

CareerPathways

Your path. Your journey. Your CPA career. #cpacareerpathways

Every business needs a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). So, no matter what you're into, there's a CPA for that.

What steps do you need to take to become a CPA and make the big bucks? First things first: know that while all CPAs are accountants, not all

accountants are CPAs. CPAs are accountants who have gone the extra mile to prove their smarts and savvy to attain the highly-coveted CPA license. The path might seem daunting, but the many rewards — including an average 15% higher salary for staters — are worth the work!

Forensic Accountant

\$105,525– \$152,090

Forensic accountants investigate, audit and analyze financial records and accounts for evidence of fraud. They often provide expert testimony, present evidence and relay their conclusions in court.

Controller

\$128,305–\$196,980

Controllers oversee the accounting department, implement controls and internal audits across the entire company and ensure financial plans align with organizational goals.

"CPA is the highest professional designation in accounting — a platinum standard that I wanted to achieve. Because I'm a CPA, I've gotten jobs I would not otherwise have gotten, I get paid more and I get more respect from colleagues. On a personal level, it's a source of pride, accomplishment and inspiration."

— Anna Howard, CPA | AICPA & CIMA

"I knew the CPA certificate would open doors, no matter where I ultimately wanted to work. I've worked at a big CPA firm, a financial firm and had my own CPA practice for 35 years, and I couldn't have done it without the CPA certificate!"

— James Donovan, Jr., CPA | Apple & Albano, PC

Senior Financial Analyst

\$95,140–\$127,015

Financial analyst managers use current and historical financial data to forecast future revenues, compile complex financial reports and present their analyses and insights to management.

Senior Tax Accountant (Public)

\$83,750–\$117,250

Senior tax accountants handle tax reporting, keep up with changes in tax law, identify areas for tax savings and advise their accounting firm's clients on the tax implications of their proposed corporate strategies.

Internal Auditor

\$81,740–\$118,925

Internal auditors provide an independent and objective assessment of how their company operates — ensuring that employees follow procedures, and their organization complies with laws.

Chief Financial Officer

\$167,835–\$331,650

CFOS are head of financial operations for an organization. They are responsible for its strategic direction, risk management and developing and monitoring control systems tied to assets.

"I became a CPA because I love solving problems and I view auditing and financial reporting as a series of puzzles. My experience as a CPA led to many career opportunities, including 15 years as a professor of accounting. I remain a CPA because I want to give back to the profession, and as an educator I help prepare the next generation of CPAs."

— MJ Potvin, CPA, CGMA | LGA, LLP