

Is accounting required for business school?

Admission requirements may differ per school, however, generally speaking taking a high school accounting course is not a requirement for admission into a college or university business program. Most business programs do have an introductory accounting course in the curriculum. Therefore, if you take accounting in high school, it may give you an advantage in that course.

What are the steps from high school to university to become a CPA? How long does it take to become a CPA?

After graduating high school, the fastest route to becoming a CPA is to get a bachelor's degree in accounting before enrolling in the CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP). A bachelor's degree usually takes four years to complete, followed by two to three years in CPA PEP. From the time of high school graduation, it will take at least 6 years before you become a CPA.

Is most of what you do on the job things you learned in school?

What I do on the job comes from an equal combination of technical skills learned in school and practical experience gained through my various roles. If I encounter a new problem in the workplace that I don't have prior work experience with I've at least had some exposure to the issue through school so that when I begin searching for the answer I have a starting point. Then you use a combination of your prior/current experience, what you remember from school, and some additional research to develop a solution.

What is the advancement potential in the field?

Significant opportunities for advancement but the titles and timeline of advancement are dependent on the different area of accounting that you may be working in. However, the best way to advance is to find the area within accounting that you genuinely enjoy and are passionate about and grow the skills needed for that niche/area.

What are the changes you have made in terms of courses or program once you decided to become an accountant?

Countless changes. As you start going through the process of becoming an accountant, you'll get more information about the different branches of accounting and the various specialty fields. High level decisions I've made have been as follows:

- Post Secondary: business accounting vs public practice accounting
- Beginning of CPA program: Industry, Government, or Public Practice industries
- Duration of CPA Program: tax specialization or auditing within the government, or switch back to public practice
- End of CPA program: next step, focus on US tax, tax legislation, business valuation, non-resident taxation, consulting

What is the connection between finance and accounting? How important is accounting for finance?

Finance is generally more high-level and focuses on financial planning and analysis. In order to do this, accounting is utilized to support decision making.

Accounting generally focuses on the rounds how to record the day to day transactions of a business and the correct methods in which to report those transactions.

An accountant however will have both finance and accounting functionalities. i.e You need to have accounting knowledge in order to record transactions and prepare financial statements, and finance knowledge to extend those financial statements forward, utilize business assumptions in order to make corporate decisions. Again, this is dependent on the company that you are working in and your level of experience.

What is the connection between psychology and accounting?

Probably none? My connection was because I had an interest in science and took psychology 12AP in grade 11 but my career path took me to become an accountant. It shows that your career can be something completely different from what you originally thought it might be.

How do you find work as an accountant? Which place do you suggest the most for first time experience of this career?

I enjoy the work and think being an accountant is helping me become a strong business professional. I suggest starting in an accounting firm that allows you to move between departments or has flexibility to work on different projects. This will give you the most exposure to the different types of work available, help you find what you're interested in, and give you a strong foundation that simultaneously supports your education.

How many days do you have for vacation and holidays in a year? How much is your salary after tax?

In most of my accounting positions I have had 10 – 15 days vacation. But all positions have had a positive work culture wherein if additional time off is required it can be accommodated.

Accountant's salaries can be researched on glassdoor.com