



Master of Science in Accounting Curriculum

The MSA program is structured under the SMU Cox graduate calendar which offers courses in Modules lasting seven weeks plus an exam week. Most courses meet once a week for a two hour and fifty minute period; all courses are two credit hours. Two modules (referred to as Mod A and Mod B) are offered in each semester. During each module, a full-time student will take four courses while a part-time student will take two courses. Permission to take a higher or lower course load must be submitted in writing to the Graduate Student Services office for approval.

Chances are you might encounter some registration issues (e.g., requiring prerequisites to be waived). Please contact Casey-Jo Stetson, cstetson@smu.edu or Greg Sommers, gsommers@smu.edu, for assistance with these matters.

Choosing Courses

To help you plan your year, we have prepared charts that guide you Module by Module. Note that you should choose either the Assurance and Advisory or the Taxation Concentration. If you are not sure at this point which concentration is for you, I suggest picking one to register for now (you can change concentrations up until classes start). Then reach out to Kacie Kamp, kmkamp@smu.edu in Career Services to discuss what each area would entail.

Background Courses

If you have not previously taken equivalent courses, it is highly recommended that you take the following courses as electives during the MSA program as they are often required for CPA Exam eligibility:

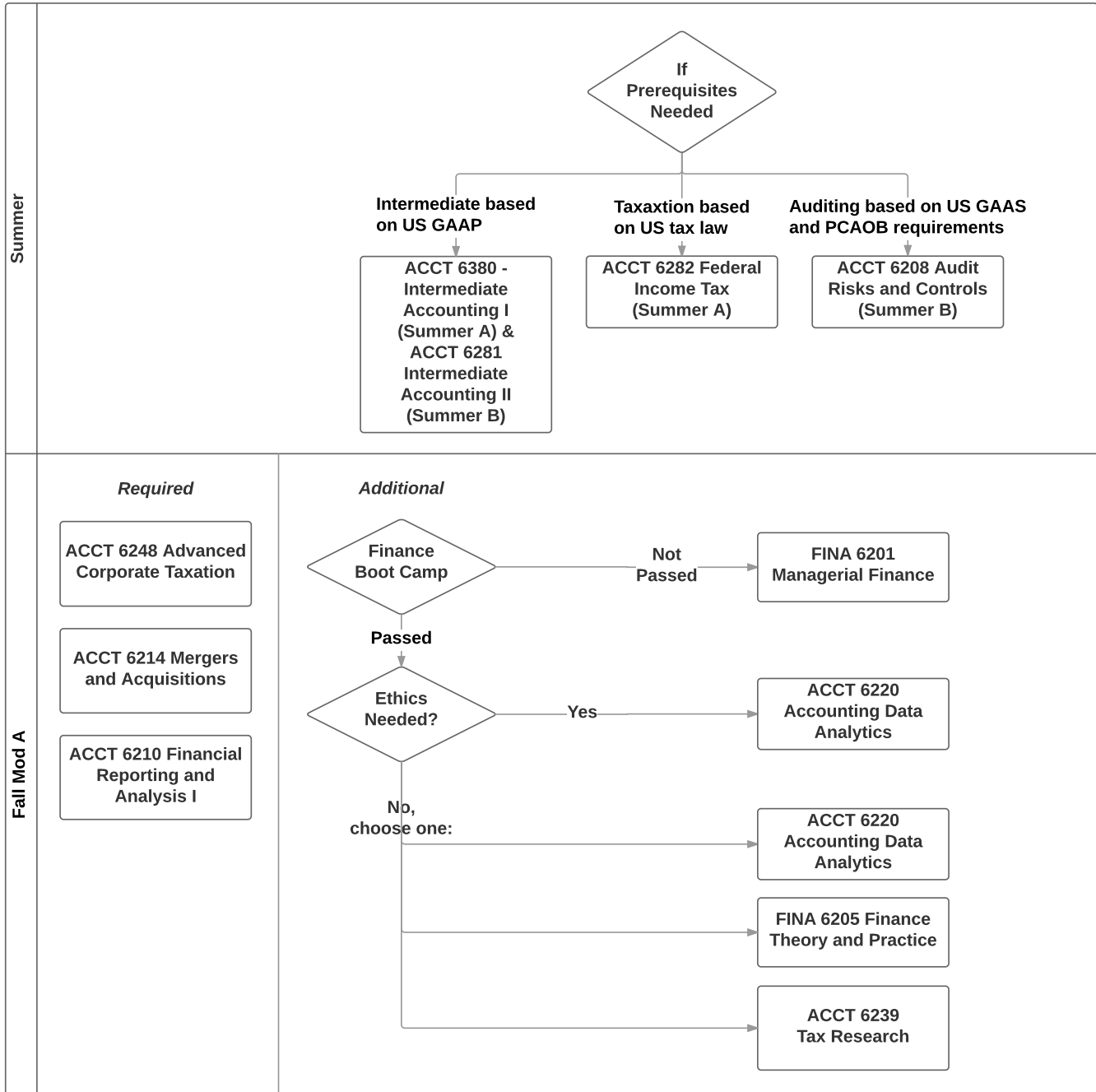
- BL 6325 – Ethics and Related Legal Issues for Accountants, Texas-approved 3 credit hour Ethics Course offered in Fall Mod B
- BLI 6202 – Business Communications and Development, offered in Spring Mod A

