Accounting

Good grades, grades are an indicator of technical competence in accounting and of a person’s work ethic. Potential employers place an emphasis on interpersonal and communication skills. Demonstrate these skills by having well-rounded experiences outside of the classroom. Actively participate in student organizations to develop leadership skills. Learn to work well within a team. Develop excellent computer skills. Learn relevant software packages.

Pursue gaining internships to learn about the field and gain experience. Consider completing internships in the spring semester, in addition to summer farm, to build more connections.

Area of Opportunity:
- Assurance services
- Business valuation
- External auditing
- Personal financial planning
- Tax
- Environmental accounting
- International accounting
- Financial management
- Financial reporting
- Internal auditing
- Cost accounting
- Tax planning
- Transaction services
- Budget analysis
- Money handling
- Record keeping

Professional Organizations:
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Institute of Internal Auditors
- Institute of Management Accountants
- State Boards of Accounting

Strategies on Entering the Field:
- 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. This is 30 more hours than a typical bachelor’s degree. Some schools offer combined five year master degree programs, but a master’s is not required.
- State laws govern the practice of accountancy and specify the requirements to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam and gain licensure. In most states, the State Board of Accountancy website outlines those requirements.
- Learn about the American Institute of CPA’s offers specialty certifications.
- Some entry-level positions do not require a CPA although many in higher level positions have both a CPA and a master’s degree.
- Many managers in corporate settings obtain an MBA degree after several years of work experience.
- The Institute of Management Accountants offers the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) to those who have worked in the field for two years, hold a bachelor’s degree, and pass a two part exam.
- Management accountants may move into internal auditing, however it is less likely to move to public accounting.
- Complete an internship in a government agency.
- Become familiar with the government application process.
- Some government agencies will help pay back student loans with an employee commitment to service for three years.
- Accounting is a “hot area” in government hiring and many opportunities exist in the public sector.

Common Employers:
- Public accounting firms: 
  - Small practitioners
  - Manufacturing
  - Retail
  - Technology
  - Financial services and insurance
- Government:
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - Internal Revenue Service
  - Department of Treasury
  - General Accounting Office
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - Office of Inspector General
  - Federal Trade Commission
  - General Accounting Office
  - Teaching
  - Research
  - Consulting

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