

WHAT IS AN AUDITOR?

An auditor is a professional who helps determine if organizations and businesses...

- 1 follow the “rules”,
- 2 operate with integrity, and
- 3 make wise use of time and money.

Auditors play a valuable role in the financial markets as they work to verify a company's financial health by checking the accuracy of its financial statements.

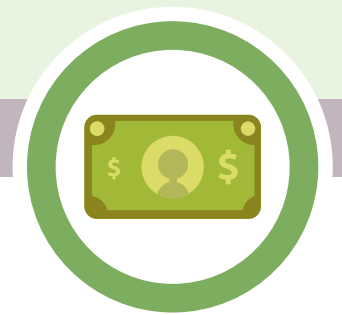
FIVE REASONS TO CONSIDER A CAREER IN PUBLIC COMPANY AUDITING

Are you someone who is purpose-driven? Fascinated by how companies and financial markets work? Interested in a career with endless paths of possibilities where you're able to gain invaluable feedback from experienced insiders along the way? Want a career that promotes a team-oriented environment, gives you the opportunity to work across the country and around the globe, and offers a generous salary and other perks? Check out a career in accounting with a focus in auditing!

What exactly does an auditor at a public accounting firm do, you ask? Hint: it's not taxes!

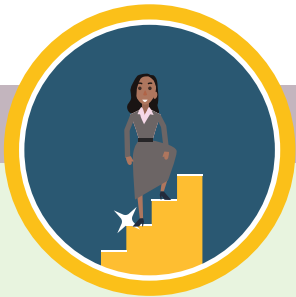
Public company auditors review a company's financial statements and attest to their accuracy. Investors, companies, and many others depend on this vital information, which is critical to a strong capital markets system.

1. YOU CAN BANK ON IT!



One of the benefits of a career in public company auditing is the paycheck. On average, public company auditors, with at least two years of professional experience, bring home more than \$65,000 a year. Additionally, if you stay at a firm and make partner, an analysis by the Center for Audit Quality (CAQ) showed that many audit partners in large public company accounting firms can make close to a million dollars a year! Take that to the bank...

In addition to being well paid, auditors also have a high level of job security. After all, every public company needs an auditor. You can also look forward to generous pensions, healthcare benefits, and, of course, paid vacation. Who wouldn't want a great salary to use to take a long vacay with your family and friends to the Caribbean?



2. MOVING ON UP

As a public company auditor, you will have endless opportunities to continue your education and development, while still getting paid. Consider it an MBA without the student debt. After only a few years on the job, many public company auditors are supervising teams and participating in meetings with some of the smartest business executives around. You could be in a meeting with executives like Mark Zuckerberg (yes, the founder of Facebook)!

Speaking of moving on up...the decision to study accounting and work in public company auditing took many of the CEOs of public accounting firms to the top! They joined their firms right after college graduation and ended up working their way up the career ladder to lead their organizations. One CEO said that he "never would have thought debits and credits would have gotten me here. I have sat on panels with Bill Gates, interviewed Presidents (George W.) Bush and (Bill) Clinton, and stood on the red carpet at the Oscars." He even went to the White House to hand Michelle Obama the envelope to announce the winner of the Best Picture Oscar in 2013.

Keep reading to learn more!



3. AUDITORS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND

As long as there is business to be done, there will be a job for auditors. In fact, the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) released a 2015 report that shows that accounting students are in great demand. So much so that firms hired a record number of accounting graduates in 2014, representing a 7 percent increase from

the previous survey. Experts say the number of jobs for accountants and auditors will grow 11 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for many other occupations.

Not only are accounting graduates in demand, accounting students are too! Need a summer job while you're in college? Want to go into your last year of college already knowing where you're going to work? Most firms offer the chance to participate in paid internship programs as early as your sophomore year, with the chance of getting an offer for full-time employment before you even graduate.



5. KEEPING IT FRESH

Another benefit of public company auditing is it's the land of opportunity where most of your colleagues will be as young and fresh as you! Similar to starting high school as a freshman, when you join public company auditing, you will come on board with a starting class of many other young professionals as new to the working world as you are. You will learn together,

grow together, and possibly develop priceless lifelong friendships and relationships with people you meet in your starting class. Not many careers give you that opportunity!

