

ACCOUNTING



WHY STUDY AT UCA?

The University of Central Arkansas is committed to a bright future - that includes you! At UCA, you're provided an innovative, collaborative education within a culture of student support and success

Through high impact teaching practices like internships, hands-on research opportunities, and service learning, we'll provide you with the experiences you need to grow as a person and enter the workforce confidently. We can't wait to see you thrive!

BEAR EXPERIENCE

The Bear Experience is a campus-wide initiative to promote experiential learning beyond the classroom.

The Bear Experience offers students the opportunity to thoughtfully plan their college experiences by integrating them with their academic curriculum, personal values and future goals.

- Bear Experience Pathways:
- Community Engagement and Service
- Diversity Awareness and Inclusion
- Intellectual and Professional Development
- Well Being and Personal Development

Visit uca.edu/bearexperience for more information.

Accounting is a professional services career focused on expertise in financial reporting, taxation law, providing assurance, and the related information systems; the accountant is a key member of the decision-making team providing financial forecasts as well as evaluating financial results of decisions related to all aspects of business including resource allocation, management, marketing, investments and financing, and risk management. UCA Accounting graduates are well prepared to begin a meaningful career, to evolve professionally with career changes they will encounter, and to become life-long learners. As part of UCA's **College of Business**, accounting majors receive a broad business education along with their accounting major and have opportunities to define a unique degree plan by adding minors or double majors from more than 10 other business disciplines.

TOP 10 REASONS TO STUDY ACCOUNTING

- A**ccounting is the language of business
- C**areers in any industry; everyone needs
- C**ertifications like CPA add to prestige and salary
- O**utstanding mobility to jobs nationally and
- U**nique and varied on-the-job experiences every
- N**etwork with business leaders
- T**eamwork, travel, and leadership opportunities
- I**nternships provide experience and income
- N**umerous job opportunities for this in-demand
- G**reat job placement and starting salaries

ALUMNI STORY

Seeing his family create and run a business, Devin was inspired to major in accounting. "One of the best resources for me was getting involved in student organizations. Guest speakers talk about different industries student can start working in, and there were events to develop my network of potential employers." After an internship with a Big4 accounting firm, Devin was offered a full-time job to begin in 20 months, giving him time to complete his undergraduate and Master's degrees.

ACCOUNTING: IT'S IN THE NUMBERS

- 85%** BBA-Accounting graduates with jobs before graduation
- 99%** Master of Accountancy graduates with jobs before graduation
- 30** Employers on campus every year looking for accounting majors
- 14** Scholarships totaling over \$23,000, just for Accounting majors
- 2** Clubs to develop your professional network and skills: Accounting Club and Beta Alpha Psi.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use the four rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for your success by seeing the many overlapping and connected areas of career and academics. Get started thinking about your future now. Where do you see yourself after you finish your degree? If you have tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree, it helps you with short-term decisions about experiences, and courses, and helps keep you motivated for success!

GET THE HELP YOU NEED

UCA's number one goal is student success--YOUR success--and we have a campus full of people and services available to help you succeed throughout your UCA experience. Whether you need help with study skills or health care, we have resources available. The Navigate Student mobile app or Navigate for Students in myUCA will connect you with available resources. You can also use Navigate to make an appointment with your academic advisor, a peer coach, or even Student Accounts.

Ready to find out more? Visit uca.edu/success and download the Navigate app.



First Year

Middle Years

Senior Year (and possible 5th Year)

SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY

- GPA Matters! Nearly 100% of accounting majors with 3.0+ GPAs get job offers before graduating.
 - Accounting tutoring: uca.edu/accounting/tutor
 - Tutoring: uca.edu/success/
 - Success Workshops: uca.edu/studentssuccess/asw/
- Get to know your advisor! Start a graduation plan. Plan for **internships** your junior or senior year.
- Consider Honors in the Major: uca.edu/honors/cob

CONNECT TO THE WORLD AROUND YOU

- Join the Accounting Club and attend meetings. Network • Learn the profession • www.ucaaccounting.org.
- Check out Beta Alpha Psi www.ucabetaalphapsi.org International business honors • Attend now • Initiated as a junior
- Apply to be a Business Ambassador. uca.edu/business/ambassadors/
- Get involved around campus.
- Find volunteer opportunities (resume builder!).

