What Can I Do With A Degree In Accounting?

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

Employers
- Public accounting firms: Large - multinational, Regional, Local
- Sole practitioners

Strategies
- 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.

Education Areas
- Teaching
- Research
- Consulting
### Employers
- Universities and colleges

### Strategies
- 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.

### Corporate Accounting

#### Areas
- Financial Management
- Financial Reporting
- Internal Auditing
- Cost Accounting
- Tax Planning
- Budget Analysis

### Employers
- Companies of all sizes, in all industries

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

### Government

#### Areas
- Auditing
- Financial Reporting
- Financial Management
- Budget Analysis
- Research

### Employers
- 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

### Strategies
- 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.

### Non-Profit

#### Areas
- Accounting
- Internal Audit
- Financial Planning
- Budgeting
- Money Handling
- Record Keeping

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

### Strategies
- Volunteer at non-profit organizations and build a network of contacts in the non-profit sector.
General Strategies for Accounting Majors

- 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.

- 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.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2003, Revised 2008)

Exploring Majoring in Accounting

What Can I Do With a Major in Accounting
http://www.k-state.edu/acic/majorin/accounting.htm

What Can I do with a Major in...
http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/spotlights/account.html

Major Resource Kits
http://www.udel.edu/CSC/acc.html

Careers in Accounting

Accounting Net — www.accountingnet.com


Accounting: A Career without Boundaries by AICPA
http://www.aicpa.org/Becoming+a+CPA/CPA+Candidates+and+Students/The+Benefits/limits.htm

CPA Career-College Students, Cal CPA, Lots of info — http://www.calcpa.org/community/careers/college.html
Career Exploration - Accounting

UC Berkeley
http://career.berkeley.edu/Business/Business.stm#accounting

Job Star
http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.php#Accounting

Occupational Outlook Handbook
http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos001.htm

O’Net
http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/13-2011.01

USF

FinCareer.com — www.fincareer.com

Job Postings

JobsintheMoney — www.jobsinthemoney.com

CareerBank.com — www.careerbank.com

Accounting.com — www.accounting.com Accounting and finance jobs for all levels of experience.

Bank Jobs.com — www.bankjobs.com

Quintessential Careers — www.quintcareers.com/

Nation Job — www.nationjob.com/financial/

Professional Associations

Professional associations can be a good resource for learning about an occupation or field, an excellent resource for networking, and finding career information and jobs.

http://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/ctng/assoc.htm

Yahoo! Professional Organizations
http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Finance_and_Investment/Accounting_and_Auditing/Organizations/Professional/

American Accounting Association —
http://aaahq.org/index.cfm

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants AICPA
www.aicpa.org/index.htm

American Society of Women Accountants
www.aswa.org/

The California Society of Certified Public Accountants
http://www.calcpa.org/Content/home.aspx

“Never call an accountant a credit to his profession; a good accountant is a debit to his profession.”
Charles Lyell