Students with equivalent courses in their prior studies will not be allowed to enroll.

Finance Courses

Students are able to enroll directly in FINA 6205 which provides a helpful finance background for many of the accounting core courses as well as the valuation course. Should you not successfully complete the Finance Boot Camp by August 10th, your fall schedule will automatically be adjusted to add FINA 6201 to satisfy your Finance proficiency and remove an elective.

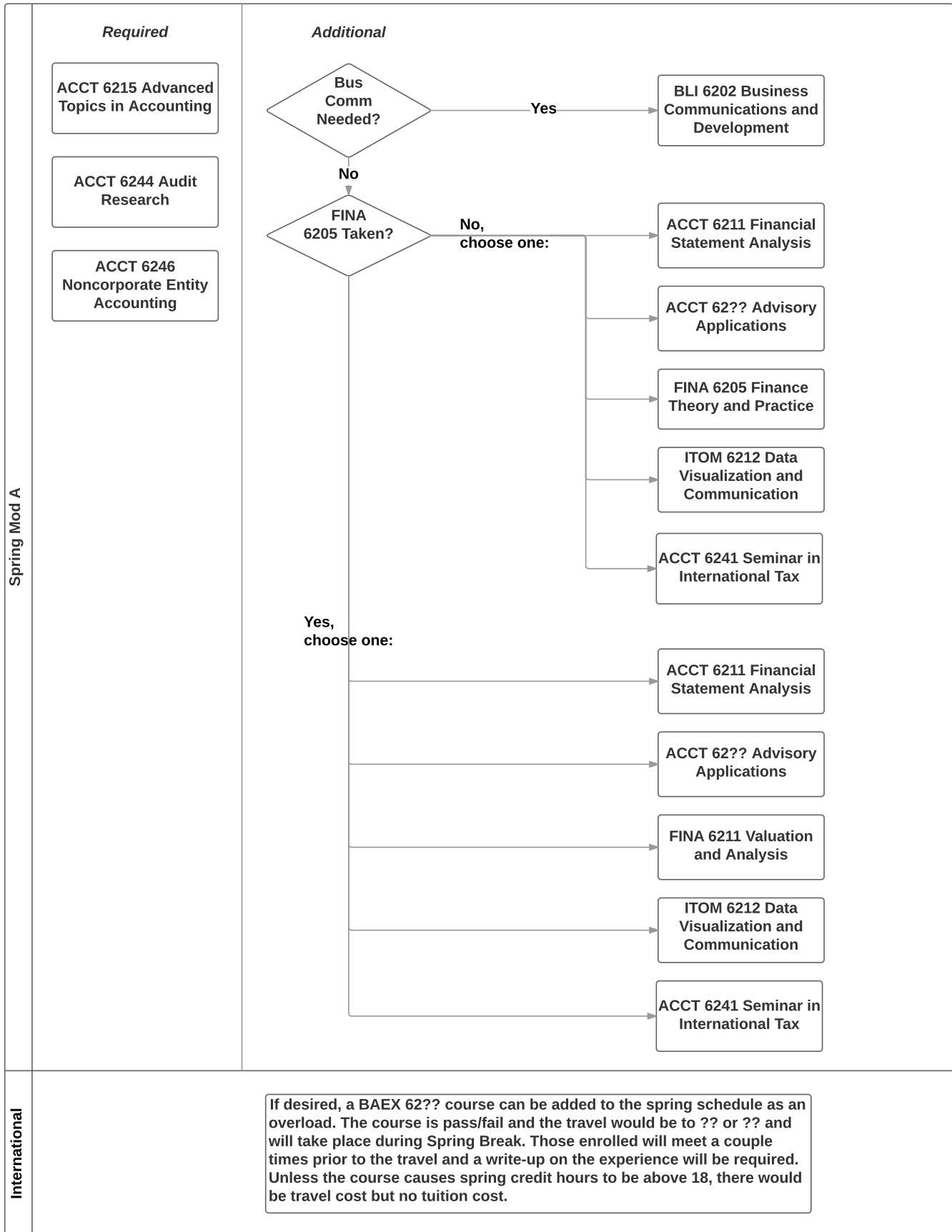
Assurance and Advisory



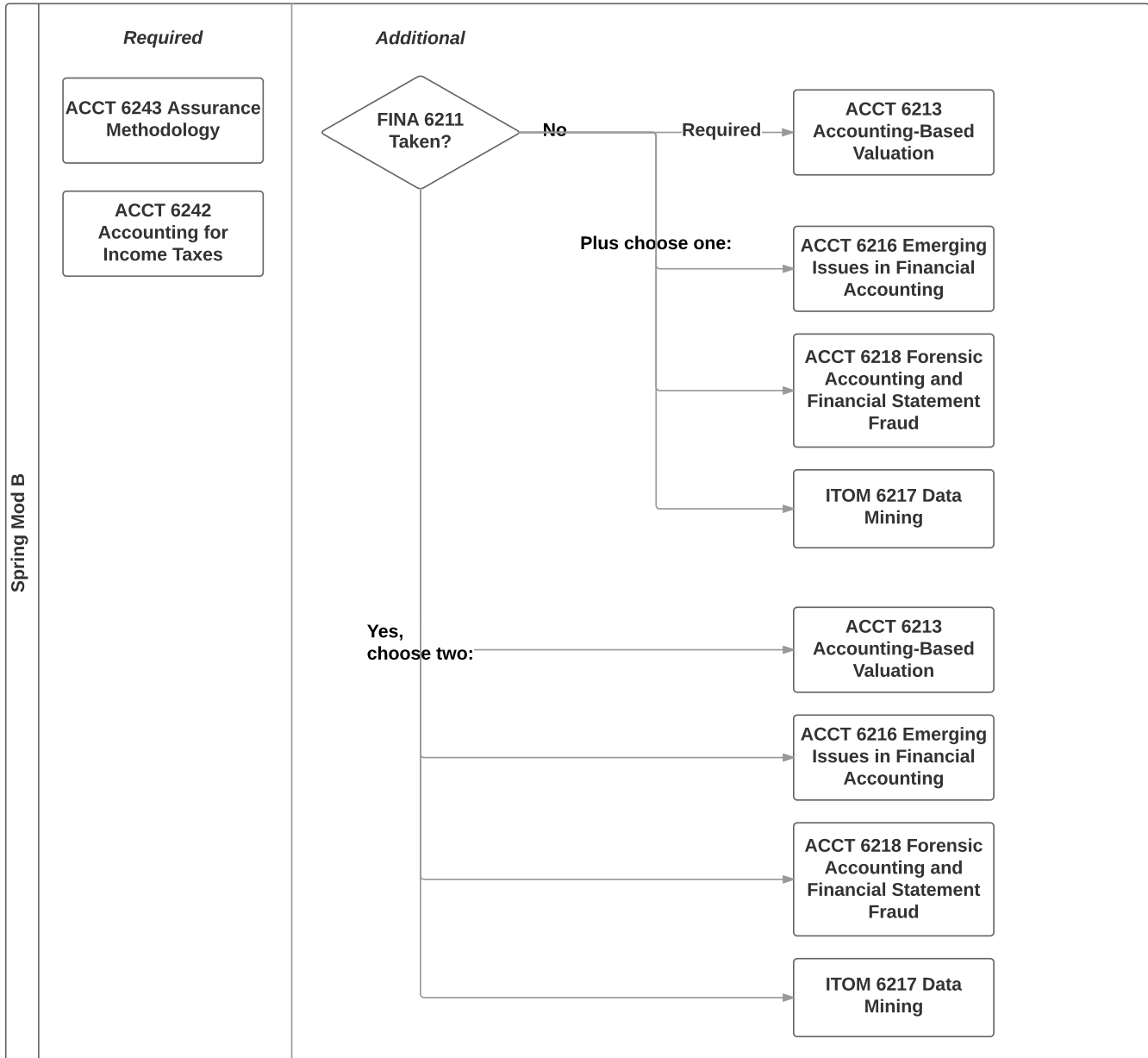
Assurance and Advisory

Fall Mod B	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Required</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px; text-align: center;">ACCT 6249 Entity Taxation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px; text-align: center;">ACCT 6226 Accounting Information Systems</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">ACCT 6212 Financial Reporting and Analysis II</div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Additional</i></p> <pre> graph TD A{Ethics Needed?} -- Yes --> B[BL 6325 Ethics and Related Legal Issues for Accountants] A -- No --> C{ACCT 6220 Taken?} C -- No --> D[ACCT 6220 Accounting Data Analytics] C -- Yes --> E[Yes, choose one:] E --> F[ACCT 6219 Leadership Skills for the Accounting Professional] E --> G[FINA 6205 Finance Theory and Practice] E --> H[ITOM 6265 Database Design] E --> I[ACCT 6240 Advanced Partnership Taxation] </pre>
International	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>If desired, a BAEX 62?? course can be added to the fall schedule as an overload. The course is pass/fail and the travel would be to ?? or ?? and will take place immediately following Fall Mod B finals. Those enrolled will meet a couple times prior to the travel and a write-up on the experience will be required. Unless the course causes fall credit hours to be above 18, there would be travel cost but no tuition cost.</p> </div>	

