

What is the job outlook for accountants?

Both the U.S. Department of Labor and the California Employment Development Department project that the number of jobs for accountants and auditors is expected to grow by 18 percent between 2006 and 2016, which is faster than the average for all occupations. An increase in the number of businesses, changing financial laws, corporate governance regulations and increased accountability for protecting an organization's stakeholders will drive growth.

“The best job prospects will be for accountants and auditors who have a college degree or any certification, but especially a CPA.”

– THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

“In California, an average of 3,320 new job openings per year is expected for accountants and auditors, plus an additional 2,500 job openings due to replacement needs, resulting in a total of 5,820 job openings.”

– CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

For more information about the accounting profession:

California State Board of Accountancy
www.dca.ca.gov/cba

California Employment Development Department
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

Careers in Accounting
www.careers-in-accounting.com

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov

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DE ANZA COLLEGE



Accounting Department



De Anza's Accounting Department offers students

- High-quality, up-to-date classes incorporating the latest technology
- In-class instruction and convenient online classes
- A wide variety of certificate and degree programs
- Excellent preparation for transfer to four-year colleges and universities
- Immediate job training

Students receive training in skills applicable in many areas including:

- Bookkeeping, tax preparation, tax accounting and general accounting, from introductory to advanced level courses
- Written and oral communications
- Working effectively in groups
- Creative and critical thinking
- Problem solving and decision making

“The De Anza accounting program gave me the knowledge necessary to complement my full-time job. It prepared me to move into a new position as well as successfully pass the CPA exams. I found the teaching top notch and enjoyed the lively discussions with my fellow students.”

– TONY KING

Degrees & Certificates

- Certificate of Achievement, Accounting
- Certificate of Achievement, Bookkeeping
- Certificate of Achievement–Advanced, Practice Emphasis
- Certificate of Achievement–Advanced, Taxation Emphasis
- Certificate of Achievement–Advanced, Tax Practitioner
- A.A. degree in Accounting, Practice Emphasis
- A.A. degree in Accounting, Taxation Emphasis

What do accountants do?

- Audit financial records of organizations—large & small
- Keep accurate public records
- Prepare tax returns and engage in tax planning for organizations and individuals
- Record business transactions and prepare financial statements
- Develop and use information systems to track financial performance
- Help organizations and individuals plan for financial success

Self-employed business owners, such as Certified Public Accountants (CPA), may do all of the above on a contractual basis for companies or individuals, plus work from a home office if they choose.

What wages and benefits can accountants expect?

Salaries for accountants and auditors vary depending on the size of the business, its location, and their level of education and professional credentials. Earnings often exceed \$100,000 annually for CPAs who work in large, well-established firms, or who are partners in successful companies.

According to the state Employment Development Department, the annual median wage in 2008 for accountants and auditors in California was \$62,130, and higher in Santa Clara County at \$71,230. The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

“Transitioning from college to the workforce and back to college again was a challenge for me. The members of De Anza's Accounting Department took an interest in my situation and helped me develop a career road map. My professors included me in their networks so I could interact with professionals in the accounting industry. I am confident in the education I received at De Anza; it helped me to prepare for both the CPA exam and a career in public accounting.”

– SCOTT PEREZ