

The image features a light gray background with several concentric circles, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of depth and movement. A large, solid blue oval is positioned in the center, tilted slightly to the right. Inside this blue oval, the word "Accounting" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A thick, dark gray curved line sweeps across the bottom left of the blue oval, adding a dynamic element to the composition.

Accounting

Public Accounting

External auditing

Assurance services

Tax

Environmental accounting

Forensic/Investigative accounting

International accounting

Financial accounting

Risk management consulting

Business valuing

Personal financial planning

Public Accounting Employers

**Public
accounting firms:**

- **Large/multinational,
regional, local**

Sole practitioners

Public Accounting Strategies

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.

Once gaining the CPA license, the American Institute of CPA's offers specialty certifications.

Corporate Accounting

Financial management

Financial reporting

Internal auditing

Cost accounting

Tax planning

Budget analysis

Information technology

Corporate Accounting Employers

Companies of all sizes, in all industries:

Manufacturing

Retail

Technology

Financial services and insurance

Healthcare

Corporate Accounting Strategies

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.

Government Accounting

Auditing

Financial reporting

Financial management

Budget analysis

Research

Government Accounting Employers

Federal government:

- **Federal Bureau of Investigation**
- **Internal Revenue Service**
- **Department of Treasury**
- **General Accounting Office**
- **Office of Management and Budget**
- **Securities Exchange Commission**

State and local agencies

Government Accounting Strategies

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.

Non-Profit Accounting

Accounting

Internal auditing

Financial planning

Budgeting

Money handling

Record keeping

Non-Profit Accounting Employers

Social service agencies

Non-profit organizations

Hospitals

Public school systems

Universities and colleges

Religious organizations

Libraries and museums

Political parties

Labor unions

Non-Profit Accounting Strategies

Volunteer at non-profit organizations.

Build a network of contacts in the non-profit sector.

General Accounting Information

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 in a team.

Develop excellent computer skills. Learn relevant software packages.

Join Beta Alpha Psi, the honorary fraternity for accounting and finance information professionals, to gain knowledge about the accounting profession.

Accounting students should develop their analytical, critical-thinking and problem solving skills. Develop high ethical standards.

Accuracy and attention to detail are important traits for accountants.

Take classes outside of accounting in a related field, i.e. finance or budget analysis, to broaden your scope of knowledge.

Stand out by targeting an area of focus during your training and make yourself an expert in that area.

Certifications available through the Institute of Internal Auditors or the Institute of Management Accountants may increase job marketability in some areas of accounting.

Accounting is a versatile degree. Students who graduate with a major in accounting may find jobs in many areas of business including: banking, financial planning, sales, production management, client management, product development, procurement, and general management.