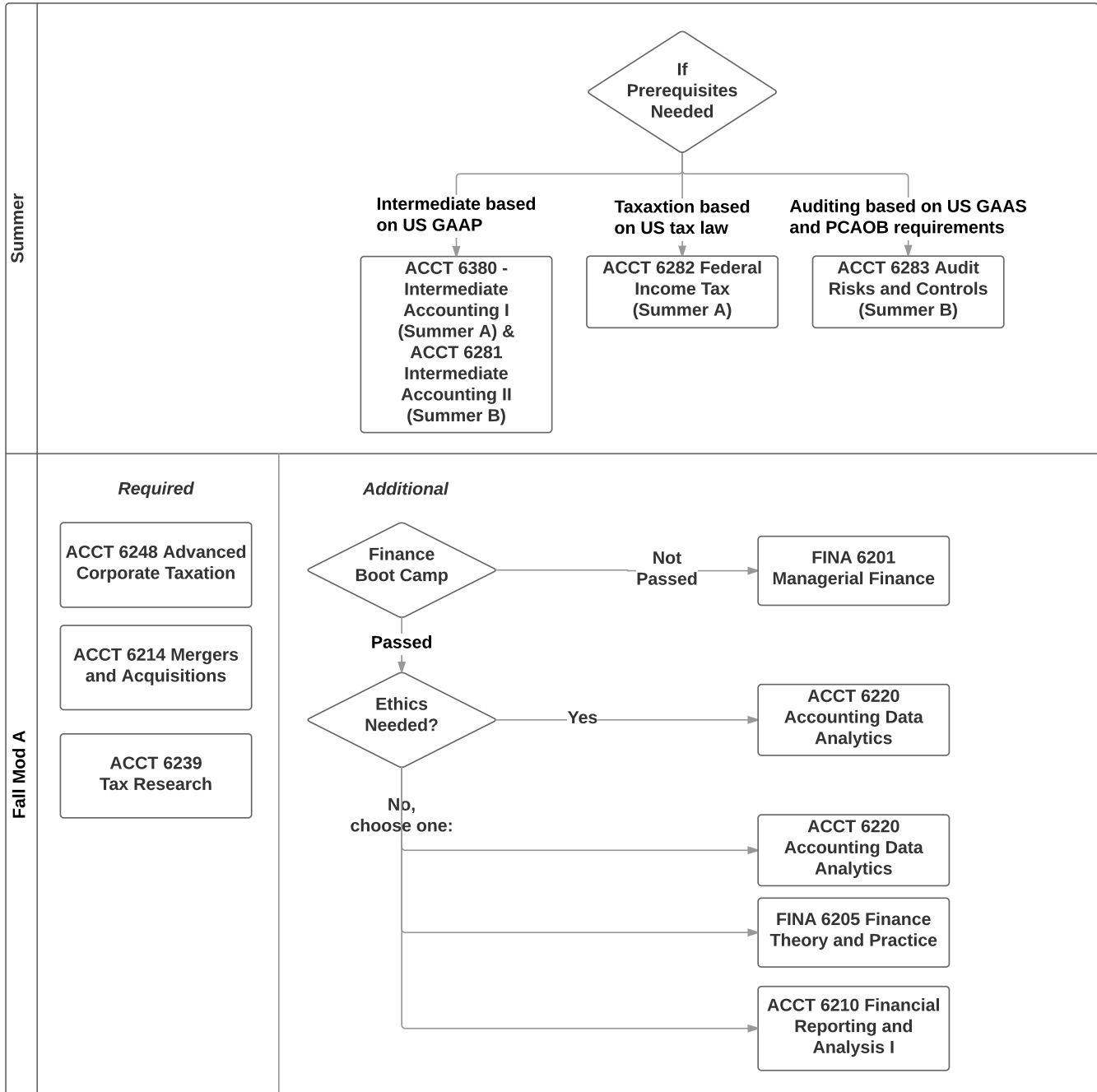
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