WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … ACCOUNTING

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (2012), accountants and auditors prepare and examine financial records for corporations, governments, and individuals to ensure that these records are accurate. Accountants and auditors also assess financial operations and help ensure that organizations run efficiently. In addition, they ensure that taxes are paid in a timely manner. Accountants and auditors must often explain their findings through written reports and/or face-to-face meetings with managers and clients. The BLS notes that many accountants and auditors specialize either in the types of services they provide or in a specific industry. The BLS highlights that a specialty typically corresponds to the particular organization an accountant works for such as, “assurance services (improving the quality or context of information for decision makers) or risk management (determining the probability of a misstatement on financial documentation).”

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
According to the BLS, “most employers require a candidate to have a bachelor’s degree in accounting or a related field. Certification within a specific field of accounting improves job prospects. For example, many accountants become Certified Public Accountants (CPAs)”. Consult O’Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico offers both a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting and a Masters of Accounting degree. For more information about these programs, please see the UNM Anderson School of Management website.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Public Accounting/ Corporate Accounting:

Government/ Non-Profit
Auditing, Financial Reporting, Financial Management, Budget Analysis, Research, Accounting, Internal Audit, Financial Planning, Budgeting, Money Handling, Record Keeping

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

• Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities. Internship opportunities are listed on the Anderson Career Services website and are also sent out through the concentration list-servs.
• Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Take advantage of the many networking opportunities sponsored by Anderson Career Services.
• Get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career-related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Additional information can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:
Adapted from Career One Stop 2013

ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

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INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
American Accounting Association  http://aaahq.org/index.cfm
American Association of Hispanic CPAs  http://www.alpfa.org
American Women’s Society of CPAs  http://www.awscpa.org
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants  http://www.aicpa.org/index.htm
Institute of Management Accountants  http://www.imanet.org/
The Institute of Internal Auditors  http://www.theiia.org/
Beta Alpha Psi  https://www.bap.org/
New Mexico Society of CPAs  http://www.nmscpa.org/

REFERENCES:

