Introduction

Accountants provide financial services for business entities, corporations and not-for-profit organizations, governmental units and to individuals. They design and maintain systems to record changes in assets and liabilities; supervise accounting record changes in assets and liabilities; supervise accounting for expenses, payment, purchases and inventories; and prepare periodic fax and financial reports. Accountants must be able to communicate both orally and in writing because they have to deal with people on a one-to-one basis. They must also be able to solve problems; learn new information quickly and work well with others on a team.

The Bachelor of Science degree in accounting prepares students for the Uniform Certified Public Accounting Examination. With this degree you could become an accountant or you could obtain employment in other business-related areas, such as economic analysis, credit analysis, marketing, personnel, banking or management of the total operation.

Functional Skill Set for Accounting Majors

- Aptitude for accuracy and detail.
- Ability to organize, analyze and interpret numerical data.
- Ability to think logically and critically.
- Proficiency in oral and written communication.
- Proficiency with computers.
- Ability to work independently and concentrate for long periods of time.
- Ability to explain complex financial data to others.
- Ability to lead, supervise and direct others.
Related Career Titles for Accounting Majors

- Actuary
- Assistant Controller
- Auditor (Internal or General)
- Bank Examiner
- Bank Officer
- Benefits Administrator
- Budgetary Control Analyst
- Certified Public Accountant
- Chief Cost Accountant
- Chief Financial Officer
- CIA Agent
- Claims Adjuster/Examiner
- Collection Agent
- Commercial Banker
- Commodities Trader
- Computer Programmer
- Consumer Credit Officer
- Controller
- Cost Accountant
- Credit and Collection Specialist
- Entrepreneur
- Estate Planner
- FBI Agent
- Financial Analyst
- General Adjuster
- Governmental Accountant
- Industrial Accountant
- Industrial Buyer
- Internal Auditor
- International Trade Specialist
- Inventory Control Specialist
- Investment Agent
- Investment Banker
- IRS Investigator
- Loan Administrator/Officer
- Management Consultant
- Managerial Accountant
- Methods/Procedures Specialist
- Payroll Manager
- Personal Financial Planner
- Plant Accountant
- Professor
- Public Accountant
- Securities Broker
- Stockbroker
- Systems Analyst
- Tax Lawyer
- Tax Specialist
- Treasurer
- Treasury Mgmt Specialist
- Trust Accountant
- Underwriter

Some Organizations that Typically Employ Accounting Majors:

- Accounting/CPA Firms
- Banks and Financial Institutions
- Colleges and Universities
- Consulting Firms
- Credit Unions
- Hospitals/Healthcare Facilities
- Insurance Industry
- Law Firms
- Local, State, Federal Government
- Private Industry
- Real Estate Companies
- Research and Development Firms
- School Systems
- Self-employment
- Utility Companies
- Retail Stores
Start a Strategic Plan

- Working as a part-time or volunteer treasurer.
- Join professional accounting organization.
- Join a financial advisory board.
- Work with computers.
- Take on leadership roles in clubs or organizations.
- Participate in an Internship, or part-time job related to accounting.

Professional Organizations and Associations for Accounting Majors:

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants www.aicpa.org
Andersen www.arthurandersen.com/
Bank of America www.bankofamerica.com
Ernst and Young www.ey.com/global/gcr.nsf/international/Welcome-Careers
First Union National Bank www.firstunion.com
Goldman & Sachs www.gs.com
JP Morgan www.jpmorgan.com
KPMG www.us.kpmg.com
Merrill Lynch www.ml.com
Price Waterhouse www.pwc.com
Wachovia Corporation www.wachovia.com

American Accounting Association
5717 Bessie Drive
Sarasota, FL 34233-2399
941-921-7747

(Offers student membership, accreditation information, and a helpful list of links and organizations)

American Association of Latino Professionals in Accounting and Finance
510 West Sixth Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, Ca 90014
213-243-0004
http://www.alpfa.org
(Provides information about career opportunities, scholarships, and student memberships)
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
212-596-6200
http://aicpa.org
(Publishes preparation information for CPA Examinations, provides job posting services. Career path and internship information; see the Web site sections on Students and Career Resources/Resume Match)

American Society of Women Accountants
1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 330
Vienna, VA 22182
800-326-2163
http://www.aswa.org
(Offers scholarships and employment opportunities)

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# ACCOUNTING
What can I do with this major?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>INFORMATION/STRATEGIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC ACCOUNTING</strong></td>
<td>Public accounting firms: Large, multinational Regional Local Sole practitioners</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditing/Assurance Services Tax Environmental Accounting Forensic/Investigative Accounting Information Technology Services International Accounting Personal Financial Planning</td>
<td>Companies of all sizes, in all industries</td>
<td>Many managers in corporate settings obtain an MBA degree after several years of work experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORPORATE ACCOUNTING</strong></td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Management Financial Reporting Internal Auditing Cost Accounting Tax Planning Budget Analysis</td>
<td>Universities and colleges</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Research Consulting</td>
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### AREAS

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<tr>
<th>Non-Profit</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Information/Strategies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Social service agencies and organizations</td>
<td>Volunteer at non-profit organizations and build a network of contacts in the non-profit sector.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Audit</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
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<td>Financial Planning</td>
<td>Public school systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeting</td>
<td>Universities and colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Money Handling</td>
<td>Religious organizations</td>
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<td>Record Keeping</td>
<td>Libraries and museums</td>
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<td>Political parties</td>
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<td>Labor unions</td>
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### 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 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.