Accounting is the field of study that focuses on developing and providing financial information about businesses for internal and external decision-makers and other stakeholders in various organizations. This could include information about the cost of products manufactured, services provided, or about governmental and not-for-profit organizations. At University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, the accounting program is designed to provide students with a depth of knowledge in accounting and business. UW–Eau Claire’s Accounting and Finance Department offers a comprehensive major and a minor in accounting.

Typical interests and values of accounting majors:
- Analyzing, evaluation, calculating, and gathering information
- Likes coordinating work with others
- Attention to detail and writing reports
- Supervising, directing, and assessing
- An interest in a business-related field

Knowledge and skills gained from studying accounting:

Knowledge:
At UW–Eau Claire, an accounting major’s knowledge draws on the basic principles of financial, managerial, and cost accounting. In addition to these areas, they also obtain an understanding of other areas of accounting such as government, not-for-profit, and auditing. Accounting majors also learn to interpret primary financial statements.

Skills:
- Mathematics
- Ability to accurately analyze, compare, and interpret facts and figures
- Good oral and written communication
- Ability to use computers and software packages to increase work efficiencies
- Problem solving
- Defining needs
- Decision making
- Taking initiative
- Leadership
- Attention to detail
- Imagining alternatives
- Setting and meeting deadlines

Related student and professional organizations:

Student:
- Student Accounting Society
- Beta Alpha Psi
- Beta Upsilon Sigma
- Financial Management Association

Professional:
- American Accounting Association
- Institute of Management Accountants
- Institute of Internal Auditors

Career fields related to an accounting degree:

Potential Employers:
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. A large portion of accounting majors work in private, for-profit businesses and corporations. In addition, accounting majors work in diverse sectors including education, government/military, and not-for-profit agencies. Some accounting majors also establish their own accounting practices or begin working for public accounting firms with other certified public accountants.

Potential Job Titles:
- Actuary
- Public Accountant
- Inventory Control Specialist
- Budget Control Analyst
- Loan Administrator
- Certified Public Accountant
- Collection Agent
- Consumer Loan Officer
- Governmental Accountant
- Internal Auditor
- Bank Examiner
- Stockbroker
- Tax Specialist
- Financial Analyst
- Claims Adjuster
- Entrepreneur
- Cost Accountant
- Chief Financial Officer

Form #400038 Revision G
International Trade Specialist

Jobs You Might also Consider...

Real Estate Appraiser
Credit and Collection Specialist
Insurance Agent
Inventory Control Specialist
Financial Aid Director
Social and Community Service Manager
Import/Export Specialist
Fund Raiser
Grant Writer

Sample entry-level jobs held by UW–Eau Claire accounting graduates:

- **Staff Accountant**, Suby, Von Haden & Associates, Madison, WI
- **Financial Business Analyst**, Hydrite Chemical Company, Cottage Grove, MN
- **Revenue Agent**, U.S. Government, Eau Claire, WI
- **Consultant**, Grant Thornton, Milwaukee, WI
- **Assistant Examiner**, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Eau Claire, WI
- **Mortgage Editor**, Tena Companies, St. Paul, MN
- **Human Resources Assistant**, Luther Midefort, Eau Claire, WI
- **Government/Non-Profit Auditor**, Schenck Business Solutions, Green Bay, WI
- **Client Services**, Luther Midefort, Eau Claire, WI

Learn more about accounting:

**Department**

- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Accounting and Finance, Schneider Social Science 400B, 836-2184

**Getting Started at Career Services:**

- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

**Resources in Career Services:**
**Yellow Section**

- Sigi3 handouts:
  - Accountant, Public Practice
  - Management Accounting
  - Accounting Clerk

-Management Analyst

Book sections:

- Accounting, Finance, Banking, Insurance & Real Estate

**Orange Section**

- Internship information pertaining to accounting
- Computers: Search the Internship Center Database for job/internship opportunities

**Blue Section**

- “Hoover’s Handbook of American Business”
- “Job Opportunities in Business”
- Minnesota and Wisconsin Manufacturers' Directories
- Resume, cover letter, interviewing, networking, and job search worksheets, books, and other resources

**Opportunities to enhance skills in accounting:**

**Internship**

Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in accounting, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate or contact your adviser. You can also speak with the Department of Accounting and Finance chair about obtaining credit for your internship.

**Directed Studies or Independent Study Class**

By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in ACCT 499.

**What you can do now:**

- Earn your service learning hours through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (and course credit) or by tutoring in the accounting lab.
- Many public accounting firms have opportunities for underclassmen to tour their offices and meet some of the accountants and/or partners. Most ask you to submit your resume and interview for the program before you are considered.
- Job shadow a professional in your field of interest or conduct informational interviews.
- Become the treasurer of a student organization.