

# ACCOUNTING

## What can I do with this Major?

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

Areas	Employers	Information/Strategies
Auditing/Assurance Services	Public accounting firms: Large/multinational, Regional, Local	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.
Tax	Sole Practitioners	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.
Environmental Accounting		
Forensic/Investigative Accounting		
Information Technology Services		
International Accounting		
Personal Financial Planning		

### CORPORATE ACCOUNTING

Areas	Employers	Information/Strategies
Financial Management	Companies of all sizes, in all industries	Many managers in corporate settings obtain an MBA degree after several years of work experience.
Financial Reporting		
Internal Auditing		
Cost Accounting		
Tax Planning		
Budget Analysis		

## GOVERNMENT

Areas	Employers	Information/Strategies
Auditing	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.
Financial Reporting		Accounting is a "hot area" in government hiring and many opportunities exist in the public sector.
Financial Management		
Budget Analysis		
Research		

## EDUCATION

Areas	Employers	Information/Strategies
Teaching	Universities and colleges	A Ph.D. in Accounting or a DBA, Doctorate in Business Administration, in accounting is generally required.
Research		Maintain a high g.p.a. and secure strong faculty recommendations for admittance into graduate school.
Consulting		

## NON-PROFIT

Areas	Employers	Information/Strategies
Accounting	Social service agencies and organizations	Volunteer at non-profit organizations and build a network of contacts in the non-profit sector.
Internal Audit	Hospitals	
Financial Planning	Public school systems	
Budgeting	Universities and colleges	
Money Handling	Religious organizations	

Areas	Employers	Information/Strategies
Record Keeping	Libraries and museums	
	Political parties	
	Labor unions	

## 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.