

## Accounting - Public

Public accountants serve clients, such as businesses, individuals, non-profits, and governments. Individuals employed in public accounting are often Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). Starting your accounting career at a public accounting firm can be beneficial because many corporations that hire accountants prefer public accounting experience. Working in public accounting can help individuals learn how businesses works and aid accountants who want to specialize in a certain industry, such as real estate, technology, and entertainment.



Most public accounting firms have three main branches of services:

- **Audit:** Examination and review of the clients' financial statements
- **Tax:** Preparation of income tax returns, and estate and tax planning
- **Advisory:** Consulting clients on solving business problems concerning accounting systems, mergers and acquisitions, and much more

Source: Accounting Coach

### Average Salary & Trajectory\*

#### Entry-Level

**\$70,000** annually

- Tax Associate
- Staff Auditor
- Audit/Assurance Associate
- Staff Accountant
- Risk Advisory Associate

#### Mid-Level

**\$94,000** annually

- Senior Tax Associate
- Senior Auditor
- Staff Auditor
- Audit Supervisor
- Tax Manager
- Treasury Analyst

#### Senior-Level

**\$142,000** annually

- Senior Accounting Director
- Senior Audit/Assurance Director
- Senior Tax Services Manager
- Internal Audit Manager

### Learn More With O\*Net

Visit O\*Net OnLine to explore the sample roles in public accounting. The database provides career exploration tools to the public at no cost and is continually updated by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation. Learn about the knowledge, skills, tasks, and activities required for each occupation, as well as median wages and employment trends reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other federal agencies.

01

Visit O\*Net Online at [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

02

Refer to the sample job titles listed in the "O\*Net Keywords" section below

03

Enter phrase into O\*Net's "Occupation Search" to explore sample roles

#### O\*Net Keywords:

- Advisory/Financial
- Transaction Services

#### Roles:

- Audit/Assurance
- Tax
- Assurance Associate
- Transaction Services
- Advisory Associate
- Tax Associate

\*Note: Salaries are highly dependent on location, company type, and candidate experience/education. For the purposes of this guide we are providing average starting salaries as determined by the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as well as supplemental information found from various industry-specific sources.

### Skills/Experience Suggested:

- Basic knowledge of accounting and business
- Excel knowledge
- Accounting Software (*Intuit, QuickBooks, Sage 50 Accounting, SAS Software*)
- Bilingual
- Leadership
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Written and verbal communication
- Problem solving
- Flexibility
- Attention to detail
- Ability to thrive in a high-paced environment, requiring exceptional organizational skills, juggling priorities, and adhering to strict deadlines

### Advanced Degrees:

- Master of Science in Accountancy
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science in Economics

### Professional Certifications:

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
  - Includes meeting education and experience requirements in addition to passing an exam
  - Visit the School of Accountancy in SGMH 4313 for more information
- Certified Management Accountant (CMA)
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Microsoft Excel Certification

### Professional Associations:

- [American Institute of CPA's \(AICPA\)](#)
- [National Society of Accountants](#)

### Campus Resources:

- [Accounting Society](#)
- [Beta Alpha Psi](#)
- [CSUF VITA \(IRS-based volunteer program\)](#)

### Industry Research & Tools:

- [dca.ca.gov/cba](http://dca.ca.gov/cba)
- [aicpa.org](http://aicpa.org)
- [fasab.gov](http://fasab.gov)
- [sec.gov](http://sec.gov)
- [mastersinaccounting.info](http://mastersinaccounting.info)
- [irs.gov](http://irs.gov)
- [calcpa.org](http://calcpa.org)

### Job & Internship Search Sites:

- [fullerton.joinhandshake.com](http://fullerton.joinhandshake.com)
- [Titan Connection](#)
- [linkedin.com](http://linkedin.com)
- [indeed.com](http://indeed.com)
- [glassdoor.com](http://glassdoor.com)
- [fullerton.firsthand.co](http://fullerton.firsthand.co) – Login with your CSUF email

### Employers Hiring CSUF Business Graduates:

