What can I do with a Major in Accounting?

The Accounting Program at the University of Lethbridge

Accounting involves, measuring, analyzing, and reporting on a wide variety of factors that affect organizational performance, resources, and risk. Students who undertake a major in Accounting do far more than number crunching. Accounting involves technical proficiency, good communication skills, and problem solving.

In addition to studying financial reporting, management accounting, auditing, and taxation, you will also draw upon fields such as finance, law, human resources management, and economics. The U of L ensures that students are well prepared to pursue professional designation after graduation. There are various accounting programs, bridging programs, combined programs and accounting diplomas offered at the U of L. See Accounting programs page for more details.

Skills Developed

- Critical Thinking
- Accuracy and Precision
- Active Listening
- Analyze & Compare
- Communication
- Computer Literacy
- Ability to Concentrate
- High Ethical Standards
- Interpret Facts & Figures
- Judgement & Decision Making
- Logical Thinking
- Interpersonal
- Meet Deadlines
- Quantitative Analysis
- Organizational
- Problem Solving
- Research
- Work Independently

Work Environments

Accounting graduates can use their education in a variety of fields. In many cases, their positions closely relate to their personal career interests, work values, and transferable skills. Those with a major in accounting usually work as employees in private, for-profit businesses as well as not-for-profit organizations, government, and health care. Many accounting majors also establish their own accounting practices or work for public accounting firms with other accounting professionals.

While completing post-degree designation requirements, graduates are usually employed in industry or public practice positions.

July 2014
Key Areas of Specialization:
Auditing, Budget Analysis, Financial Reporting, Investment Analysis, Cost Accounting, Tax, Internal Controls, Business Advisory Services

Entry Level Job Titles

These jobs are normally intended for new graduates and require 0 to 2 years of experience. It is important to note that many entry level positions require some related experience or demonstrated ability to perform job-related tasks. Even those positions that do not require experience will still prefer an experienced candidate, if one is available.

- Staff Auditor
- Tax Accountant
- Credit Analyst
- Financial Analyst
- Project Accountant
- Fund Accountant
- Assistant Controller
- Accounts Receivable Coordinator
- Budget Analyst
- Accounts Payable Coordinator
- Production Accountant

Note: The U of L offers various resources and programs to facilitate students in gaining work and volunteer experience. Find an entry level position on the CES job board or join the Management or Arts & Science Cooperative Education Programs. Summer jobs, part-time work, internship positions and volunteer experience help students to enhance their skillset and accumulate work experience for their future career.

Related Job Titles

These jobs generally require extensive, relevant work experience and/or further education, including an accounting designation, such as the chartered professional accountant designation (CPA).

- Accounting Vice President
- Accounts Supervisor
- Assistant Director of Finance/Financial Operations
- Audit Supervisor
- Audit Manager
- Budget Manager
- Bursar
- Chief Accounting Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Compliance Auditor
- Senior Financial Analyst
- Compliance Manager
- Corporate Accountant
- Cost Accountant
- Director of Financial Operations
- Environmental Auditor
- Financial Assurance Specialist/Manager
- Forensic Accountant
- Gift Administration Specialist
- Gift Assurance officer
- Government Accountant/Auditor
- Grants and Contracts Assistant/Specialist
- Industrial Accountant
- Information Technology Auditor/Audit Manager
- Internal Auditor
- Payroll Services Manager
- Revenue Cycle Administrator/Supervisor/Manager
- Senior Auditor
- Senior Budget Analyst
- Senior Cash Management Analyst
- Senior Financial Analyst
- Senior General Audit Manager
- Senior Gift Assurance Officer
- Senior Grants and Contracts Specialist
- Senior Strategic Planner
- Strategic Planner
- Strategic Planning and Institutional Analysis Manager
- Strategic Program Planning Advisor
Thinking Outside the Box: Other Possible Job Titles

On average, people change their career three to five times in their lifetime. So, no matter what major you choose, you may still be interested in opportunities totally unrelated to your program of study. We encourage you to be open to all possibilities! Your undergraduate degree can be a springboard for other educational pursuits, and your transferable skills and experience can prepare you to work in a multitude of settings.

- Area Manager for Business Banking
- Assessor
- Bank Customer Service Supervisor
- Bank Examiner
- Bankruptcy Specialist
- Claims Adjuster
- Collections Agent
- Commercial Banker
- Commodities Trader
- Comptroller
- Consumer Credit Officer
- Credit and Collection Specialist
- Entrepreneur
- Estate Planner
- Industrial Buyer
- Loan Administrator
- International Trade Specialist
- Inventory Control Specialist
- Loan Administrator
- Loan Officer
- Management Consultant
- Management Advisory Services Consultant
- Manager
- Methods and Procedures Specialist
- Underwriter
- Professor
- Reinsurance Analyst
- Securities Broker
- Senior Manager
- Statistician
- Systems Analyst

Useful Resources

Recommended websites to assist in exploring the field of Accounting and its career opportunities.

- Chartered Professional Accountants Alberta [http://www.cpaalberta.ca/]
- Alberta Learning Information Service Occupational Profile Accountant [http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/]
- Chartered Professional Accountants [http://www.cpacanada.ca]
- Canadian Academic Accounting Association [https://www.caaa.ca/Home/]
- Canadian Accounting Jobs [http://www.cpasource.com/]
- Accounting Jobs [http://www.accountingjobs.ca/]
- International Federation of Accountants [http://www.ifac.org]
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants [http://www.aicpa.org/Pages/Default.aspx]

Campus Resources

- Career & Employment Services (CES) [http://www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/]
- Career Counselling (Counselling Services) [http://www.uleth.ca/counselling/]
- Academic Advising [http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-advising]
- Native Student Advising [http://www.uleth.ca/ross/native-student-advising]
- Student Success Centre – Study Skills, Learning Strategies & Tutoring [http://www.uleth.ca/student-success-centre/]

July 2014
Accommodated Learning Centre
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/

International Centre for Students
http://www.uleth.ca/international/

Registrar Office & Student Services
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/

Scholarship & Students Finance
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/student-finance/

U of L Students’ Union & Student Clubs
http://www.ulsu.ca/

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Campus Job Resources

Career & Employment Services Job Board
CES Job board

Arts & Science Applied Studies
http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/applied-studies/students

Arts & Science Co-op Education & Internship
http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/ coop

Management Co-op Education
http://www.uleth.ca/management/co-op

Study Abroad & Exchanges
http://www.uleth.ca/international/content/study-abroad-exchanges

Management Study Abroad & Exchanges
http://www.uleth.ca/management/study-abroad

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Career & Employment Services (CES)
CES assists U of L students and graduates with their career exploration and work search needs.

AH153 Anderson Hall, Phone: 403-317-2845
Mon- Fri: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.