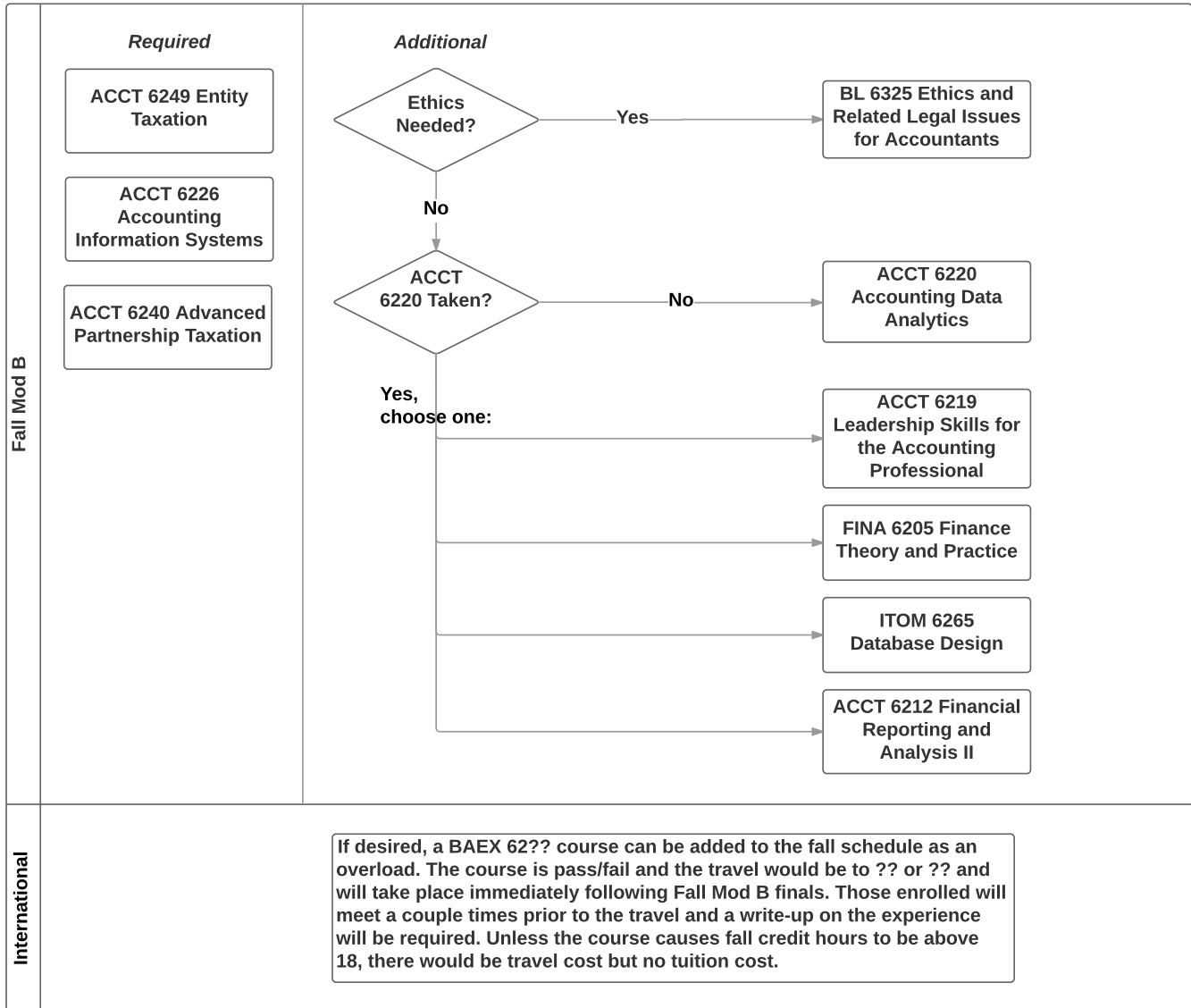
