

Professional Career Guide: **Accounting**

What is **Accounting**?

The practice of recording, classifying, and summarizing financial transactions. Accounting information is used by managers to measure financial performance, control operations, and provide financial reports to the investment community. All functional areas in business (like marketing, production, human resources, finance, and information technology) use accounting information in their daily operation. For this reason, many call accounting the "language" of business.

Accounting industries:

- **Public Accounting:** Provide accounting services on behalf of a corporation, non-profit, or individual client. Typically pursue Master of Accountancy.
- **Managerial Accounting:** Analyze and report company information to business executives to aid in strategic planning.
- **Internal Auditing:** Verify effectiveness of an organization's accounting practices; check for mismanagement, excessive spending, or fraud; evaluate for legal compliance; improve processes and efficiencies.
- **Government Accounting:** Examine records of government agencies, audit businesses or individuals whose activities are subject to taxation. May work for IRS.

How to get hired:

Career Fairs

These networking events allow you to meet a range of employers and ask any questions. The Graham Office of Career Management offers Accounting-specific Career Fairs in the fall and spring semesters.

Summer Leadership Programs

These are designed for freshmen and sophomore students who may not have had accounting or business courses but want to gain exposure to accounting firms. Summer Leadership Programs are a great way for accounting students to get a jump on their accounting careers.

Internships

Experience gained through internships make candidates more competitive in the job market, and many employers hire entry level positions from their internship programs. Plan your schedule to make room for a full-time spring semester internship.

Company: MCM CPAs & Advisors

Position: Busy Season Assurance Intern

Advice: Start early! I began my career journey when I was a sophomore. I was not sure how I wanted to pursue my Accounting degree at the time. The Graham Office guided me to MCM's Summer Leadership Program which is how I landed my first internship with them!

-Lindsey Dial, Senior

Internship Spotlight



Top Skills Needed:

Soft Skills:

- Organization and attention to detail
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Strategic and innovative thinking
- Change agility and adaptability
- Objectivity and an emphasis on ethical behavior

Hard Skills:

- Microsoft Office (Excel proficiency with data analysis tools)
- Enterprise Resource Planning
- Enterprise Resource Planning (SAP, Oracle)
- Accounting Software (Quickbooks)
- Tableau, Power BI, and other data visualization software

Preparing for your career:

Requirements: 120 total hours, which includes at least 27 Accounting hours.

Those seeking to become a CPA should anticipate completing 150 credit hours through additional coursework, an added major or minor, or through a graduate program.

Remember! Every industry needs accountants; accounting is a great way to blend a highly stable career with another interest or passion!

Quick Facts:

Median salary for bachelor's degree in accounting at UK:

\$54,500

Expected growth of accounting jobs in Kentucky: **+9.8%**

Expected growth of accounting jobs nationally: **+7%**

Who hires

Accounting Majors?

Deloitte.



@ukgattoncareer



gattoncareer@uky.edu



<https://careers.gatton.uky.edu/>