Why major in Accounting?

Career choices abound for accounting graduates. For the past five years 85% of Bachelor and 95% of Master students from the BYU accounting program received a job offer within three months of graduation. Recent starting salaries have ranged up to $250,000 with averages over $50,000. In general, salaries double over the next three years.

BYU’s School of Accountancy was rated #1 US accounting program by the Wall Street Journal in 2010 and #1 accounting program in the world by Financial Times in 2007.

Accounting is about recording and analyzing business activities; it provides organizations with the financial information needed to make sound decisions. Accountants build ethical foundations for financial reporting and validate information used to make management decisions. Options are available to work on jobs in both public and private accounting.

Public or Private Accounting: What is the Difference?

Public Accounting differs in firm size and range of activities. They provide auditing, tax, advisory, and consulting services. The Big Four (Deloitte, Ernst and Young, KPMG, and PWC) are the largest public accounting firms in the world. Public accountants receive continuous training, contact with a wide variety of clients, and are involved in fascinating work. They are generally licensed professionals as Certified Public Accountants (CPA).

Private Accounting works inside all businesses, government, and nonprofit entities. Private accountants choose a specific employer for their career and bring the tools, skills, and know how needed to succeed. Private accountants are an integral part of the success of any organization and many public accountants eventually work in the private accounting sector.

BS or MAcc?

Students may choose a career path from either a Bachelor or Master level. The BS degree provides employment in most private accounting and finance jobs and is a natural preparation for a graduate degree. The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) is a graduate program that allows BYU students to complete their degree in two semesters after the senior year, and receive other graduate benefits like a parking pass. The MAcc helps qualify students for CPA licensing after graduation. In 2010, 88% of MAcc students started with CPA firms.

Why is job demand so high?

Every business and most other employers need accountants. Accountants use their understanding of financial operations and activities to help organizations become better and to determine future direction. Accountants are valued and needed everywhere.

What do recruiters look for?

Recruiters look for bright, hardworking people who are capable of working intensely and succeeding in a team environment. Employers are attracted to people who are critical thinkers, who can support client organizations, and help the organization run effectively behind the scene. They search for people who can communicate well and serve as positive role models in the industry. Integrity and ethics are key abilities in this profession.

Internships and Part-time Work

Accounting internships are highly encouraged and assistance finding them is provided through Accounting Career Services. Many employers use internships to consider student abilities and review their skills in real world work. Most interns receive full time job offers following the internship. Internships for academic credit can be arranged.

Many employers also make part-time jobs available throughout the year. Hours are usually flexible and responsibilities can range from general book keeping to financial statement preparation to the analysis of processes and proposed activities.
High Job Placement

BYU accounting students have achieved up to 98% annual employment--obtaining jobs in 55 cities, 20 states and 3 countries with over 70 employers. As a PWC Partner recently stated, “The school offers mature individuals. Most graduates come out of school with an understanding of what it takes to work hard. They are very strong when it comes to figuring out and solving problems. They are ready to make a contribution.”

No. 1 Program

In the Wall Street Journal’s 2010 “Top 25 Recruiter Picks,” BYU is ranked #1 in Accounting. Professional Accounting Report ranked the graduate program #1 in 2009. Financial Times named the program #1 in the world in 2007. “Accounting is the language of business and this program teaches that language exceptionally well.” says an accounting firm CEO

Graduate School Integration

Master of Accountancy students may begin their graduate program following their junior year receiving their Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees two semesters after their senior year. Master’s students have averaged 95% job placement since 2005.

How do I apply? Where do I find program requirements?

See the Academic Requirements Catalog at marriottschool.byu.edu/
Undergraduate office- 460 TNRB, 801-422-4285
Graduate office- 560 TNRB, 801-422-4959

Who provides help with career and graduate school opportunities?

Accounting Career Services- 510 TNRB, 801-422-8652
Business Career Services- 410 TNRB, 801-422-1834
eRecruiting System-
http://byu.experience.com

Information about BYU accounting degrees