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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Public Accounting</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Example Career Paths:</strong> Assurance Services</td>
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## 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


## 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/