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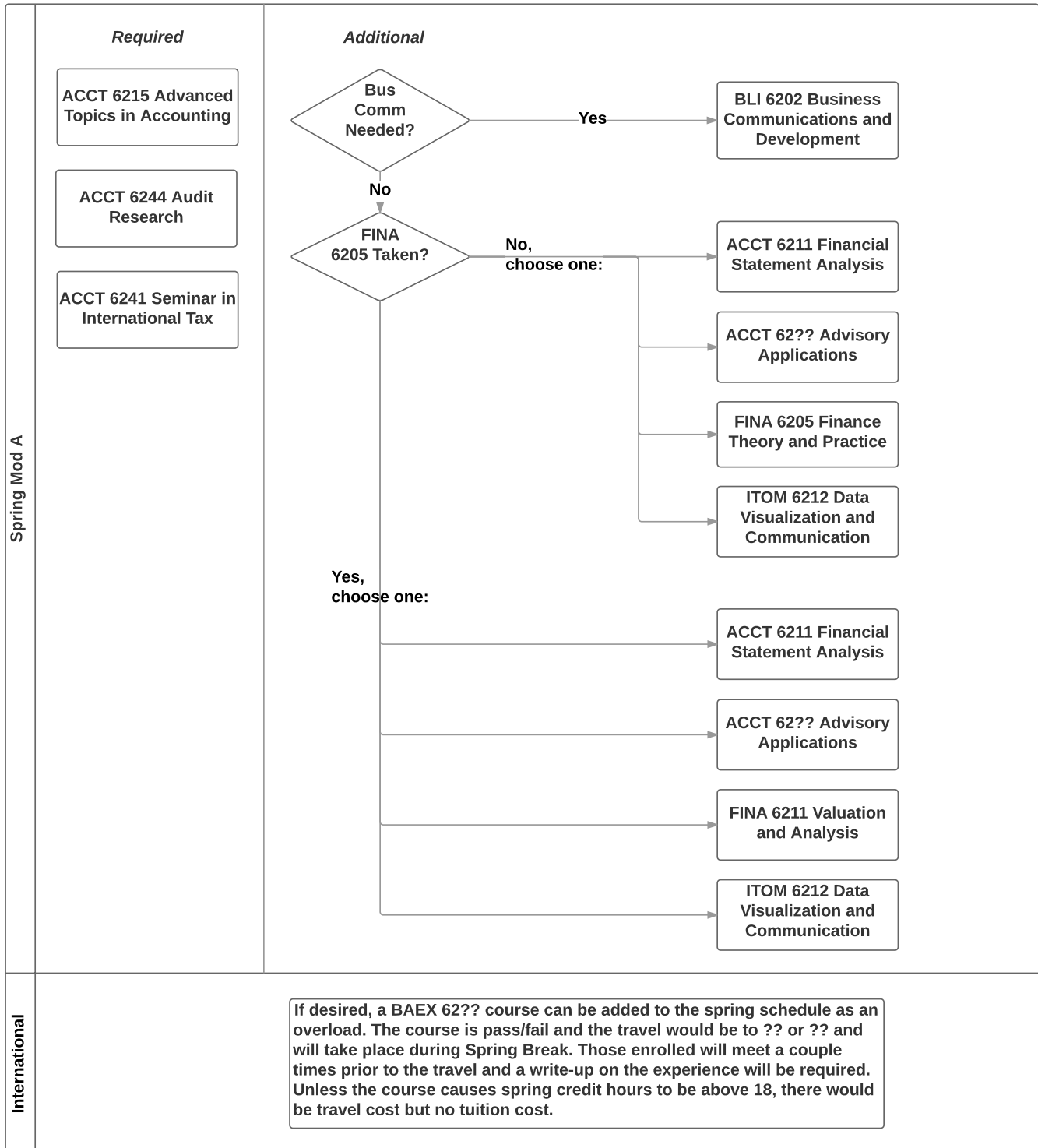
Taxation