PREPARE FOR WHAT'S NEXT

- Pay close attention to emails from studyacct@uca.edu for information about Prof. Development • Internship Interviews • Scholarships
- Create a resume (tips at ucaaccounting.org).
 - Email studyacct@uca.edu to get accounting faculty review.
 - Start looking for opportunities to improve this resume.
- Join Handshake and Career Services to learn about interviews and other events www.uca.edu/career/bears4hire

- Keep up that GPA! uca.edu/accounting/tutor Tutoring for Principles & Intermediate Accounting
- Accounting faculty are invested in your success. Attend office hours. uca.edu/accounting/facultystaff/
- Create study group. Prioritize studying and due dates. Use the study cycle: Preview • Attend class • Review • Study • Assess
- Consider minors, second majors, and other productive ways to use your electives.

- Get involved in Accounting Club & Beta Alpha Psi. Attend meetings • Be an officer • Travel & Compete
- Attend Meet the Firms every September. Meet 20+ acct employers of all types and sizes.
- Complete an internship, maybe for course credit.
- Join professional accounting organizations with free resources for students.
- Volunteer with Beta Alpha Psi or on your own.

- Are you planning on getting becoming a CPA? **How will you get the needed 150 hours? (5th year?)**
- Consider [UCA's Master of Accountancy](#). 30 hours • 1 year • Research • Communication • Leadership
- Update your resume and Handshake every semester.
- Practice interviewing skills. Mock Interview • The Big Interview Sign up for actual interviews

- Finish strong with a great GPA!
- Considering Master of Accountancy (or grad school)?
 - Find out about Concurrent or Dual enrollment
 - Apply to the Graduate School Find out about both at uca.edu/graduateschool
- Apply for graduation.
- Need some good electives? Consider Advanced Spreadsheets • Data Analytics Business Law for Accountants • Fraud Investigation

- Get involved in Accounting Club & Beta Alpha Psi. Attend Beta Alpha Psi conference as a leader.
- Mentor underclassmen. Club Leadership • Tutoring • Supplemental Instruction
- Participate in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance to help low-income Arkansans navigate tax filings.
- Complete a second internship.

- Update your resume and Handshake every semester.
- Start a plan for taking the CPA exam.
- Take certifying exams (and maybe get UCA credit) Management Accounting • Fraud Investigation • Accounting Software • and more

- Develop your professional skills Dining Etiquette • Oral Communication Professional Dress v. Business Casual Written Communication • Email Etiquette Time Management • Leadership

18 months before Graduation
(including Master's if applicable)
▶ Start interviewing for jobs! ◀

Accounting majors may get after-graduation job offers 12-20 months before graduation.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN ACCOUNTING MAJOR?

Accountants provide financial information that helps business and individuals make decisions. With UCA's Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting, you are ready for entry-level jobs in the accounting field. You may work in public accounting providing accounting to business and individuals, or you may work in industry, government, or not-for-profit accounting departments. Jobs include:

Auditor • Tax Advisor • Financial Accountant • Cost Accountant Budget Analyst • Forensic Accountant • Controller • Treasurer • Executive positions • and more!

Really distinguish yourself by passing a certification exam (e.g., CPA, CMA, etc.).

WHAT SKILLS MIGHT I NEED?

Accounting is a client service industry. Your degree and experience build knowledge that is highly sought after by others. You'll use these skills:

- **Oral Communication Skills** to explain complicated topics to clients.
- **Written Communication Skills** to prepare reports on finance, internal controls, and audit results.
- **Problem-Solving Skills** to turn financial data into information that can help solve problems.
- **Analytical Thinking** to apply accounting rules to new situations.
- **Ethical Decision Making** to decide how reports are used or interpreted.