



# What can I do with a major in **ACCOUNTING** from Valparaiso University?

## Description of major:

Accounting involves the examination, organization, management, and design of accurate recording and reporting procedures of financial and business transactions. The study of accounting helps students learn the various ways of maintaining accurate, up-to-date financial and business records. Students may choose to either pursue a Bachelor of Science in Accounting or a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. The Bachelor of Science in Accounting program at VU was specifically designed to satisfy the 150-hour educational requirements to sit for the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) examination that many states require. This program also satisfies the educational requirements to sit for the Certified Management Accounting (CMA), the Certified in Financial Management (CFM), and the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) examinations. The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program will satisfy the educational requirements to sit for the CMA, CFM, and the CIA examinations but not the CPA examination.

## Relevant skills for an ACCOUNTING major:

- ◆ Accumulate and summarize information
- ◆ Analyze and interpret data
- ◆ Communicate well, both verbally & in writing
- ◆ Compile and review financial information
- ◆ Concentrate for long periods of time
- ◆ Design systems to gather financial and related information
- ◆ Determine the financial effects of projected management actions aimed at achieving organization objectives
- ◆ Devise a reporting system for better control and decision making
- ◆ Examine financial statements
- ◆ Explain complex financial data to others
- ◆ Have proficiency with computers
- ◆ Lead, supervise & direct others
- ◆ Make sound judgments & decisions
- ◆ Organize, analyze, & interpret numerical data
- ◆ Possess accuracy & be detail-oriented
- ◆ Possess integrity & honesty
- ◆ Prepare & conduct performance tests of internal control procedures
- ◆ Prepare tax returns and supporting documents
- ◆ Report on financial results
- ◆ Solve quantitative problems
- ◆ Work alone as well as with other individuals and others!

## Sample work activities for Graduates in ACCOUNTING (some may require an advanced degree)

- Actuary
- Auditor
- Bank Examiner
- Bank Officer
- Benefits Administrator
- Budget Accountant
- Budgetary Control Analyst
- Certified Public Accountant
- Chief Financial Officer
- Claims Adjuster
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Consumer Credit Officer
- Contract Administrator
- Controller
- Corporate Accountant
- Cost Accountant
- Credit and Collection
- Credit Manager
- Economist
- FBI or CIA Agent
- Financial Aid Director
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Planner
- Fund Raiser
- Insurance Agent
- Internal Auditor
- International Accountant
- International Trade Specialist
- Inventory Control Specialist
- Investment Banker
- IRS Investigator
- Loan Administrator
- Management Accountant
- Management Consultant
- Market Research Analyst
- Merger & Acquisition Specialist
- Payroll Manager
- Portfolio Analyst
- Professor, college/university
- Property Accountant
- Public Accountant
- Purchasing Agent
- Securities Broker
- Statistician
- Tax Accountant
- Tax Preparer
- Teacher, high school
- Treasurer
- Trust Accountant
- Underwriter
- and others!

### **Potential hiring institutions for ACCOUNTING majors:**

- ◆ Banks/financial institutions
- ◆ National/International public accounting firms
- ◆ Consulting firms
- ◆ Corporations
- ◆ Federal, state and local government agencies
- ◆ Local accounting firms
- ◆ Non-profit organizations
- ◆ Regional accounting firms
- ◆ Self-employed
- ◆ and others!

### **Area of further education for ACCOUNTING majors:**

- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Business Administration/Management
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Finance & Banking
- ◆ International Business
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Management Strategy & Policy
- ◆ Tax Law
- ◆ Taxation
- ◆ and others!

### **Sources of additional information for ACCOUNTING majors:**

VU College of Business Administration: <http://www.valpo.edu/cba/undergrad/accounting.php>

Occupational Outlook Handbook: the US Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles information about various occupations, including the nature of the work, the job outlook, the earnings, and other relevant information.  
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

Accounting Board: jobs and resume board for accountants, auditors, and related professionals.  
<http://www.accountingboard.com/>

Accounting.com: Accounting job opportunities. <http://www.accounting.com/>

American Association of Finance & Accounting: An alliance of executive search firms specializing in the recruitment and placement of finance and accounting professionals. Job listings can be found under some of the recruiters listed or you can search the entire database. <http://www.aafa.com/>

American Banker Daily: magazine of the financial industry featuring daily updates and industry news. Loads of great info. The CareerZone is operated in conjunction with bankjobs.com (used to be CareerBuilder).  
<http://www.americanbanker.com/PSUser/>

