

ACCOUNTING

What Accountants Do

Assist to ensure firms are run more efficiently, public records are kept more accurately, and taxes are paid properly and on time. Fundamental tasks of the occupation are to prepare, analyze, and verify financial documents in order to provide information to clients. Perform an increasingly wide array of business and accounting services that include:

- **Public Accountants** ~ perform a broad range of accounting, auditing, tax and consulting activities for their clients, who may be corporations, governments, nonprofit organizations, or individuals.
- **Management Accountants** ~ work for companies and nonprofit organizations, where they record and analyze the financial information, prepare budgets, evaluate performance, and manage costs and assets.
- **Government Accountants** ~ perform all the above tasks in the public sector.
- **Internal Auditors** ~ verify the accuracy of their organization's records and check for mismanagement, waste, or fraud.

Jobs in accounting are expected to grow faster than in other areas, specifically 18% in the next 10 years.

Over 1.3 million individuals classify themselves as accountants and auditors in 2006.

How to Become an Accountant

A successful accountant must: Be able to analyze, compare and interpret facts and figures quickly. Must communicate well, have computer skills and high standards of integrity.

At McMurry students will receive a firm background in liberal arts as well as training in business courses that will prepare them for the business world. McMurry offers a **BBA** with a concentration in accounting, which includes courses in financial accounting, management accounting, taxation and auditing for a broad exposure to the field.

Professional recognition is gained through certificate. There are many certifications for accounting professionals, such as Certified Management Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor or Accredited Tax Advisor. The most widely known certification, which is required by law to file reports with the SEC, is the **Certified Public Accountant or CPA**. Texas is one of 42 states that require candidates to complete 150 credit hours for CPA exam eligibility. **McMurry offers sufficient course work to meet the requirements.**

Should you choose to continue your education after you graduate from McMurry, you can earn a master's degree or a Ph.D. in accounting. Alternatively, you might choose a master's degree in business administration (MBA), which would prepare you for a career in business management. An accounting undergraduate degree is excellent preparation for attending law school, especially if your interests are in tax or corporate law.

After you Graduate

McMurry University students with accounting degrees now work in public accounting, business, government and education; others are attending graduate school. According to a **salary** survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, bachelor's degree candidates in accounting received starting offers averaging **\$49,085** a year in 2007. Nationwide the median **income** for accountants in May, 2006 was **\$54,630** with the top 10% earning more than **\$95,050**.

Contact ~ Dr. Clara Richardson, Cooke 211A (325) 793-3858