Accountants create, disseminate, and evaluate financial information. They have a broad based understanding of business, as well as a strong technical accounting knowledge and skill. It is a diverse field which covers many different areas including cost accounting, financial auditing, tax, government policy, financial reporting, and forensic accounting. They engage in oral and written communication, have a working knowledge of various information technologies, and ethical judgements. Users of accounting information include investors, creditors, government, management, and unions.

The Accounting concentration provides students with the expertise needed to begin a career as an accountant or manager. The program emphasizes conceptual issues, while providing appropriate technical skills for an entry-level Accountant. The general business education, received in other courses in the business school, together with the specific accounting curriculum provides students with a clear understanding of the relationship between accounting and related management issues.

**Key Skills & Knowledge**

**Interpersonal** - Influencing and persuading individuals and groups; aptitude for leadership; cultural sensitivity with an ability to relate to people from different backgrounds.

**Teamwork, leadership and relationship building** - A career in accounting will typically involve frequent interactions with a variety of people including co-workers, management, clients, and prospective clients.

**Communication** - Presenting ideas and data clearly and effectively; writing articulately and analytically; Technical report writing

**Organization** - Carry out tasks with thoroughness, precision, and attention to detail, meet deadlines, and manage projects

**Analytical thinking and manipulating numerical data** - Perform cost/benefit analyses; create and evaluate financial reports/statements; apply statistical methods and analysis

**Problem solving** - Develop systematic procedures for investigating a problem, making sound judgments based on research and analysis of data, approaching topics from various perspectives; analyzing multiple dimensions of a problem; identifying problems and developing solutions; decision-making skills through logical reasoning

**Ethical professionalism** - Accountants have a lot of influence. They are trusted, respected in their ability to see the bigger picture and usually have a say in major decisions. They are known for being organized, logical and rational and expected to make sound decisions.

**Sample Job Titles**

Some of these roles may require further training, certification or education. Check out the Alberta Government’s occupational profiles for salary info and more detail: [alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](alis.alberta.ca/occinfo)

- Accountant (Corporate, Financial, Financial Reporting, Oil & Gas Joint Venture, Oil & Gas Production, Property, Staff, etc.)
- CA Articling
- Accounting Analyst or Assistant
- Financial Analyst
- Accounts Payable / Receivable Analyst or Assistant or Clerk Associate
- Internal Audit Assistant
- Budget or Results Analyst
- Management Consultant
- Research Analyst

**Need help deciding what to do?**

Formal Career Assessments like the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator can be helpful tools for your career development. Request an assessment via CareerLink
Potential Fields

- Analysis (business, market research, credit, efficiency, securities)
- Corporate training
- Education
- Government
- Hospitality
- Real estate
- Management
- Manufacturing
- Media
- Not-for-profit
- Oil & Gas
- Public Practice (accounting services firms: Big 4, Midsize and small)
- Purchasing
- Statistics
- Transportation

Associations & Professional Development

**Associations:**
- Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA): [https://www.caaa.ca/Home/](https://www.caaa.ca/Home/)

**Big 4—Public Practice**
- PwC: [http://www.pwc.com/ca/en.html](http://www.pwc.com/ca/en.html)

**Student Clubs**
- Accounting Students Association (ASA): [http://asaucalgary.ca/](http://asaucalgary.ca/)
- The Commerce Undergraduate Society: [http://www.cuscalgary.ca/](http://www.cuscalgary.ca/)
- The Haskayne Students’ Association (HAS): [www.hsaucalgary.com](http://www.hsaucalgary.com)

**Books & Publications**
- Great Jobs for Accounting Majors by Jan Goldberg
- Careers in Accounting by Gloria Gaylord

**Aligned Majors**
- Actuarial Science

Job Boards

- CPA Job Board: [http://www.cpaalberta.ca/Services/Career-Centre/Job-Board](http://www.cpaalberta.ca/Services/Career-Centre/Job-Board)
- Eluta: [http://www.eluta.ca/](http://www.eluta.ca/)
- LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)
- CareerLink: [careerlink.ucalgary.ca](http://careerlink.ucalgary.ca)

Career Services

**YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE**

- Career Planning
- Job Search Support
- Resume Reviews
- Career Workshops
- Online Job Postings
- Career Fairs
- Networking Events
- Information Sessions & much more!

**Connect with us:**
- MacEwan Student Centre, Room 188
- T: 403.220.8020
- E: csstdnt@ucalgary.ca
- CareerLink: [ucalgary.ca/careers](http://ucalgary.ca/careers)
- ucalgarycareers @HireUCalgary

Faculty Contact

- Scurfield Hall
- T: 403.220.6593
- E: undergraduate@haskayne.ucalgary.ca
- W: haskayne.ucalgary.ca
- W: ucalgary.ca/admissions/programs

Haskayne Career Centre

- Scurfield Hall 350
- T: 403.220.6743
- E: careercentre@haskayne.ucalgary.ca
- W: haskayne.ucalgary.ca/services/career-centre/welcome