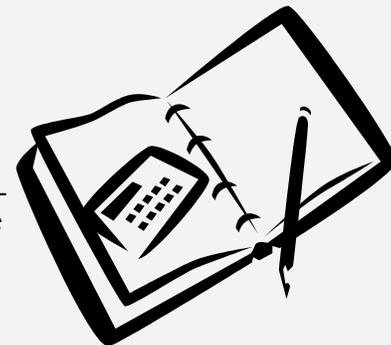


# Florida Institute of Technology– Career Management Services

## 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. Most accountants and auditors work full time. In 2010, one in five worked more than 40 hours per week.

Longer hours are typical at certain times of the year, such as at the end of the budget year or during 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).

Employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow 16 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. There has been an increased focus on accounting in response to corporate scandals and recent financial crises. Stricter laws and regulations, particularly in the financial sector, will likely increase the demand for accounting services as organizations seek to comply with new standards.

The median annual wage of accountants and auditors was \$61,690 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$38,940 and the top 10 percent earned more than \$106,880.

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

**Sources:** National Association of Colleges and Employers Salary Survey: January 2012

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition



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