# Accountancy Career Pathways

## Public Accounting
In order to become a certified public accountant, students must accrue 150 credit hours. These hours can be at the undergraduate and/or graduate level.

- Advise companies on tax advantages and disadvantages of business decisions
- Prepare individual income tax returns
- Audit clients' financial statements and inform investors and authorities of correct preparation and reporting of statements
- Offer advice in areas such as compensation or employee health care benefits, design of accounting and data-processing systems, and selection of controls to safeguard assets

**Job Titles:** Public Accountant, External Auditor, Forensic Accountant

## Management Accounting

- Record and analyze the financial information of a company for which they work
- Oversee and/or maintain budget, performance evaluation, cost management and asset management
- Analyze and interpret financial information that corporate executives need to make sound business decisions
- Prepare financial reports for stockholders, creditors, regulatory agencies and tax authorities

**Job Titles:** Management Accountant, Cost Accountant, Managerial Accountant, Industrial Accountant, Corporate Accountant, Private Accountant

## Government Accounting and Auditing

- Maintain and examine the records of government agencies and auditing private businesses and individuals whose activities are subject to government regulation or taxation
- Ensure that revenues are received and expenditures are made in accordance with laws and regulations

**Job Titles:** Government Accountant, Government Auditor, Arbitrator

## Internal Auditing

- Verify the effectiveness of an organization's internal controls and check for mismanagement, waste or fraud
- Examine and evaluate a firm's financial and information systems, management procedures, and internal controls to ensure that records are accurate and controls are adequate
- Evaluate a firm's efficiency, effectiveness and compliance with corporate policies and government regulations

**Job Titles:** Internal Auditor, Information Technology Auditor, Environmental Auditor, Compliance Auditor

## Master of Science in Accountancy

- Continue master level accountancy courses to reach the 150 credit hours necessary to be a public account (CPA)
- Study for the CPA exam

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The Career Center
Haworth College of Business

Western Michigan University