

The BUZZ on Careers in Accounting!



What is a Certified Public Accountant?

The Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation is a valuable credential, and is highly respected and internationally recognized. To a potential employer, it means high ethical standards, valuable experience, a superior education, good people skills...and employers are willing to pay for that!

Accounting is the process of identifying, measuring and communicating financial information to enable informed judgments and decisions by users of the information. From the smallest start-up business to the biggest government agency to the newest entertainer, every money-making organization requires the skills of a CPA.

CPAs have a variety of career paths from which to choose. Within public accounting, you can work for any size firm, ranging from a large, international CPA firm to a small local accounting practice. Within the firm, you can work in such areas as audit, tax and management consulting. In business and industry, you can work in companies of all sizes, working in diverse areas such as financial accounting and reporting, management accounting, and financial analysis. Within government, you can create a path to success at either the federal, state or local level. Non-profit organizations and education also offer many diverse opportunities.

Who wants to be a CPA?

Smart people. Fun people. Want-to-make-a-difference people. The CPA license is a popular one, because it's highly respected and opens up a world of possibilities.

**START HERE,
GO PLACES.** >>>

A website where you can find everything you could ever want to know about careers in accounting...
like different career areas of practice, salaries, job market, and skills needed.

What can I do in high school to prepare for a career in accounting?

- Take classes in math, business, and writing/communications.
- Join a club to develop your social and leadership skills.
- Explore careers in accounting at the Start Here Go Places website.
- Talk with real CPAs in your area about what they do. Find them through parents of your friends, friends of your parents, and your teachers.
- Learn financial skills and start practicing them! Check out free online resources to learn how to better manage your money.
- Explore colleges. What schools are you interested in attending and do they offer a degree in accounting?
- Learn computer software like Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.
- Learn accounting software like Quicken or QuickBooks.
- Volunteer to do accounting tasks at a fundraiser like keep records, manage processes, collect money, count inventory.
- Volunteer with an IRS VITA site or other financial-related outreach in your community.
- Have a teacher or guidance counselor help you evaluate what career area best fits your personal strengths and attributes.

The FICPA...Dedicated to preparing the CPAs of tomorrow!

As a CPA, you can count on...

- People wanting your advice
- Working in an area you're passionate about...like sports, technology or fashion
- A good salary
- Job security



Accounting students know a thing or two about numbers

...and the numbers for new grads are encouraging these days.

Employment opportunities for accountants are expected to climb 22% between 2008 and 2018 according to the US Department of Labor.

How much money do accountants make?

Entry level salaries (1-3 years of experience) vary depending on the size of the company, type of industry, area of practice, and geographic location. Below are average salaries for several accounting positions based on data from Robert Half International.

Working for a company ...

Forensic Accounting	64,500
IT Auditor	62,250
Business Analyst	54,500
Tax Accountant	49,000
Financial Analyst	45,500
Budget Analyst	43,750
Accountant	41,000

Working for an accounting department ...

Credit Analyst	42,250
Bookkeeper	34,000
AR/AP Clerk	29,000
Payroll Clerk	29,250
Billing Clerk	30,000

Working for a public accounting firm ...

Audit/Assurance Services	49,500
Management Services	49,750
Tax Services	49,000



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The Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA), headquartered in Tallahassee, is a member-driven society representing the interests of Certified Public Accountants throughout Florida.

The Institute has been working to advance the accounting profession in Florida for more than 100 years and has over 19,000 members.

We're on the web!

www.ficpa.org

Go to "Future CPAs" and find information on summer camps, scholarships, and news about the accounting profession.

