



ACCOUNTING

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW:

Are you ready to embark on a journey into the captivating world of accounting, the very language that communicates the financial activities of organizations to the world? Accounting holds the key to unlocking rewarding opportunities across diverse sectors, including the public sector, private industry, not-for-profit organizations, and government departments.

Accounting, which has been called the “language of business”, measures the results of an organization’s economic activities, and conveys this information to a variety of users including investors, creditors, management, and regulators. Accounting is part of any organization and there are very rewarding opportunities in the public sector, private industry, not-for-profit, and government departments.

Many students will look to pursue an accounting designation; within Canada that is the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA). Depending on the province where you wish to complete your CPA, the academic requirements may vary so research the provincial CPA websites.

CAREERS TO EXPLORE:

Accounting offers a plethora of exciting opportunities, catering to various interests and strengths. Explore key areas within public accounting firms:

- **Audit & Assurance:** Dive into the world of financial statement audits, risk assessments, and providing valuable insights to organizations. Unravel the intricacies of financial data to ensure transparency and accuracy.
- **Tax:** Become an expert in tax planning, compliance, and advisory services. Guide individuals and businesses through complex tax regulations, ensuring optimized financial strategies.
- **Consulting & Deals:** Solve strategic business problems and assist with mergers and acquisitions. Provide consulting services to enhance organizational performance and drive success.
- **Risk & Controls:** Help organizations identify and manage risks, establish robust internal controls, and ensure compliance with regulations. Safeguard financial integrity and protect against uncertainties.

Students working for public accounting firms will often do repeat work terms and secure employment with the firm after the 3rd year of their degree.

BUILDING THE RIGHT SKILLS:

- **Strong Communication:** Master the art of effective communication to understand client needs and convey information clearly to stakeholders.
- **Networking Skills:** Build professional relationships, attend industry events, and connect with seasoned professionals to expand your network and access exciting career opportunities.
- **Analytical Abilities:** Develop strong analytical and critical thinking skills to analyze financial data, identify patterns, and provide strategic recommendations.
- **Initiative:** Demonstrate a proactive approach, take ownership of tasks, and seek opportunities to learn and grow.
- **Teamwork Skills:** Collaborate effectively with others, leverage diverse perspectives, and contribute to a positive team dynamic.
- **Presentation Skills:** Deliver compelling presentations that convey complex financial information in a clear and concise manner.



RECRUITMENT INSIGHTS:

- **Maintain Strong Academics:** Strive for academic excellence to demonstrate your commitment and competence in the field.
- **Attend Networking Events:** Engage in networking opportunities and attend panel discussions to gather information, make connections, and learn from industry professionals.
- **Tailor Your Application Materials:** Customize your resume and cover letters for each employer, highlighting relevant experiences and skills.
- **Showcase Your Well-Roundedness:** Participate in extracurricular activities that showcase your versatility, leadership, and community involvement.

INTERVIEW SUCCESS:

- **Behavioral-Based Questions:** Expect questions about specific situations and how you handled them. Showcase your skills and problem-solving abilities through well-prepared examples.
- **Professionalism Always:** Maintain professionalism in all interactions. Employers are constantly evaluating your responses, even during casual conversations.
- **Highlight Personal Contributions:** Demonstrate your individual actions and achievements, showcasing your personal impact and value.
- **Excel with Skill and Knowledge:** In the modern accounting landscape, proficiency in MS Excel is highly valued. Strengthen your Excel skills through resources like LinkedIn Learning, which offers comprehensive courses to master this vital tool for financial analysis and reporting. Additionally, explore Forage, an invaluable resource offering virtual experiences and insights into the accounting industry.

EMPLOYER PARTNERS:

This is a list of key employer partners who have consistently hired our students into CPA roles:

- www.bakertilly.ca (formerly Collins Barrow)
- www.ey.com
- www.grantthornton.ca
- www.jdirving.ca
- www.kpmg.com
- www.pwc.com
- www.sobeys.com
- www.deloitte.com

WEBSITES FOR RESEARCH:

- Talent Egg is Canada's most popular job board and online resource for students and new graduates. Review their accounting career guide for helpful tips to launch your career - www.talentegg.ca/career-guides/accounting
- CPA Canada - www.cpacanada.ca
- CPA Atlantic – www.cpaatlantic.ca

