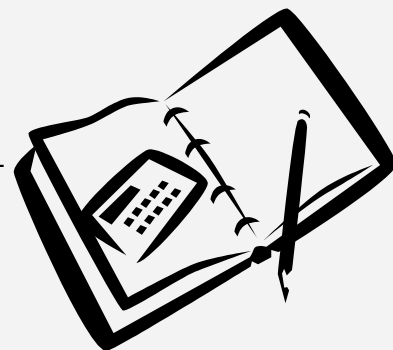


Florida Institute of Technology– Career Management Services

Career Profile: 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.

Public accountants perform a broad range of accounting, auditing, tax, and consulting activities. These accountants are also referred to as external auditors. Forensic accountants combine their knowledge of accounting and finance with law and investigative techniques to determine whether an activity is illegal. Management accountants record and analyze the financial information of the companies for which they work. Government accountants and auditors work in the public sector, maintaining and examining the records of government agencies and auditing private businesses and individuals. Internal auditors verify the effectiveness of their organization's internal controls and check for mismanagement, waste, or fraud. They examine and evaluate their firms' financial and information systems, management procedures, and internal controls to ensure that records are accurate and controls are adequate.



Most accountants and auditors work in a typical office setting. Some may be able to do part of their work at home. Accountants and auditors employed by public accounting firms, government agencies, and organizations with multiple locations may travel frequently to perform audits at branches, clients' places of business, or government facilities. Almost half of all accountants and auditors worked a standard 40-hour week in 2008, but many worked longer hours, particularly if they are self-employed and have numerous clients. Tax specialists often work long hours during the tax season.

Most accountant and auditor positions require at least a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Some employers prefer applicants with a master's degree in accounting, or with a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. Any accountant filing a report with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is required by law to be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Accountants and auditors are expected to experience much faster than average employment growth from 2008-18. Job opportunities should be favorable; accountants and auditors who have a professional certification, especially CPAs, should have the best prospects.

The average salary for accounting majors is up 3.7 percent to \$50,500. For these graduates, the top industry—in terms of number of hires—is accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping and payroll services, with an average salary of \$47,050. Highest-paying employers of accounting majors, however, were securities, commodities, and financial investments employers; the average salary in this industry stands at \$53,910.

For more information on a career in accounting contact the Career Management Services Office or your academic advisor.

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers Salary Survey: January 2012



Office of Career Management Services
150 W. University Blvd. Keuper Building, Rm 210 Melbourne, FL 32901
Phone: (321) 674-8102 Fax: (321) 674-8065
Website: fit.edu/career Email: career@fit.edu

