

Exploring the Accounting Major

Businesses, from corner coffee shops to multinational corporations, face tremendous pressures to stay ahead of their competition — and to do it ethically. For solutions they often turn to accountants, who bring a wide range of technical and personal skills.

Preparing for the CPA Exam

Those who wish to engage in public accounting practice in most states as certified public accountants should familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations issued by the various state boards. For example, most states (including Wisconsin and Illinois) require prospective CPAs to complete 150 semester hours of education. The Department of Accounting offers a **master of science in accounting degree** which meets the 150-hour requirement.

One way to reach 150 credit hours could be completing credits at another university. Credits taken at another university after the start of students' final 30 credits do not transfer back to Marquette University, nor do they count towards credit earned towards the 150 hours at Marquette. The current university transfer policy states that all transfer credits must be approved in advance and the last 30 credits must be taken at Marquette University. Students can also pursue summer courses and a ninth semester of their undergraduate degree to hit 150 credit hours. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor to plan ahead.

Bulletin Information on the ACCO major

[Undergraduate Bulletin](#)

[ACCO Specific Information](#)

Advising Central

Advising Central contains:

[Advising Information](#)

[Advising Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Registration Information](#)

[Registration Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[College and University & Registration Forms](#)

Visit <https://www.marquette.edu/business/undergraduate/advising-central.php> for more

Archived Graduation Outcomes

[2019-20](#)

[2018-19](#)

[2017-18](#)

[2016-17](#)

Internship Outcomes

The link provided will take you to an interactive Tableau page where you can filter and sort data to learn more about the internship outcomes of Marquette students between 2016 and 2020.



[Internship Dashboard](#)

Types of Positions

Students who study Accounting at Marquette generally focus on tax or audit accounting.

Tax Accounting: In this specialty area of accounting, one may be working in public accounting where they review financial statements to assess tax liability for the business.

Audit Accounting: In this specialty area, one can either work in internal or external auditing. As an internal audit accountant, one would work for a company in any industry and audit their procedures to ensure the company is efficient in protecting their assets. As an external auditor, one works for a public accounting firm where they meet with clients and assess their procedures to ensure their financial statements are federally compliant.

To get experience in these areas, generally students start early in their Marquette education by getting internships through programs such as Accounting Early Recruiting. Some internships held by students were:

- Auditing Intern
- Accounting Intern
- Fund Accountant Intern
- Audit/Tax Internship
- Tax Reporting and Advisory Internship
- Accounting and Investment Operations Intern

Students first roles after graduation include titles such as:

- Auditor
- Staff Tax Accountant
- Tax Consultant 1
- Staff Assurance
- Tax Associate
- Valuation Associate
- General Accountant

Types of Employers

Accountants can work for many different types of organizations depending on their specialization, interests, and goals. One could work at a private organization ensuring the company is being efficient and legal in handling their finances. They could also work in a public tax firm where they meet with clients and discuss others finances and efficiency. Marquette students have worked with private companies such as:

- Direct Supply
- Harley Davidson
- Camping World
- Getaround



- Kohls

Students have also had success working for “[Big 4](#)” accounting firms:

- Deloitte
- PWC
- KPMG
- Ernst & Young

As well as smaller, mid-market accounting firms such as:

- Miller, Cooper and Company
- Moss Adams
- CliftonLarsonAllen
- Cohen and Company

O*Net – Skills and Occupations to Explore

O*NET OnLine has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers, and more! You can browse for occupations by interest code here: <https://www.onetonline.org/find/>

While your interests and personality should never be seen as exclusionary, common Accounting occupations by RIASEC interest code include, **Conventional** and **Enterprising**:

- Tax Examiners and Collectors, and Revenue Agents:
<https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-2081.00>
- Accountants and Auditors: <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-2011.00>

Video resources

Hear more about the Accounting major and all you can do with the degree from faculty and current students here:

- [Accounting in Marburg, Germany](#)
- [Advanced Degree Program in Accounting](#)
- [Advising and Accounting](#)
- [Analytics Case Competition](#)
- [Chair of the Accounting Advisory Board](#)
- [The Deloitte Tax Competition](#)
- [Fraud and Forensic Analysis course](#)
- [Major in Accounting](#)
- [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program](#)

Learn more about the degree and career exploration

[All You Want to Know About an Accounting Major](#) – TheBalance
[Who Are the Big Four Accounting Firms?](#)

Student Organizations to Consider

Beta Alpha Psi



The primary objective of Beta Alpha Psi is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field. This includes promoting the study and practice of accounting; providing opportunities for self-development, service, and association among members and practicing professionals; and encouraging a sense of ethical, social, and public responsibility.

<https://www.marquette.edu/business/undergraduate/beta-alpha-psi/>

Women in Business (WIB)

Women in Business is an organization at Marquette University founded in 2007 to aid female students in building their resume, gaining leadership skills, increasing networking opportunities, and taking a look into and gaining insight from the lives of professional women. Members of the organization are undergraduate female students interested in having a professional career upon graduation. Members from all majors are welcome, typically we see students from the College of Business Administration and the College of Communications. WIB typically holds monthly meetings that bring professional working women from across the Midwest to campus to discuss a variety of topics. In addition, the organization holds socials and "how to" sessions regarding different aspects of attaining a job.

Go-Getters

The vision of the Go-Getters is to maximize business students' career potential by bringing in speakers, sponsoring seminars and workshops, touring companies, and one-on-one counseling sessions dealing with various aspects of career management. The members are eager to identify, pursue and earn a career opportunity with their number one choice of an employer.

Professional Organizations to Consider

American Association of Finance and Accounting

Founded in 1978, the American Association of Finance & Accounting (AAFA) is an alliance of executive search firms specializing in the recruiting and staffing of finance and accounting professionals. Drawing upon their extensive contacts and close working relationships with fellow AAFA recruiting professionals, employers, and job seekers, our AAFA Members deliver uncompromising service to you.

<https://aafa.com/>

The Institute for Internal Auditors

The Mission of Internal Audit articulates what internal audit aspires to accomplish within an organization. Its place in the New IPPF is deliberate, demonstrating how practitioners should leverage the entire framework to facilitate their ability to achieve the Mission.

<https://na.theiia.org/standards-guidance/Pages/Mission-of-Internal-Audit.aspx>

Additional Skills to Consider for Accountants

- Analytical
 - Attention to Detail



- Communication
 - Interpersonal Skills
 - Problem Solving
- Understanding of information technology
 - PwC's [Digital Fitness](#)