Taxation



Taxation



Taxation

Spring Mod B

Required

ACCT 6243 Assurance Methodology

ACCT 6242 Accounting for Income Taxes

ACCT 6246 Noncorporate Entity Accounting

Additional



No

ACCT 6213 Accounting-Based Valuation

Yes,
choose one:

ACCT 6213 Accounting-Based Valuation

ACCT 6216 Emerging Issues in Financial Accounting

ACCT 6218 Forensic Accounting and Financial Statement Fraud

ITOM 6217 Data Mining

Choosing a Valuation Course

Below are course descriptions and additional information to assist you in understanding the course options for fulfilling the valuation requirement:

ACCT 6213 – Accounting-Based Valuation

Offered:

Spring Mod B

Scheduled to be taught by:

Greg Sommers

Course Description:

This course deals with the analysis of financial information, particularly firms' financial statements, for making decisions to invest in businesses. Methods to determine stock value using fundamental analysis will be examined in detail and applied in situations involving listed companies. Particular emphasis is given to the accounting-based valuation models. The appeal of these models is that valuation is based on accounting data; these data are not only available ex post but they are also commonly available ex ante as forecasts. Topics include a comparison of accounting, dividend and cash flow based approaches to valuation, methods of financial statement analysis including ratio analysis, dealing with accounting issues, forecasting firms' future performance, and the analysis of risk.

FINA 6211 – Valuation and Analysis

Offered:

Spring Mod A and Mod B
(prerequisite is FINA 6205)

Scheduled to be taught by:

Bill Maxwell and
Mike Vetsuypens

Course Description:

This is a practical, applied, overview course in corporate finance. The course builds upon and reinforces the theoretical and institutional framework covered in introductory business and finance courses. It uses the case approach to apply these concepts to real or simulated business situations. The main focus is on the valuation of the enterprise. The topics covered may include financial analysis and financial planning, corporate strategy, capital expenditure analysis, capital structure, and cost of capital determination.

Choosing Electives

In the schedule of courses, you will see recommended electives for MSA students. Petition forms for any deviations from these electives are included in enrollment information emails; if you have questions about the process contact Casey-Jo Stetson (cstetson@smu.edu).

Additional details are also in the FAQ section below.

Under no circumstances will students be allowed to enroll in courses that are substantially equivalent to courses previously taken in their academic career.

FAQs on Courses

Q: FINA 6205: Finance Theory and Practice – I’ve taken undergraduate finance, can I waive out of FINA 6205?

A: Students with a prior degree in Finance may in some cases be eligible for a waiver depending on prior performance. A request should be made to Casey-Jo for review by Finance faculty.

Q: I want to take FINA 6211 as my valuation course; how do I go about doing so?

A: You will need to have completed FINA 6205 prior to the Module in which you seek to take FINA 6211. Once FINA 6205 is processed in your schedule, you will be eligible to sign up for FINA 6211 and other advanced Finance electives.

Q: I want to take a non-accounting elective that has a prerequisite, how do I do that?

