



*"There's no business like show business, but there are several businesses like accounting."*—David Letterman

## CAREERS IN....

Referred to as “the language of business”, accounting is the business function of tracking the monetary activities of an organization, government, or an individual. Accounting is essential to all organizations because it allows managers to evaluate organizational performance and pinpoint which areas are successful financially and which need to be altered. It is a way of summarizing the past, for the purpose of determining future goals. Within the accounting field, jobs are grouped in various areas including traditional accounting, auditing, taxation, management policy, information systems, computer operations, and other areas. Many accounting firms require accountants to become a CPA (certified public accountant) to advance beyond entry level positions.

The Bachelor of Science in Accounting program at William Paterson University consists of 68 credit hours beyond the general GENED requirements. Students complete a common 33 credit business core required of all business majors, with an additional 21 credits in the accounting discipline. Accounting majors also are required to take specialized quantitative math courses and 6 credits of directed electives reflecting trends in the field. Classes within the accounting major include, but are not limited to, Intermediate Accounting, Cost Accounting, Auditing, Taxation, and Business Law. For those wishing to pursue the CPA in the future, students may want to consider the 150 credit combined undergraduate program. All business majors must accumulate enrichment points through internship, practicum, and/or job shadowing alternatives.

### Interests & Skills:

- \* Problem solving skills
- \* Work well with numerical data
- \* Critical thinking skills
- \* Efficiency
- \* Communication skills, both oral and written
- \* Ability to organize information
- \* Ability to analyze and interpret data
- \* Computer literacy
- \* Ability to work both independently and in teams

### Work Environment:

Careers in accounting are located in a variety of industries and environments. Generally, employment is divided into two sectors: public accounting and private accounting. Professionals may choose to work directly for individuals as personal accountants, in government agencies, business environments, and non-profit organizations.

### Possible job titles:

- |                                  |                                |                                       |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| * Actuary                        | * Industrial Accountant        | * Credit and Collection Specialist    |
| * Commodities Trader             | * Controller                   | * Securities Broker                   |
| * Computer Programmer            | * Internal Auditor             | * Stockbroker                         |
| * Certified Public Accountant    | * Consumer Credit Officer      | * Loan Administrator                  |
| * Bank Examiner                  | * Systems Analyst              | * Benefits/Compensation Administrator |
| * Tax Lawyer                     | * Cost Accountant              | * Treasurer                           |
| * IRS Investigator               | * Estate Planner               | * Budgetary Control                   |
| * Underwriter                    | * FBI Agent                    | * Accountant, Public Practice         |
| * Managerial Accountant          | * Bookkeeper                   | * CIA Agent                           |
| * Budget Accountant              | * Financial Analyst            | * Financial Aid Director              |
| * Claims Adjuster                | * Fund Raiser                  | * Collection Agent                    |
| * Insurance Agent/Broker         | * Payroll Manager              | * Institutional Buyer                 |
| * Personal Financial Planner     | * Inventory Control Specialist | * Commercial Banker                   |
| * International Trade Specialist | * Production Manager           | * Contract Administrator              |

## **WPUNJ Alumni :**

<i>Auditor</i>	Arthur Andersen
<i>Staff Accountant</i>	Price Waterhouse Coopers
<i>Cost Accountant</i>	Donna Karan
<i>Accountant</i>	New York Life
<i>Accountant</i>	Panasonic
<i>Accountant</i>	Madison Square Garden
<i>Tax Accountant</i>	CYTEC Industries
<i>Field Auditor</i>	Blue Cross Blue Shield
<i>Accountant/Auditor</i>	NJ Division of Taxation
<i>Junior Accountant</i>	Barneys New York
<i>Junior Accountant</i>	Hunter Douglas
<i>Staff Accountant</i>	Coca Cola Enterprises
<i>Auditor/Bookkeeper</i>	Home Depot
<i>Financial Analyst</i>	Ernst & Young
<i>Assistant, Comptroller of the Currency</i>	National Bank
<i>Stock Broker</i>	Prudential Securities
<i>Operations Administrator</i>	Deutsche Bank
<i>Staff Accountant</i>	Weichert Relocation

### **Enhance Your Qualifications:**

Successful students tend to seek out opportunities to enhance their qualifications through a variety of means. Within accounting, some suggestions may include joining or becoming a leader in career-related campus organizations, including the Accounting Society; joining a national professional accounting association; gaining practical experience through an internship/practicum/job shadowing; attending networking functions; attending accounting symposiums on-campus.

### **Related Web Sites:**

CPAdirectory.com	<a href="http://www.cpadirectory.com">www.cpadirectory.com</a>
Accounting.com	<a href="http://www.accounting.com">www.accounting.com</a>
Accounting Info	<a href="http://www.careers-in-accounting.com">www.careers-in-accounting.com</a>
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants	<a href="http://www.aicpa.org">www.aicpa.org</a>
Association of Government Accountants	<a href="http://www.agacgfm.org">www.agacgfm.org</a>
Occupational Outlook	<a href="http://www.bls.gov/oco/">www.bls.gov/oco/</a>
Industry Information	<a href="http://www.thevault.com/hubs/501/channelhome_501.jsp?ch_id=253">http://www.thevault.com/hubs/501/channelhome_501.jsp?ch_id=253</a>
Job Search and Salary Information	<a href="http://www.rileyguide.com">www.rileyguide.com</a>
MBA information	<a href="http://www.mba.com">www.mba.com</a>

**WPUNJ Accounting and Law:** <http://www.wpunj.edu/ccob/departments/accounting-law/index.dot>

**WPUNJ Admissions:** [http://www.wpunj.edu/admissions/undergraduate/academic-programs/programs\\_detail.dot?id=120088](http://www.wpunj.edu/admissions/undergraduate/academic-programs/programs_detail.dot?id=120088)

### **Other sources:**

Please drop by the Career Development and Advisement Center to learn more about careers in accounting. The career library carries career-specific books and counselors are available to answer any further questions you may have. Visiting the department of accounting and law on campus may also prove valuable in addressing questions.

*Compliments of*  
The Career Development and Gloria S. Williams Advisement Center  
<http://www.wpunj.edu/career-advisement>  
973-720-2281/2653/2559