

Career

Paths

ACCOUNTING

Whether you aspire to have a career in public accounting, work as a corporate controller or treasurer, or serve in government or at a nonprofit, an accounting major will prepare you well. With courses that focus on financial reporting, auditing, data analytics, tax, and cost accounting, you will learn how to measure, report, and analyze the financial performance of an individual or business.

Public Accounting

Example Career Paths: Assurance Services | Business Valuing | External Auditing | Personal Financial Planning | Tax | Environmental Accounting | Forensic/Investigative Accounting | International Accounting | Financial Accounting | Litigation/Risk Management Accounting | Management Consulting

Potential Employers: Public Accounting Firms | Sole Practitioners

Professional Associations: [American Institute of Certified Public Accountants](#) | [National Association of State Boards of Accountancy](#)

Related Occupations: [Accountants & Auditors](#) | [Management Analysts](#) | [Personal Financial Advisors](#)

Corporate Accounting

Example Career Paths: Financial Management | Financial Reporting | Internal Auditing | Cost Accounting | Tax Planning | Transaction Services | Budget Analysis | Information Technology

Potential Employers: Corporations of all sizes, in all industries

Professional Associations: [American Institute of Certified Public Accountants](#) | [Institute of Management Accountants](#) | [Institute of Internal Auditors](#)

Related Occupations: [Accountants & Auditors](#) | [Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks](#) | [Cost Estimators](#) | [Financial Analysts](#) | [Financial Managers](#)

Government

Example Career Paths: Auditing | Financial Reporting | Financial Management | Budget Analysis | Research

Potential Employers: Federal Bureau of Investigation | Internal Revenue Service | Department of Treasury | General Accounting Office | Office of Management and Budget | Securities Exchange Commission | State & Local Agencies

Professional Associations: [American Institute of Certified Public Accountants](#) | [Association of Government Accountants](#)

Related Occupations: [Accountants & Auditors](#) | [Cost Estimators](#) | [Financial Analysts](#) | [Financial Examiners](#) | [Financial Managers](#) | [Tax Examiners & Collectors, and Revenue Agents](#)

Nonprofit

Example Career Paths: Accounting | Internal Auditing | Financial Planning | Budgeting | Money Handling | Record Keeping

Potential Employers: Social Service Agencies | Nonprofit Organizations | Hospitals | Public School Systems | Universities & Colleges | Religious Organizations | Libraries & Museums | Political Parties | Labor Unions

Professional Associations: [National Council of Nonprofits](#) | [American Institute of Certified Public Accountants](#)

Related Occupations: [Accountants & Auditors](#) | [Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks](#) | [Cost Estimators](#) | [Financial Analysts](#) | [Financial Managers](#)

Education

Example Career Paths: Teaching | Research | Consulting

Potential Employers: Colleges & Universities

Professional Associations: [American Accounting Association](#) | [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business](#)

Related Occupations: [Postsecondary Teachers](#)

Preparing for your Career

- Earn good grades to indicate technical competence in accounting and a strong work ethic.
- Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills by having well-rounded experiences outside the classroom.
- Actively participate in student organizations to develop leadership skills & learn to work well with a team.
- Develop excellent computer skills and learn relevant software packages.
- Pursue internships to learn about the field and gain experience. Consider completing multiple internships during the school year and/or the summer to build more connections.
- Join relevant [College of Business clubs](#) to gain knowledge about the accounting profession.
- Develop analytical, critical thinking/problem-solving skills, and understanding of professional ethical standards.
- Exhibit accuracy and attention to detail.
- If interested in working for an international corporation, gain language skills and work toward becoming multilingual.
- Take classes outside of accounting in a related field like finance or budget analysis to broaden your scope of knowledge.
- Pursue relevant certifications for your area of accounting, such as the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in field of interest to learn more about their work and build a network of contacts.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

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What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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