

ACCOUNTING

What is this career like?

Accountants and auditors keep track of a company's money. The company's managers and people outside the company read their reports. Managers look at the accountants' reports to see how well their companies are doing. Governments use the reports to tell how much tax a company should pay. Some people read them to decide if they want to do business with the company. Others use them to decide if they want to lend money to the company.

There are four kinds of accountants.

- Public accountants work for public accounting companies. They do accounting, auditing, tax and consulting work. Some have their own businesses. They do many different kinds of accounting for people outside the company.
- Management accountants keep track of the money spent and made by the companies for which they work.
- Internal auditors make sure that a company's accounting records are right. They check the records to see that no one in the company is stealing. They also check to see that no one in the company is wasting the company's money.
- Government accountants and auditors make sure that government accounting records are accurate. They also check the records of people doing business with the government.

Accountants and auditors work in offices. They generally work a standard 40-hour week, but some work 50 hours a week or more. Tax accountants often work long hours during the tax season, from January to April. Accountants working for the government and public companies travel to audit other companies or branches of their own company.

Accounting is a versatile degree. Students who graduate with a major in accounting may find jobs in many areas, including sales, production, management, product development, general management, banking and financial planning. Check out some of the related career titles listed below and learn more at www.bls.gov/ooh.

Related Career Titles (from <http://uncw.edu/career/accountancy.html>)

Actuary	Fund Raiser	Administrator
Commodities Trader	Industrial/Institutional Buyer	Bookkeeper
Industrial Buyer	International Trade Specialist	Business Teacher
Assistant Controller	IRM Consultant	Commodities Trader
Computer Programmer	Management Accountant	Contract Administrator

Internal Auditor	Production Manager	EDP Auditor
Auditor	FBI Agent	External Auditor
Consumer Credit Officer	Managerial Accountant	Financial Investment Analyst
International Trade	CIA Agent	Industrial Transportation
Bank Examiner	Financial Analyst	Insurance Agent/Broker
Controller	Methods/Procedures Specialist	Inventory Control Specialist
Inventory Control Specialist	Claims Adjuster	IRS Investigator
Benefits/Compensation	General Auditor	Administrative Services Mgr
Cost Accountant	Payroll Manager	Property Accountant
IRS Investigator	Collection Agent	Student Affairs Manager
Budgetary Control Analyst	Governmental Accountant	Systems Analyst
Credit and Collection	Personal Financial Planner	Tax Compliance Specialist
Loan Administrator	Commercial Banker	Television/Film Producer
Certified Public Accountant	Industrial Accountant	Tax Lawyer
Entrepreneur	Plant Accountant	Tax Specialist
Loan/Consumer Credit	Professor	Treasurer
Chief Cost Accountant	Public Accountant	Treasury Mgmt Specialist
Estate Planner	Securities Broker	Trust Accountant
Management Consultant	Stockbroker	Underwriter
Chief Financial Officer	Systems Analyst	Tax Accountant
Accountant, Public Practice	Sales Manager	Tax Supervisor/Auditor
Lawyer - Audit Manager	Systems Accountant	Treasury Management
Budget Accountant	Computer Programmer	Employment Agency Counselor
Claim Adjuster/Examiner	Cost Dept. Supervisor	Financial Aid Director

How do you get ready?

Most accountants have a college degree in accounting. Public accountants have to take a special test as well, resulting in a certification. Public accountants also must have a special license from the state in which they live. Some employers want accountants who have a master's degree in business or accounting. Most employers want accountants who know quite a bit about computers. Previous experience in a summer or part-time internship is also a plus.

People who want to be accountants should be good at math and have good analytical skills. They also should be able to write well so they can tell others about their findings.

