What is Accounting?

Accounting, which is the language of business, defines transactions so they can be used to describe business activities. Learning the language allows an individual to communicate and understand the financial operations of any and all types of organizations.

LSU’s Department of Accounting in the E. J. Ourso College of Business

- Provides the educational opportunity for students pursuing a career as a certified public accountant.
- Offers both bachelor’s (121 hours) and master’s (30 hours) degrees, allowing students to earn a graduate degree while completing the required 150 hours to be eligible to take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam.

Scholarships and internships are available to students, and the LSU Honors College provides the opportunity for exceptional students to earn the upper-division honors distinction along with the bachelor’s in accounting. Additionally, students can participate in various organizations and activities including:

- **Beta Alpha Psi** – The primary objective of this honorary organization for financial information students and professionals is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field. The organization was founded in 1919, and has more than 260 chapters worldwide. In 2009, the LSU chapter was one of only 14 chapters to earn the distinction of Gold Chapter, the highest honor awarded by the organization.

- **PricewaterhouseCoopers Extreme Accounting Competition** – This “by invitation only” team case-study competition is designed to give students experience and exposure to real-world accounting issues. LSU teams were named one of five national finalists in 2006, 2007, and 2008. In 2004 and 2005, teams from LSU won the competition’s national title.

**Did You Know?**

In July 2007, LSU alumnus Jonathan Booth received the Elijah Watt Sells Award, given by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to recognize outstanding performance on the Uniform CPA Examination. The award is presented to the 10 top scorers annually.