

# Accounting

Do you like to work with numbers, or figure out budgets? Are you a person who looks forward to tax season? Do you have good people skills? Would you like to be part of a profession that makes a difference? If you answered “yes” to these questions, then a career in accounting may be for you.

An accountant is trained and educated to prepare, analyze, and verify reports and taxes. They also monitor the systems that furnish this information to managers in for profit, not-for-profit, and governmental organizations. The level of fiscal accountability, both nationally and internationally, continues to grow, thus generating an increasing demand for accountants.

The career opportunities available to you as an Accounting major are vast, and only depend on the competencies and skills you acquire through your academic work and extracurricular activities.

## Skills and Competencies

Like other degrees, you will be exposed to a variety of academic coursework as an Accounting major. In the process, you will acquire new skills. Specifically, your communication, analytical, technical, and computer skills will be challenged and strengthened. Strong communication skills are, after all, necessary in every career field today. Accounting is no exception. You will need to develop effective writing skills, as well as oral presentation, persuasiveness, and computer and data processing skills. Attention to detail is also important. The ability to think critically, and solve problems is important in this field, too. You can expect to be exposed to academic coursework and experiences that challenge you to further develop these skills. The curriculum at NMU prepares students for the broad professional fields of accounting, including becoming a certified public accountant, cost analyzing, and/or graduate studies.

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

### Business Core

- ACT230 Principles of Accounting I (4 cr.)
- ACT240 Principles of Accounting II (4 cr.)
- FIN 351 Financial Management I (4 cr.)
- MGT221 Business Law I (4 cr.)
- MGT240 Organizational Behavior Mgt. (4 cr.)
- MGT325 Operations Management (4 cr.)
- MGT344 Managerial Communications (4 cr.)
- MKT230 Introduction to Marketing (4 cr.)

### Accounting

- ACT301 Financial Accounting I (4 cr.)
- ACT302 Financial Accounting II (4 cr.)
- ACT311 Cost Accounting (4 cr.)
- ACT321 Federal Income Taxation (4 cr.)
- ACT403 Accounting III (4 cr.)
- ACT441 Auditing (4 cr.)
- ACT422 Advanced Federal Taxation
- ACT482 Accounting for Government and Non-Profit Enterprises (2 cr.)
- CIS222 Quantitative Business Problem solving (4 cr.)

### Other Required Courses

- EC201 Microeconomics (4 cr.)
- EC202 Macroeconomics (4 cr.)
- MA113 Finite Mathematics (4 cr.) or MA 115, or MA 161 (4 cr.)
- DATA109 Intro to Probability and Statistics (4 cr.)
- PSY100 Introduction to Psychology (4 cr.)
- SO101 Introduction to Sociology (4 cr.) or SO113 Social Problems (4 cr.)

*\*ACT431 is required for CPA Exam.  
Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).*

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advice Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

## Additional Considerations

Remember to take any necessary exams early; it can take six weeks for results to be sent to the schools to which you applied.

Additional education may be required for some of these positions. Those who excel are the ones who demonstrate commitment, relate well with people, and have analytical ability.

You can gain excellent experience by electing to complete an internship as part of your academic program.

## Job Outlook

Accounting and related positions will increase at a faster than average rate over the next few years, experiencing an 7% increase. New laws and regulations as well as new business will drive the need for more suitable workers. Starting salary for accountants greatly vary position to position, but the 2017 median pay for accountants and auditors is \$77,250 per year.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Accounting Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Accountant
- Accounting Manager
- Accounting Professor
- Appraiser
- Auditor
- Bank Manager
- Bank Officer
- Budget Analysis/Administration
- Bursar
- Certified Public Accountant
- Chief Financial Officer
- Controller
- Financial Analysis
- Financial Institute Examiner
- Financial Manager
- Forensic Accountant
- Fraud Examiner
- Insurance Representatives
- Internal Revenue Service Agent
- Loan Officer
- Purchasing Agent
- Retail Manager
- Tax Specialist

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

College of Business  
301 Cohodas  
906-227-2960  
[www.nmu.edu/business](http://www.nmu.edu/business)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Beta Alpha Psi (Accounting and Finance Club)  
<http://myweb.nmu.edu/~bap>

Business Professionals of America (BPA)  
[www.bpa.org](http://www.bpa.org)

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:  
[www.aaahq.org](http://www.aaahq.org) - American Accounting Association  
[www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org) - Association of International Certified Professional Accountants  
[www.nabainc.org](http://www.nabainc.org) - National Association of Black Accountants



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2022



What to do with  
a major in...

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