Related Major Skills (from <http://uncw.edu/career/accountancy.html>)

Problem solver	Numerical computation	Oral and written communication
Adapt well to frequent change	Analyze and interpret data	Computer literacy
Organized	Critical thinking	Systemizing skills
Efficient	Work independently	Logical thinking
Team work		

Strategies

- Earn good grades. Grades are an indicator of technical competence in accounting and of a person’s work ethic
- 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 information about careers through internships
- Develop your analytical, critical-thinking and problem solving skills
- Develop high ethical standards
- Accuracy and attention to detail are important traits for accountants

What about the future? (from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/accountants-and-auditors.htm#tab-6>)

Employment of accountants and auditors is projected to grow 13 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. In general, employment growth of accountants and auditors is expected to be closely tied to the health of the overall economy. As the economy grows, these workers will continue to be needed to prepare and examine financial records.

There has been an increased focus on accounting in response to corporate scandals and recent financial crises. Stricter laws and regulations, particularly in the financial sector, will likely increase the demand for accounting services as organizations seek to comply with new standards. In addition, tighter lending standards are expected to increase the importance of audits, as this is a key way for organizations to demonstrate their creditworthiness.

Available at Albright College Career Development’s Resource Library

- Great Jobs for Accounting Majors, by Jan Goldberg
- Career Opportunities in Banking, Finance and Insurance, by Thomas Fitch

- Careers for Financial Mavens and Other Money Movers, by Marjorie Eberts & Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Number Crunchers and Other Quantitative Types, by Rebecca Burnett
- Careers for Perfectionists and Other Meticulous Types, by Blythe Camenson
- Opportunities in Accounting Careers, by Martin Rosenberg
- Opportunities in Banking Careers, by Adrian Paradis
- Opportunities in Federal Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Financial Careers, by Michael Sumichrast and Martin A. Sumichrast
- Opportunities in Government Careers, by Neal Baxter
- Opportunities in Hospital Administration Careers, by I. Donald Snook, Jr.
- Opportunities in Insurance Careers, by Robert Schroyer
- Opportunities in Property Management Careers, by Mariwyn Evans

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College Experiential Learning and Career Development Center.

Some Related Websites

- Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants
<http://www.picpa.org/content/home.aspx>
- Professional Accounting Society of America <http://www.thepasa.org/>
- Financial Careers www.financialcareersnow.com

Professional Associations Links

Information about careers in certified public accounting and CPA standards and examinations may be obtained from:

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Internet: <http://www.aicpa.org>
- The Uniform CPA Examination, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Internet: <http://www.cpa-exam.org>

Information on CPA licensure requirements by state may be obtained from:

- National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, 150 Fourth Ave. North, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37219-2417. Internet: <http://www.nasba.org>

Information on careers in management accounting and the CMA designation may be obtained from:

- Institute of Management Accountants, 10 Paragon Dr., Montvale, NJ 07645-1718. Internet: <http://www.imanet.org>

Information on the Accredited in Accountancy, Accredited Business Accountant, Accredited Tax Advisor, or Accredited Tax Preparer designations may be obtained from:

- Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation, 1010 North Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314-1574. Internet: <http://www.acatcredentials.org>

Information on the Certified Fraud Examiner designation may be obtained from:

- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, 716 West Ave, Austin, TX 78701

Information on careers in internal auditing and the CIA designation may be obtained from:

- The Institute of Internal Auditors, 247 Maitland Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-4201. Internet: <http://www.theiia.org>

Information on careers in information systems auditing and the CISA designation may be obtained from:

- ISACA, 3701 Algonquin Rd., Suite 1010, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. Internet: <http://www.isaca.org>

Information on careers in government accounting and the CGFM designation may be obtained from:

- Association of Government Accountants, 2208 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301. Internet: <http://www.agacgfm.org>

Job and Internship Search Links

- Start here. Go Places in Business and Accounting <http://www.startheregoplaces.com/>
- CareerBank.com <http://www.careerbank.com>
- Accounting.com <http://www.accounting.com>
- Jobs in the Money <http://www.efinancialcareers.com>
- Bankjobs.com <http://www.bankjobs.com>
- Financial Job Network <http://www.fjn.com>
- Financial/Sports Jobs www.workinsports.com