

Certified Public Accountant

Certified public accountants (CPAs) operate under strict ethical standards to develop, analyze, and report financial information. Using this information, they advise individuals and organizations on financial matters. Examples of services:

- tax, estate, and trust services
- independent review of financial and other documents (assurance services)
- forensic accounting (e.g., for fraud investigations and legal proceedings)
- business consulting services
- financial planning

Education

150 semester hours including a minimum of a bachelor's or higher degree from a [Department-registered](#) CPA licensure program, or the equivalent.

Experience

At least one year of full-time, qualifying experience under the supervision of a U.S. CPA.

Examination

Uniform CPA Examination® (national exam).

- ▶ Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Salary range: \$40,000 (entry) - \$500,000+ (CPA firm owners)
- Projected growth: faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Any industry: entertainment, sports, technology, travel, banking
- Federal, state, or local government
- Public accounting firm
- Non-profit organizations

Your Interest and Abilities

- Information technology
- Data analytics
- Problem solving
- Business savvy

Professional Skills

- Critical thinking
- Integrity and independence
- Leadership
- Business communications

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options! Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for [mentoring programs](#)—talk to a CPA about what they do and how they got started!