Speaking of keeping it fresh, with a degree in accounting, not only can you work in accounting, but also auditing, tax, or financial management. You can work at a large company or run your own firm. You can manage a company's expenses, solely do taxes, or perform audits for the biggest and coolest companies in the world. If you choose auditing, you can work with tech companies, banks, healthcare organizations, and retail companies to name a few. How awesome would it be to see the inner workings of companies like Apple, Google, Coca-Cola, or even Louis Vuitton!

Those are only five reasons to consider a career in accounting with a focus on public company auditing. There's plenty room for you to add your top reasons to this list!

4. YOU'RE NOT TIED DOWN

Because public company auditors are in high demand, you can work pretty much anywhere. It might require some extra training, but a career in public company auditing could take you around the world. So, make sure you have your passport handy at all times!

Additionally, many public company auditors never work in the same place every day and are the face of mobility. Whether it be your home, the client site, traveling, or the occasional trip to the office, auditors are constantly on the move!



DID YOU KNOW?

COOL FACTS ABOUT THE PROFESSION

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING GO WAY BACK...WAY, WAY, WAY BACK!



The accounting and auditing professions go back 5,000 years or more! Legend has it that wealthy folks, wanting to keep track of their possessions (cattle, stores of grain, gold ornaments, etc.), hired scribes to keep records of their lists of possessions as they bought, sold, or traded them. From time to time, a count of possessions would be made and compared to the records maintained by the scribe. Any unexplained losses would be a signal that something was amiss and worthy of investigation.*

The systems and demands have gotten more sophisticated, but the need for reliable accountants and auditors has not changed. The public company auditing profession is a great way to gain insights into the business world and enter a career where you will always be in high demand.

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED AN AWARDS SHOW ON TV AND THOUGHT, WHO COUNTS THOSE VOTES?

Public accounting firms tabulate votes for the Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, Golden Globe Awards, Emmys, Soap Opera Awards, Heisman Trophy, and many others sports and entertainment honors.

You could be one of the associates assigned to count the votes!



STABLE AND GROWING!

- There are 665,000 actively licensed CPAs in the US.
- The number of accounting and auditing jobs is expected to jump 11% between 2014 and 2024.
- The unemployment rate for auditors and accountants is only 2.5%, much lower than the national rate for all occupations at 5.3%.
- 53% of Fortune 100 CFOs got their start in the profession!

Keep reading to learn more!

A CPA IS A TICKET TO MANY DESTINATIONS:



To the Governor's Mansion:

Nikki Haley, Governor, South Carolina



To the Owner's Box:

Arthur Blank, owner of Atlanta Falcons



To Silicon Valley:

Brent Callinicos, Former CFO, Uber; Former Chief Accountant, Google



To Congress:

Rep. Mike Conway (R-TX) and Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)



To Building a Retail Empire:

Phil Knight, Founder of Nike



IMPORTANT TO OUR CAPITAL MARKETS

Each year, the accounting and auditing professions contribute \$575 Billion to the global economy.

94% of institutional investors (i.e., large organizations, such as banks, pensions funds, or insurance companies, that make substantial investments on the stock exchange) rely on financial statement audits "extensively" or a "good bit."



*Source: Don McCubbrey. "A short history of accounting and double entry bookkeeping." Business Fundamentals. Boundless, 21 Jul. 2015. Retrieved 23 Mar. 2016 from <https://www.boundless.com/users/235420/textbooks/business-fundamentals/financial-and-managerial-accounting-financing-your-organization-9/why-an-accounting-system-is-important-43/a-short-history-of-accounting-and-double-entry-bookkeeping-206-15509/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS HAVE YOUR BACK!

Accounting firms know people are their most important asset. That is why the profession works hard to ensure that you are always in the know and make the most of your professional development opportunities. Here are some ways public accounting firms can assist you with your professional and career development.*



FIRMS HELP PAY DOWN STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Public accounting firms understand the importance of starting off your career with limited debt and know how expensive college can be. To help, firms may offer:

- New-employee benefits to help reduce your student loan debt
- Student-loan consolidation and refinancing programs

CPA: THREE LITTLE LETTERS THAT CAN PAY OFF BIG!

A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license is the accounting profession's highest standard of competence, a symbol of achievement, and assurance of quality. To protect the public interest, only qualified individuals who pass the CPA Exam can be licensed. The Exam is developed by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) with input from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), which also administers the Exam.

