Accounting

Program Introduction
Park University’s Bachelor of Science degree in accounting prepares you for a career as a professional accountant in industry, public accounting (CPA), and not-for-profit &/or government sectors. You will also be prepared for graduate study and have the skills you need to pursue professional certifications in accounting.

Accounting Career Information
If you enjoy solving number problems or puzzles, you should consider a career in accounting. Students in this program typically find that a degree in accounting offers a variety of career options, and accounting often is the starting point for a wide array of positions throughout an organization. Individuals who understand how a business operates and what the financial and operating numbers mean are at a distinct advantage for upward mobility in any organization.

Park’s accounting major prepare you for a professional career in the field. We emphasize professional ethics, practical skills and industry-standard technologies. If you’d like to pursue graduate study in accounting, business administration or law, Park’s accounting degree is an excellent start.

Accountants are always in high demand, no matter the economic climate. An accounting degree is one of the top 10 degrees that employers consistently seek. According to the Institute of Management Accountants, accountants with the CPA and CMA credentials on average earn an annual salary of $125,094.

Sample Careers
Accountants are in demand. Even during periods of a weak economy, job opportunities in the field of accounting continue. The accounting field offers a diverse range of career paths including:

- Public Accounting
- Corporate Accounting
- Government and Nonprofit Accounting
- Tax Accounting
- IRS Agent
- FBI Agent
- Internal Auditor
- Forensic Accountant
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Planner

The accounting field offers many opportunities for professional certifications that can advance your career. Undergraduates who want to further their career in industry will be thoroughly prepared by our program for the CMA (Certified Management Accountant) exams which they can complete before they graduate. Park University
also offers CPA (Certified Public Accountant) exam prep classes as part of our public accounting track in our MBA program. So with just a few more classes you can achieve both the MBA degree and CPA.

**Faculty**

Our well-qualified and dedicated faculty have a wealth of business expertise, education and scholarship. You'll learn from instructors who have a broad range of real-world professional experience as well as teaching expertise.

**Companies that hire Park University students**

- BKD LLP
- RubinBrown LLP
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Sprint
- Cerner
- State Street Corporation
- Seaboard Corporation
- Smithfield Foods
- Hill’s Pet Nutrition
- UMB Bank
- Waddell & Reed
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Jack Henry & Associates
- Quest Diagnostics
- Bayer Crop Science
- Dairy Farmers of America
- Children’s Mercy Hospital
- Ferrellgas
- Shaw Electric Company
- Jack Cooper Transport & Logistics
- Showtime Transportation
- World Fuel Services
- Ascension Information Services
- New Analytics
- Kauffman Center for Performing Arts
- FBI

**Alumni Testimonies**

_I graduated from Park's accounting program with a job in public accounting and being eligible to sit for the CPA exam. The flexibility and career preparation from the program certainly helped me reach these goals._

_I was able to schedule time for professional internships in accounting, thanks to the option of taking courses online or in the evenings. Once I began studying for the CPA exam, I was comfortable and prepared because I had already performed similar tasks in my classes. Park's accounting program provides students with the tools to plan their career and be successful when they enter the workforce._

- Jeremy Barnes  (Class of 2017)

_Park University’s Accounting program provided me with a dynamic understanding of accounting and prepared me for a career in a challenging field. The accounting program at_
Park helped develop my critical thinking and leadership skills. This program led me to receive, not only one, but two offers with large CPA firms a year prior to graduating. The accounting professors at Park create a comfortable learning environment and bring the courses to life. They were very accessible and genuinely cared about my success. I can sincerely say that choosing Park and their accounting program was one of the best decisions I have made.

- Brook Kunkel (Class of 2017)

While working full-time to support a young and growing family, I never gave up on pursuing a college education. I first earned an Associates degree through the Kansas City Metropolitan Community College and then transferred to Park University to pursue a B.S. in Management / Accounting. Park offered night classes that were convenient with my schedule and I attended classes equally between the main campus, downtown campus, and online. The professors were engaging and inspired me to pursue a career in accounting. Two years and three children later, with the strong support of my wife, I was able to graduate and build on the career that I had already started in banking and public accounting. My studies at Park University helped prepare me to pursue a Certified Public Accountants license and Certified Management Accountant Certificate (achieving the ICMA’s Gold Medal Award for the highest score during my testing window, out of 3,900 international candidates). It has been seven years since I graduated, and during that time I have had the privilege to serve for over 4 years as Chief Financial Officer for a School District and later a Critical Access Hospital, and currently as a Financial Specialist / Controller at the largest manufacturing plant in North America in the Crop Science Division of one of the largest agricultural companies in the world, Bayer. I am proud to be numbered among the Alumni of Park University, and grateful for the flexible programs offered that enabled me to complete my degree while juggling the demands of life.

- Cameron Meyer, CMA, CPA (Class of 2010)

Certification Information

Following is a list of some of the more popular accounting certifications with links to information about career paths and how to achieve certification.

**Certified Public Accountant (CPA)** – this is the most popular professional certification in accounting. For information on how to become a CPA and the various career paths as a CPA, visit the following two AICPA websites

Start Here Go Places [www.startheregoplaces.com](http://www.startheregoplaces.com) and


**Missouri Association of Certified Public Accountants** [www.mocpa.org/](http://www.mocpa.org/) (Click on “Become a CPA”)

The California Society of CPAs created an entertaining and informative video [Bring It On – CPA Careers](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l502zLYZXU).

**Certified Management Accounting (CMA)** – visit the website for the Institute of Managerial Accountants [www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org).
Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) – visit the website for the Institute of Certified Internal Auditors www.theiia.org.

Certified Financial Planner (CFP) – visit the website for the Certified Financial Planning Board www.cfp.net.

Certified Forensic Examiner (CFE) – visit the website for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners www.acfe.com.

If you would like to explore more, here are additional, informative websites about careers in accounting:

Accounting Coach www.AccountingCoach.com

National Association of State Boards of Accountancy www.nasba.org


How to Become an Accountant www.learnhowtobecome.org/accountant/

Other Accounting Information

Need help understanding a particular topic in accounting? Or perhaps you’d like to read the latest news in the field of accounting. Check out the following websites:

Accounting Coach www.accountingcoach.com

Accounting Today www.accountingtoday.com