BELK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
NIBLOCK STUDENT CENTER

QUEEN CITY CAREER GUIDE
ACCOUNTING

WHAT IS ACCOUNTING?

THE PRACTICE OF MEASURING, ANALYZING, AND COMMUNICATING FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKING. Accounting professionals help organizations evaluate performance, manage risk, ensure compliance, and plan for the future. Because every area of a business- from marketing and operations to human resources and finance- relies on financial information, accounting is often called the "language of business."

ACCOUNTING INDUSTRIES

PUBLIC ACCOUNTING. Provide accounting, tax, audit, and advisory services to corporations, nonprofits, government entities, and individuals. Professionals may work for local, regional, national, or global accounting firms. Many students begin their careers in public accounting and specialize in areas such as audit, tax, consulting, risk advisory, or transaction services. Students interested in becoming Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) often pursue additional coursework or a Master of Accountancy to meet CPA eligibility requirements.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTING. Record, analyze, and communicate an organization's financial information. Professionals support budgeting, forecasting, financial reporting, strategic planning, cost management, and business decision-making.

INTERNAL AUDITING. Evaluate an organization's internal controls, risk management processes, and operational effectiveness. Internal auditors help prevent fraud, ensure compliance, improve efficiency, and strengthen organizational performance.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING. Manage and examine financial information for government agencies and public organizations. Professionals may conduct audits, ensure compliance with regulations, analyze public spending, or investigate financial crimes. Employers include federal, state, and local governments, as well as agencies such as the IRS and other regulatory bodies.

PREPARING FOR YOUR CAREER...

AS CITED BY TOP AREA RECRUITERS, YOU WILL NEED:

- The ability to analyze financial information and use it to solve business problems
- Proficiency in Excel, accounting software, and data analysis tools
- Technology and AI literacy
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- The ability to translate financial information for diverse audiences
- Adaptability and a commitment to continuous learning
- Objectivity, professional judgment, and ethical decision-making
- The ability to work collaboratively across business functions

HOW TO GET HIRED

Recruiting for accounting internships and roles can happen as far as 18 months in advance. We encourage you to try to work a full time internship into your academic plan during the Spring semester or Summer term. Be engaged in career events as early in your academic career as possible. You can practice networking skills and meet representatives from accounting firms and corporations in North Carolina at Beta Alpha Psi's Meet the Professionals event each fall. **For more information about these events**, see the Turner School of Accountancy, 2nd floor Friday.

You might enjoy accounting if you like logic and order; you take a step-by-step approach to problem solving; you analyze your options before making decisions; you did well in algebra or statistics; you're detail-oriented; you enjoy teamwork; you like a profession that evolves with the use of technology and AI.

RIGHT NOW IN ACCOUNTING

ACCOUNTING IS A HIGH-DEMAND FIELD WITH STRONG EMPLOYER COMPETITION FOR STUDENT TALENT.

EMPLOYERS ACTIVELY RECRUIT STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE STRONG ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM.

FIRMS OFFER COMPETITIVE PAY, BENEFITS, AND STRUCTURED EARLY-CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

RECRUITING OFTEN BEGINS EARLIER THAN STUDENTS EXPECT, REQUIRING STUDENTS TO STAY PREPARED AND ENGAGED THROUGHOUT THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY.

QUICK FACTS
FOR ACCOUNTANTS:

FIELD GROWTH:
+5% NATIONALLY
BRIGHT OUTLOOK IN NORTH CAROLINA

NC SALARY RANGE: $52,000- $140,000+
MEDIAN NATIONAL INCOME: $81,680
THIS DATA REFLECTS ALL WORKERS AND LONG-TERM EARNING POTENTIAL.

CPA'S MAKE UP TO 10- 25% MORE WHEN COMPARED TO NATIONAL SALARY AVERAGES.
Source:BLS.gov, O*Net Online

UNC CHARLOTTE GRADS

86% of Charlotte Accounting Alumni 1-5 years out work in a field related to their field of study, with a $70,100 median salary. 51% of undergraduate accounting students go on to pursue additional education. *Lightcast Data, 2021-2026

GET INVOLVED!
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Student Organizations

Beta Alpha Psi -
Accounting majors with 3.0 GPA

Future Leaders of Accounting (FLA)

National Association of Black Accountants

Professional Organizations

AICPA – America Institute of CPAs

North Carolina Association of CPAs

Institute of Internal Auditors

Institute of Management Accountants

American Society of Women Accountants

WHO HIRES OUR ACCOUNTING ALUMNI?

KPMG
pwc
forvis mazars
RSM
Deloitte.
Grant Thornton
Cherry Bekaert
COMPASS GROUP

WHERE DO STUDENTS PURSUE GRADUATE EDUCATION?

University of North Carolina Charlotte
NC State University
Wake Forest University

Internships make candidates more competitive in the job market, and many employers hire entry level positions from their internship programs. More information can be found at belkcollege.charlotte.edu/internships

SAMPLE JOB TITLES IN ACCOUNTING

Certified Public Accountant (CPA) • Internal Auditor • Controller
Management Accountant (Cost/Managerial Accounting)
Staff Accountant • Budget Analyst • IRS Revenue Agent
Tax Associate / Tax Professional • Tax Examiner
Chief Financial Officer (CFO) • Treasurer • Revenue Manager
Fraud or Forensic Accountant

Charlotte Belk College of Business Niblock Student Center

For more information, visit:
Niblock Student Center, Belk College of Business, Friday 305,
belkcollege.charlotte.edu
Career Center, Atkins 150, career.charlotte.edu

Charlotte Career Center