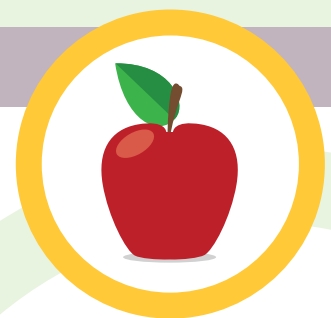


Public accounting firms recognize the value of obtaining your CPA license and understand the financial benefits that come along with it. So much so that they may offer:

- Reimbursement for review courses or materials and associated Exam registration fees and related expenses for required certifications
- A CPA incentive program that can help you get your license within your first two years of eligibility
- Financial perks for associates who have passed the CPA Exam before joining the firm, or who pass all parts of the CPA Exam within the first year of employment or the first year of CPA Exam eligibility, whichever is later
- Time off to prepare for and take the Exam

THE INVESTMENT IN YOU NEVER STOPS

Once you've obtained your CPA license, you have to take classes (referred to as Continuing Professional Education credits) to maintain your license and stay on top of the latest developments. Many of the firms offer in-house training as well as "off campus" opportunities to assist their employees in their professional and personal development. This means you stay at the top of your game!



**Not all public accounting firms offer all of the benefits outlined. As you interact with a firm, ask about the type of benefits they offer.*

WWW.DISCOVER
AUDIT.ORG

STRENGTHS AND SKILLS THAT GREAT AUDITORS POSSESS

Are you someone who is good with numbers, has an unquenchable curiosity, and likes to stay current on relevant business issues? Then you should think about a career as an auditor. Here are a few other valuable strengths and skills that are beneficial to a rewarding career as an auditor.

Visit **DiscoverAudit.org** to learn more!

PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



Auditors need to use their analytical skills to examine information, interpret it, and present innovative and alternative solutions to a problem. Innovative thinking – not to mention responsibility, ethics, and honesty – is what will get you respect in the business world.

TEAMWORK & COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

While business and auditing involves a lot of technical issues, strong communication – written and verbal – and people skills are a big plus. Many auditors work together in teams, so communicating well within a team environment and building relationships are also helpful skills to possess. Good listening skills also go a long way!



INQUISITIVE MIND

Inquisitive and curious people can make for great auditors. Professional skepticism (having a questioning mind), objectivity (open-minded), and good

judgment are important traits to have when reviewing a company's financial statements. Auditors need to assess how perpetrators of fraud can beat a company's controls, and they need to design and implement a system that can effectively protect an organization's assets.

TECH KNOW-HOW

As an auditor, you'll need to be adaptable to existing and emerging technologies in business environments, and understand how to use them effectively (i.e., you need to be tech savvy). Also, being a master of spreadsheets (e.g., Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets) is always a beneficial skill.



HIGH STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY

Ethics and integrity are critical to auditing. Integrity in the work of auditors helps to establish trust, which is critical to high functioning capital markets. Auditors need to be honest and have strong moral principles.



DETAIL-ORIENTED

Auditors make a conscious effort to understand causes – not just the effects. They are organized, with a grasp of both the big picture and the small details.

THE CPA EXAM

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

WHAT IS THE CPA EXAM?

The Uniform CPA Examination (CPA Exam) is developed, maintained, and scored by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and administered at one of the 3,000 national Prometric test centers in partnership with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA).



The CPA Exam protects the public interest by helping to ensure that only qualified individuals become licensed as U.S. Certified Public Accountants (CPAs).



OUTSTANDING. RESPECTED. REWARDING.

Having a CPA license¹ is another great way to make you and your resume stand out from the massive pile of candidates to potential employers. Employers are often impressed with accountants who've earned their CPA license since it demonstrates your commitment to the profession, a keen understanding of technical skills. And let's be real, a CPA license is often quite necessary if you ever want to move on up.

Respected and admired by their peers, clients, and society, CPAs are often viewed as an elite group of professionals (kind of like doctors or lawyers). After years of academic and technical training – and passing the rigorous CPA Exam, of course – a CPA's ethics and character are further tested with several years of extensive on-the-job training (see Professional Development Opportunities for info on how public accounting firms have your back) and Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to maintain their license. CPAs continue to achieve a level of expertise and proficiency beyond that of a "standard" accountant – proudly earning them the coveted CPA license.

HOW IS THE EXAM STRUCTURED?