A: If you are interested in an alternative elective that has a listed prerequisite, you’ll need to submit a petition form for approval. Complete the petition form and return to Casey-Jo (cstetson@smu.edu). Note that petitions are reviewed in August, and there is no guarantee of enrollment due to space limitations and prerequisites, so have a backup course in mind, just in case.

Q: I took ACCT 4315 (income tax) as an undergrad at SMU, do I still have to take ACCT 6248 and 6249 in fall?

A: Yes, you do. ACCT 4315 is the prerequisite for ACCT 6248/6249. Probably best to think of tax as a three course sequence of ACCT 4315 (or ACCT 6282), ACCT 6248, and ACCT 6249.

Q: I took ACCT 5314 (audit) as an undergrad at SMU, do I still have to take ACCT 6244 and 6243 in spring?

A: Yes, you do. ACCT 5314 is effectively the prerequisite for ACCT 6244/6243. Think of audit as a three course sequence of ACCT 5314 (or ACCT 6208), ACCT 6244, and ACCT 6243.

If you have questions about enrollment please contact Casey-Jo at cstetson@smu.edu or call 214-768-3156.

SMU COX CPA Exam Information

Summary of Texas' Requirements for CPA Exam:

- 150 credit hours – SMU Cox MSA provides 32 credit hours and most students have completed at least 122 hours in their undergraduate program.
- 30 credit hours of upper level accounting
 - Generally all accounting courses taken after introductory financial and managerial accounting (an exception is ACCT 6219 – Leadership in the Accounting Profession which counts as a business course, not an accounting course)
 - Maximum of 3 credit hours from an academic internship can be counted but you must be a full-time student for a semester following the internship to have this included
 - Courses satisfying the ethics requirement do not count toward the upper level accounting requirement
- 24 credit hours of upper level related business courses – Topics include business law, economics, management, marketing, business communications, statistics and quantitative methods, finance, information systems or technology, and other areas related to accounting. No more than 6 credit hours may be earned in a single area of study. Also, upper level accounting credit hours beyond the 30 hours required above may be used in part to satisfy this requirement.
- 3 credit hours of an approved ethics course – Satisfied by:
 - SMU Cox undergraduate course ACCT 3391 – Ethics in Accounting,
 - SMU Cox graduate course BL 6325 – Ethics and Related Legal Issues for Accountants, or
 - Approved course taken at another institution. (It is suggested you verify the course was approved at the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy website.)
- 2 credit hours of accounting or tax research accumulated through stand-alone or integrated approach courses – Satisfied by hours accumulated from:
 - SMU Cox MSA course ACCT 6244 – Audit Research, 2 hours stand-alone,
 - SMU Cox MSA course ACCT 6239 – Tax Research, 2 hours stand-alone, and/or
 - Course(s) taken at another institution.

- 2 credit hours of accounting or business communications accumulated through stand-alone or integrated approach courses – Satisfied by hours accumulated from:
 - SMU Cox undergraduate course BLI 3302 – Business Communications and Leader Development, 2 hours stand-alone,
 - SMU Cox MSA course BLI 6202 – Business Communications and Development, 2 hours stand-alone,
 - Course(s) taken at another institution.

Detailed (and authoritative) information on the requirements for CPA Exam testing/licensing in Texas is available from the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy (TSBPA). CPA Exam requirements vary from state to state. It is your responsibility to ensure that you know the requirements for the state you are interested in being licensed in are met.

Testing in Other States

Students (particularly those with a prior international or non-business education background) sometimes consider testing in another state if they will have trouble meeting the Texas education requirements. Make sure to be aware of potential implications to this decision.

Per the TSBPA website, transfer to Texas of CPA exam sections passed in other states requires that “At the time the credit was earned, the applicant met the [education] requirements in effect in the other state, and the other state's [education] standards are equal to or higher than the Texas [education] standards.” In other words, if you were not eligible to test in Texas at the time you took the test, the TSBPA will not recognize that you passed the section and give credit toward licensure in Texas.

Obviously, sections passed prior to eligibility in Texas would allow you to become a CPA licensed in another state. Upon receiving your CPA license in another state, should you wish to become licensed as a CPA in Texas you would need to transfer your license using a process called reciprocity.

Be aware that offers from larger public accounting firms often require you to be “CPA exam eligible” in the state you will work in. Thus, even if test in another state you may have issues with not being eligible to work in Texas.