

# ACCOUNTING

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### INFORMATION/STRATEGIES

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

Auditing/Assurance Services  
Tax  
Environmental Accounting  
Forensic/Investigative Accounting  
Information Technology Services  
International Accounting  
Personal Financial Planning

Public accounting firms:  
Large, multinational  
Regional  
Local  
Sole practitioners

Public accounting firms hire candidates who meet the educational requirements for sitting for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam: 150 hours of education including 24 hours of accounting, i.e. the equivalent of an undergraduate degree in accounting.

State laws govern the practice of accountancy and specify the requirements to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam. In most states, the State Board of Accountancy has a website that outlines those requirements.

#### CORPORATE ACCOUNTING

Financial Management  
Financial Reporting  
Internal Auditing  
Cost Accounting  
Tax Planning  
Budget Analysis

Companies of all sizes, in all industries

Many managers in corporate settings obtain an MBA degree after several years of work experience.

#### GOVERNMENT

Auditing  
Financial Reporting  
Financial Management  
Budget Analysis  
Research

Federal agencies and departments including:  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Internal Revenue Service  
Department of the Treasury  
General Accounting Office  
Office of Management and Budget  
Securities Exchange Commission  
State and local agencies

Complete an internship in a government agency.  
Become familiar with the government application process.  
Accounting is a "hot area" in government hiring and many opportunities exist in the public sector.

#### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Research  
Consulting

Universities and colleges

A Ph.D. in Accounting or a DBA, Doctorate in Business Administration, in accounting is generally required.  
Maintain a high g.p.a. and secure strong faculty recommendations for admittance into graduate school.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## INFORMATION/STRATEGIES

### **NON-PROFIT**

Accounting  
Internal Audit  
Financial Planning  
Budgeting  
Money Handling  
Record Keeping

Social service agencies and organizations  
Hospitals  
Public school systems  
Universities and colleges  
Religious organizations  
Libraries and museums  
Political parties  
Labor unions

Volunteer at non-profit organizations and build a network of contacts in the non-profit sector.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES**

- Earn good grades. Grades are an indicator of technical competence in accounting and of a person's work ethic.
- Potential employers place a big emphasis on strong interpersonal skills. Demonstrate these skills by having a well-rounded background.
- Actively participate in student organizations to develop leadership skills.
- Develop excellent computer skills.
- Learn to work well within in a team.
- Develop strong communication skills.
- Gain work experience and learn information about careers through internships. Consider completing internships in the spring semester, not just summer term.
- Join Beta Alpha Psi, the honorary fraternity for accounting and finance information professionals, to gain knowledge about the accounting profession.
- Certifications available through the Institute of Internal Auditors or the Institute of Management Accountants may increase job marketability in some areas of accounting.
- Accounting students should develop their analytical, critical-thinking and problem solving skills. Develop high ethical standards.
- Accuracy and attention to detail are important traits for accountants.
- Accounting is a versatile degree. Students who graduate with a major in accounting may find jobs in many areas of business including: banking, financial planning, sales, production management, client management, product development, procurement, and general management.