The Uniform CPA Exam² is a computer-based test made up of four sections. Effective April 1, 2017, a maximum of four hours of testing time is provided to complete each section along with 15 minutes for administrative screens and 15 minutes for a standardized break, aggregating four and a half hours. The four sections are broken out as follows:



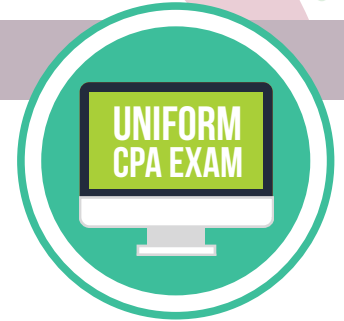
1. Auditing and Attestation (AUD) — (multiple choice questions and task-based simulations)
2. Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) — (multiple choice questions, task-based simulations and written communication tasks)
3. Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) — (multiple questions and task-based simulations)
4. Regulation (REG) — (multiple choice questions and task-based simulations)

The CPA Exam employs a combination of question formats. Of course, the traditional multiple choice questions (that will require the use of your calculator in some sections), essays are included in sections, and they will also throw in a few highly innovative simulations that replicate workplace situations and require the application of knowledge and skills to arrive at solutions. Yes, this sounds like a lot, but the upside is that you can take each part separately in any order you choose, just as long as you complete all four parts within 18 months.

Keep reading to learn more!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO SIT FOR THE EXAM

Education requirements to sit for the CPA Exam vary state-by-state or jurisdiction. Fun fact to note: all states require you to have a minimum of 120 credit hours (the equivalent to a bachelor's degree) to sit for the Exam, but requirements can vary.



To get licensed as a CPA, all Boards of Accountancy require 30 additional credit hours, or 150 hours. But don't worry, there are many options available for getting the additional 30 hours. Some students will earn the extra credits by enrolling in an accounting graduate program, although that's not required.

Check your state or jurisdiction's exam and licensure requirements at the AICPA's website for college students and CPA Exam candidates at www.thiswaytocpa.com/licensurerequirements.³ You've got options!

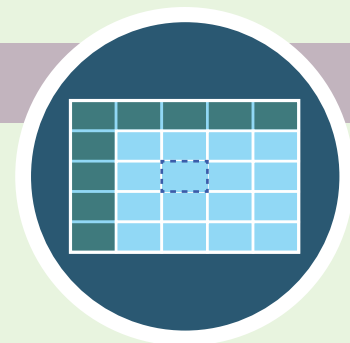
WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE IN THOSE ADDITIONAL 30 HOURS?

The requirements for your 30 additional credit hours needed for licensure will vary by jurisdiction. You'll need to check your requirements to determine which courses you need in order to be eligible for CPA licensure.

However, if you find that you have some flexibility in your credit hour selections, there are some skills that could help you prepare and make yourself more attractive to potential employers (especially if you decide to pursue an exciting and rewarding career in public company auditing - which we hope you will!).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

The engagement team of the future will require that some members have one or more of these technical skills; though, don't think you have to possess all of these skills—engagement teams are over-achievers, but they're also realistic people.



- Advanced statistical analysis (e.g., sampling, regressions, multivariate analysis, conjoint analysis, etc.)
- Basic programming skills (e.g., Python, Java, Excel, Access, etc.)
- Introduction to data visualization using Tableau, Spotfire, or Qlikview
- Experience with data analytics
- Computational analytics course
- Database management software
- Information systems design
- Valuations
- Transaction services

Keep reading to learn more!

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANY OTHER SKILLS?

If you're planning on becoming an auditor, you should invest in developing oral and written skills before entering the profession. Take advantage of opportunities to develop these skills in any of your classes by volunteering to give presentations or lead project teams. You could also look for activities and organizations on and off campus that will foster your abilities (and confidence):



- Management speaking/writing fundamentals
- Presentation skills
- Relationship management
- Project management/time management
- Leadership skills
- Psychology

Learn more about the entire process and what is standing between you and those three precious letters by exploring the CPA Exam & Licensure Center at the AICPA's website for college students and CPA Exam Candidates, ThisWayToCPA.com/CELC.

¹ Source: <https://www.nasba.org/licensure/gettingacpalicense/whygetlicensed/five-popular-reasons-for-earning-a-cpa-license/>

² Sources: <http://www.aicpa.org/BecomeACPA/CPAExam/DownloadableDocuments/next-cpa-exam-structure-white-paper.pdf>

³ Source: <https://www.thiswaytocpa.com/exam-licensure/cpa-exam-licensure-center/>