Emphasis Guide: Accounting

Explore Accounting

Make sure to make an appointment with me at www.colorado.edu/business/careeradvising for career guidance, resume/cover letter review and internship and job search help.

The accounting area of emphasis is designed to prepare students for careers in accounting, general and financial management, financial analysis, taxation, auditing, and accounting information systems.

Accounting students typically have two initial placement options to consider after graduation. Many begin their careers in public accounting and earn Certified Public Accountants (CPA) certification. The CPA designation is useful but not required for many other career paths in accounting.

Accounting students who are planning careers in business, government, or non-profits and wish to earn their undergraduate degree in accounting are strongly encouraged to take substantial coursework beyond the required accounting courses, such as additional accounting, finance, information systems, and international business courses.

Description of the Field

Public Accounting
- Assurance = audit for financial statements
- Tax = tax strategy and planning and tax compliance
- Advisory = specialized services (valuation, forensics, risk management, etc.)

Corporate Accounting
- CFO, financial reporting, financial analysis, internal audit, tax department

Government
- U.S., IRS, state, local governments
- Government Accounting Office (GAO)

Non-Profit Organizations
- Perform similar roles as a corporate accountant

Top Hiring Industries
All industries need employees with accounting backgrounds!!

- Automotive
- Education
- Energy
- Entertainment
- Financial Services
- Government
- Natural Foods
- Real Estate
- And everyone else!

Top Hiring Companies
- Anadarko Petroleum
- Anton Collins Mitchell
- Boulder Brands
- Clifton Larson Allen
- Deloitte
- EKS&H
- EY
- Fidelity Investments
- Goldman Sachs
- KPMG
- Kodiak Building Partners
- McGladrey
- MG-Stover
- PwC
- Research Electro-Optics
- RubinBrown
- Textron
- Toyota
- University of Colorado
- WhiteWave Foods
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Prepare for Your Internship or Job Search

Resources:
- Resume Templates and Examples for Accounting Students
- How to Write a Cover Letter and Examples for Accounting Students
- Online Resources: This Way to CPA, Careers in Accounting, CareerAdvisor Powered by PwC
- For info on the concurrent (5-year) Accounting Program: Maria.Nondorf@colorado.edu
- For info on the CPA requirements: Jay.Ballantine@colorado.edu

Recruiting Schedule:

**Sophomore Standing** (8 semesters from graduation)
- Apply in spring for public accounting firms’ 1-day exploratory programs
- Apply in spring for any accounting or business-related summer internships

**Junior Standing** (6 semester from graduation)
- Apply in fall (Sept-Nov) for industry internships for the summer between your junior and senior year
- Apply in spring (February & March) for Summer Leadership programs (public accounting)

**Senior Standing** (4 semesters from graduation)
- Apply in fall for public accounting busy season (winter) and summer internships
- For those graduating in 4 years—apply for full-time positions

**5th Year Standing** (2 semesters from graduation)
- Apply in fall for public accounting and industry full-time positions

Organizations to Join

**Professional:**
- The Association for Latino Professionals in America
- Institute of Management Accountants
- National Association of Black Accountants

**On-Campus:**
- Join Beta Alpha Psi
- Attend Meet the Firms in early September
- Talk with faculty about your career goals
- Attend all info sessions/tabling events with recruiters
- Meet with your academic and career advisors to make sure you are on track
- Attend info session on the concurrent MS/BSBA (5 year) accounting program

The following traits led interns to receive full-time offers from a Big 4 Accounting Firm:
- Technical Skills
- Intellectual Curiosity
- Desire to be there/positive attitude
- Strong desire to learn
- Effective communication
- Ability to prioritize projects