of all the full time activities for students would make it difficult to work simultaneously. Since GGU is located in the bustling downtown/financial district of San Francisco, there are many part time employment opportunities for students. Depending on your employment interests and needs you may want to look at the various options in and around the Bay area.

**Q: If I am in evening program, could I also take the class with the full time program students?**

**A:** If you are an evening student, you may be able to take one full-time accelerated course if you are taking at least one evening course. If you are interested in taking non-tax department course for your MST degree, you will need to submit a course substitution request to the department for approval.

**Q: If I am in evening program, could I also do an internship and receive credit towards my degree?**

**A:** If you are taking courses during the evening you can still get internship credit for a qualified internship or employment position obtained. The School of Taxation will need to approve the student and position as eligible for internship credit.

**Q: What are the advantages of the full-time day MST?**

**A:** The advantages of enrolling in this program are many. First, you can complete the degree in as few as 9 months, but keep in mind that you can only start this program once a year in late July. Second, the immersion in the material creates a unique, rich environment that provides peer support, excitement, focused attention on your studies, and the ability to take advantage of many opportunities for enriching exposure to the accounting profession. Third, full-time day tax students benefit from one of the best placement programs in the country. You will participate in more than 2 dozen sessions and special events available to the full-time cohort. Through these you will develop your professional persona and your interviewing and career development skills. You will participate in "full-dress" social encounters, such as our Practice Business Wine & Cheese and Practice Interview Lunch. At the latter event, 5 students are paired with 2 different sets of 3 tax firm partners and managers and corporate executives over the course of a 2-hour formal business lunch. Students receive written feedback from the industry leaders as to their demeanor, conversation skills, professionalism, etc. Together, these various benefits of the full-time day tax cohort program will translate into benefits and advantages for you as a working professional in the accounting industry.

**Q: Do I need to have any accounting experience?**

**A:** Although the MST does not require you to have any accounting experience, it is strongly recommended that students with little to no accounting experience complete the School of Accounting foundation bootcamp courses (ACCTG 50, 100A, and 100B) which is offered each year before the beginning of the cohort program running from early June to late July.