

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

\$76,000 annually

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

Mid-Level

\$104,000 annually

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

Senior-Level

\$185,000 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 private 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.

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:

- Financial Services
- Public Accounting
- Audit/Assurance
- Tax

Roles:

- Certified Public Accountant
- Audit Partner
- Tax Consultant
- Tax Associate

Skills/Experience Suggested:

- Foundational accounting knowledge (GAAP, GAAS, etc.)
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel
- Accounting Software (Intuit QuickBooks, Sage 50 Accounting, SAP, Oracle Netsuite)
- Leadership
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Written and verbal communication
- Problem solving and analytical skills
- Flexibility
- Attention to detail
- Ability to thrive in a high-paced environment, requiring exceptional organizational skills, juggling priorities, and adhering to strict deadline

Advanced Degrees:

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

Industry Research & Tools:

- dca.ca.gov/cba
- www.aicpa-cima.com
- fasab.gov
- nasba.org
- mastersinaccounting.info
- <https://www.thiswaytocpa.com/>
- calcpa.org
- <https://www.accountingtoday.com/>

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 Member of the Institute (CMI) by the Institute for Professionals in Taxation (IPT)
- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)

Professional Associations:

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

Campus Resources:

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

Job & Internship Search Sites:

- fullerton.vault.com
- fullerton.joinhandshake.com
- indeed.com
- linkedin.com
- <https://mycareer.aicpa-cima.com/jobs/>
- [Titan Connection](#)
- <https://www.roberthalf.com/us/en>

Employers Hiring CSUF Business Graduates:



Grant Thornton



USA

