

ACCOUNTING

Description

Career opportunities for accountants are many and varied from public practice to business/industry to government. Accountants perform a variety of services for their employers and clients from internal and external auditing to tax services to consulting. Accountants often lead the way in communicating a company's financial position and performance to management, shareholders, regulatory agencies and other decision makers. Today's demand for accurate and honest financial reporting fosters an unprecedented need for accountants in industry, government, and not-for-profit entities. The degree prepares you for a career in such areas as financial and managerial accounting, auditing and forensic investigation, taxation, and accounting information systems.

Personal Skills Needed

Professional Demeanor	Leadership	Initiative
Problem Identification & Solving	Oral & Written Communication	Organized
Decision Making	Project Management	Analytical Ability
Interpersonal Communication		

Accounting Competencies

Risk Analysis	Quantitative & Qualitative Measurement	Budget Planning
Research	Managing Finances	Organizing Numerical Data
Preparing Financial Reports	Strategic/Critical Thinking	

Other Recommended Accounting Competencies

Industry/Sector Perspective	International/Global Perspective	Legal/Regulatory Perspective
Marketing Functions	Technological Abilities	Resource Management

Sample Occupations

Visit the Bureau of Labor and Statistic's online Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov> for more information.

- [Accountant](#) (Including Public, Management and Government Accountants)
- [Auditor](#)
- [Budget Analyst](#)
- [Claims Examiner and Investigator](#)
- [Cost Estimator](#)
- [Financial Analyst](#)
- [Financial Examiner](#)
- [Loan Counselor](#)
- [Purchasing Agent](#)
- [Revenue Agent](#)
- [Tax Examiner](#)
- [Licensed Professional \(Certified Public Accountant\)](#)

Organizations That Have Employed Mason Accounting Graduates

The Big Four Public Accounting Firms: Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Other Public Accounting Firms: Beers & Cutler, Bond Beebe, Cotton & Company LLP, Grant Thornton, Reznick Group

Private: Cardinal Bank, CACI, Chemonics International, Computer Sciences Corporation, EDS, SAIC, Soza and Company, Stanley Associates, Wealth and Tax Advisory Services, Inc.

Government: Department of Defense, Department of Treasury, The Federal Bureau of Investigation, General Accounting Office, Internal Revenue Service, Office of Personnel Management, USAID

Sample Professional Associations

- [American Accounting Association](http://aaahq.org): <http://aaahq.org>
Promotes excellence in accounting education, research and practice with local and national meetings, journals and networking opportunities.
- [Association of Certified Fraud Examiners](http://www.cfenet.com): <http://www.cfenet.com>
Provides information, training and education to the global anti-fraud community.
- [Association of Government Accountants](http://www.agacgfm.org): <http://www.agacgfm.org>
Supports government accountancy professionals with career information, professional development, certifications, research, and a job database.
- [American Institute of Certified Public Accountants](http://www.aicpa.org): <http://www.aicpa.org>
Information on a career as a CPA and certifications. Also includes job announcements. Some information restricted to members.
- [Information Systems Audit and Control Association](http://www.isaca.org): <http://www.isaca.org>
Provides IS audit and IS control standards for information governance, control, security and audit professionals, as well as training and certifications.
- [Institute of Management Accountants](http://www.imanet.org): <http://www.imanet.org>
Provides networking, research, industry trends, and job search assistance to individuals in managerial and financial accounting. Also provides a section dedicated to students.
- [National Association of State Boards of Accountancy](http://www.nasba.org): <http://www.nasba.org>
Provides information on CPA licensure requirements by State
- [The Institute of Internal Auditors](http://www.theiia.org): <http://www.theiia.org>
Provides certification, education, research and technical guidance for the profession.
- [Virginia Board of Accountancy](http://www.boa.state.va.us): <http://www.boa.state.va.us>
Regulates business and individuals who practice public accountancy or provide assurances about financial statements in the State of Virginia.
- [Virginia Society of CPA's](http://www.vscpa.com): <http://www.vscpa.com>
Provides training, professional development and advocacy to CPA's in the State of Virginia.

Student Clubs

[Beta Alpha Psi](#), Accounting Honors Society

Visit <http://som.gmu.edu/studentorganizations> for a complete listing of SOM's student organizations.

Sample SOM Career Services Library Resources

- Great Jobs for Accounting Majors
- Washington, DC Job Bank
- Internship Bible
- 101 Best Resumes to Sell Yourself
- Book of U.S. Government Jobs
- Resumes for Banking/Finance Majors

To view the on-line version of this information, please visit: <http://som.gmu.edu/OptionsKnowledge.html>

Revised 05/08