American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA): the premier national professional association for CPAs in the United States. Site includes a Career Opportunities section. <http://www.aicpa.org>

American Management Consulting Firms: Online database of management consulting. <http://www.amcf.org/>

American Society of Women Accountants: increases the opportunities for women in all fields of accounting and finance. Members include partners in national, regional and local CPA firms, financial officers, controllers, academicians, financial analysts and data processing consultants, recent college graduates and women returning to the work force. Site includes Employment Opportunities. <http://www.aswa.org/>

Association of Government Accountants: the educational organization dedicated to the enhancement of public financial management. It serves the professional interests of financial managers, from local, state and federal governments, as well as public accounting firms, responsible for effectively using billions of dollars and other monetary resources every day. Site includes a Career Center. <http://www.agacgfm.org>

Careers in Finance & Accounting: Part of the "Careers in Business" website. <http://www.jobsinthemoney.com/pb/cib.cfm>

CPA Directory: largest on-line database of Certified Public Accountants. <http://www.cpadirectory.com>

Financial/Accounting/Insurance Jobs Page: <http://www.nationjob.com/financial>

Institute of Management Accounting: the leading professional organization devoted exclusively to management accounting and financial management. Site includes a Career Center. <http://www.imanet.org>

National Society of Accountants: a non-profit organization of professionals who provide accounting, tax preparation, financial and estate planning, and management advisory services. Most of the Society's members are independent practitioners or partners in small to mid-size accounting and tax firms. <http://www.nsacct.org/>

Rutgers Accounting Web: the world's largest collection of online accounting information anywhere.  
<http://accounting.rutgers.edu/raw/>

SmartPros 2003: designed to inform students and seasoned professionals alike on the climate of today's job market.  
<http://accounting.pro2net.com/x36558.xml>

The Institute of Internal Auditors: serves members in internal auditing, governance and internal control, IT audit, education, and security. The world's leader in certification, education, research, and technological guidance for the profession, The Institute serves as the profession's watchdog and resource on significant auditing issues around the globe. <http://www.theiia.org/>

Wall Street Journal Career Journal: articles, tips, job leads, etc. <http://www.careerjournal.com>

### **VU Career Center Resource Library Materials:**

- ◆ *100 Best Nonprofits to Work for*
- ◆ *Book of U.S. Government Jobs: Where They Are, What's Available, and How to Get One*
- ◆ *Career Opportunities in Banking, Finance and Insurance*
- ◆ *Careers for Financial Mavens & Other Money Movers*
- ◆ *Careers for Number Crunchers & Other Quantitative Types*
- ◆ *Essays that Worked for Law Schools*
- ◆ *GMAT 2003*
- ◆ *Graduate Admissions Essays: Write Your Way into the Graduate School of Your Choice*
- ◆ *Graduate Schools in the U.S*
- ◆ *Guide to America's Federal Jobs*
- ◆ *Harvard Business School Guide to Careers in Management Consulting*
- ◆ *Harvard Business School Guide to Careers in the Nonprofit Sector*
- ◆ *International Business Etiquette: Asia & the Pacific Rim*
- ◆ *International Business Etiquette: Latin America*
- ◆ *LSAT 2006*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Banking Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Financial Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Government Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Law Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Teaching Careers*
- ◆ *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Business School*
- ◆ *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Graduate School*
- ◆ *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Law School*
- ◆ *Peterson's Graduate & Professional Programs, An Overview*
- ◆ *Peterson's Graduate Programs in Business, Education, Health, Information Studies, Law & Social Work*
- ◆ *Resumes for Banking and Financial Careers*
- ◆ *Resumes for Business Management Careers*
- ◆ *Undergraduate's Guide to Corporate Leadership Development Programs*
- ◆ *and others!*

### **For more information about majoring in ACCOUNTING, contact:**

Donna Guydan, J.D., M.B.A., C.P.A., L.L.M.  
Lecturer, Accounting & Business Law  
Urschel 221  
464-5066  
[Donna.Guydan@valpo.edu](mailto:Donna.Guydan@valpo.edu)

**For more questions about your career decisions, please make an appointment with a VU Career Counselor by calling 464-5005, stopping by the Career Center in Alumni Hall or e-mailing us at [Career.Center@valpo.edu](mailto:Career.Center@valpo.edu)**

### **For more information about internships in the College of Business Administration, contact:**

Toni Bickerstaff  
Internship Coordinator, College of Business Administration  
Urschel 205  
464-5208  
[Toni.Bickerstaff@valpo.edu](mailto:Toni.Bickerstaff@valpo.edu)

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