What Can I Do With A Major In Accounting?

Accountants and auditors help to ensure that the nation’s firms are run efficiently, its public records kept accurately, and its taxes paid properly and on time. They analyze and communicate financial information for various entities such as companies, individual clients and government. Beyond carrying out the fundamental tasks of the occupation—preparing, analyzing and verifying financial documents in order to provide information to clients—many accountants also offer budget analysis, financial and investment planning, and limited legal services.

**Possible Career Options**
(Some may require further education/specialization)

- Accountant, Public Practice
- Accounts Payable Supervisor
- Actuary
- Appraiser
- Audit Manager
- Bank Officer
- Budget Accountant
- Business Credit/Loan Administrator
- Claim Adjuster/Examiner
- Compensation/Benefits Administrator
- Commodities Trader
- Consolidation Manager
- Consumer Credit/Loan/Collection Manager
- Contract Administrator
- Controller
- Credit Monitoring Analyst
- Data Processing Auditor
- Director of Financial Aid
- Economist
- EDP Auditor
- Educator
- External Auditor
- Financial Analyst/Planner
- Fiscal Services Accountant
- Fund Raiser
- Industrial/Institutional Buyer
- Information Systems Auditor
- Insurance Adjuster/Agent
- Internal Auditor
- Internal Trade Specialist
- Inventory Control Specialist
- Investment Banker
- IRS Investigator
- Manager of Administration
- Merger and Acquisition Specialist
- Payroll Manager
- Pension Fund Manager
- Plant Accountant
- Project Accountant
- Purchasing Agent
- Sales Manager
- SEC Accountant
- Stock Broker
- Tax Accountant/Supervisor/Auditor
- Underwriter

**Types of Employers**

**PRIVATE & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**
- Banks
- Brokerage Houses
- Chemical Factories
- Colleges/Universities
- Construction Firms
- Consulting Firms
- Credit Unions
- Engineering Firms
- Finance Companies
- Food Manufacturers
- High Technology Firms
- Hospitals
- Insurance Companies
- Pharmaceutical Companies
- Private Accounting Firms
- Public Accounting Firms
- Transportation Companies
- Wholesale/Retail Operations

**GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**
- Army Finance and Accounting Center
- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Bureau of the Public Debt
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- Export-Import Bank of the US
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board
- Federal Trade Commission
- Financial Management Service
- General Accounting Office
- Health Care Financing Administration
- Internal Revenue Service
- International Trade Administration
- National Credit Union Administration
- Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
- Office of the State Auditor
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Small Business Administration

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**Transferable Skills**

**General Skills**
- Compiles accurate financial data
- Thinks analytically
- Possesses integrity, honesty, alertness and thoroughness
- Develops excellent numeric skills

**Teamwork Skills**
- Belongs to cross-functional teams
- Develops close relationships with other departments
- Offers recommendations to improve overall business strategy and goals

**Technical Skills**
- General computer knowledge
- Spreadsheet proficiency
- Mathematics aptitude
- Computerized accounting systems familiarity

**Personal Attributes**
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Precision

**Communication Skills**
- Explains and relays financial data to other users
- Leads, supervises and directs others
- Possesses strong written and oral communication skills
- Reports on financial results

**Analytical Skills**
- Organizes, analyzes and interprets numeric data
- Analyzes and uses financial information
- Makes sound judgments to solve quantitative problems
- Prepares and conducts performance tests of internal control procedures

**Miscellaneous Skills**
- Commits to professional standards
- Works independently
- Prepares tax returns
- Improves existing accounting procedures

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**Experiential Education**

- Tracking financial investments for a local investment firm
- Working in the auditing sector of a Big 4 firm
- Analyzing accounts payable and receivable in a regional auditing office
- Working in the state auditor’s office
- Completing typical monthly closing procedures for a large multinational company
- Handling state, local and international tax reporting

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**Professional Associations**

- American Accounting Association, aaahq.org
- American Institute of CPAs, aicpa.org
- American Payroll Association, americanpayroll.org
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, accaglobal.com
- Association of Government Accountants, agacgfm.org
- Institute of Management Accountants, imanet.org

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**Enhancing Your Employability**

- Join relevant student organizations to develop leadership skills
- Participate in internships and field experience placements
- Become active in alumni and/or mentor networks
- Develop advanced computer skills as well as mathematical and problem solving abilities
- Take part in mock interview opportunities

*Source: University of Delaware, Ashland University, Rutgers*