A concentration in accounting can provide you with a variety of employment opportunities. Responsibilities can range from being a strategic member of a new business development team to analyzing and checking financial statements at client sites. The accountant’s role has become key in providing quick, accurate and individually-tailored financial information for companies to remain competitive. Public accounting is a sector of accounting and has a variety of functions (tax, audit, advisory, etc). Competition is high for the most prestigious jobs in major accounting or business firms. Due to this, firms routinely seek students with skills and experience in analysis, teamwork, leadership, communication, and customer/client service. Firms also often look for strong academic performance.

A concentration in accounting can prepare you for a variety of career paths. In Public Accounting, it is common to acquire a CPA. This certification has multiple requirements, one of which is completing 150 credit hours of education. To learn more about how these credits could fit into your time frame, consider speaking with an Academic Advisor or with Matthew Packard in the Accounting Department at Questrom.

Some students will choose to have a dual concentration or minor in another area. Some of the more popular choices include Finance, MIS, Economics, and Math. Additionally, many students also seek minors outside of Questrom and interest can range based on the area most interested in. For all available minors, please visit the Boston University programs website found here.

For more information on required courses please visit HERE.

AUDITING

Students who select the Auditing track are interested in a position as an auditor. Auditors require a deep understanding of both audit practices and the accounting principles and rules being audited. Auditing is typically combined with either the financial accounting track, for auditors of financial statements, or tax track, for auditors of tax returns. Financial auditors work for public accounting firms or the internal audit department of a corporation while tax auditors work for the IRS or other taxing authority.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Students who select the Financial Accounting track are interested in preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) or auditing financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP. The Financial Accounting track helps students attain a deep understanding of financial reporting principles and rules. Financial accountants will typically work for a public accounting firm as an auditor or in a financial reporting group of a corporation.

Financial Analysis: Students who select the Financial Analysis track are interested in becoming a sophisticated user of financial statements. This track is appropriate for investors, consultants, and corporate financial managers. The Financial Analysis track is sometimes combined with an additional functional accounting track or with a Finance concentration.

MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING (CFO TRACK)

Students who select the Managerial Accounting track are interested in analyzing a firm’s operations to help management make sound business decisions. This track is often the path taken for those who wish to become the Chief Financial Officer of a firm. Students can pursue a managerial accounting career path directly out of college or after spending time in a public accounting firm.

TAX ACCOUNTING

Students who select the Tax Accounting track are interested in helping firms and/or individuals report and manage their taxes. The Tax Accounting track is appropriate for tax accountants in a public accounting firm or corporation.

Questrom School of Business
POPULAR CAREER PATHS

Many Questrom students choose typical career paths associated with this major. However, some graduates choose unrelated careers that utilize skills and experiences developed during their time in college. Some fields may require further training or study. Below are a small sample of career paths, but is not a comprehensive list of all the options.

- **Public Accounting**
  - Auditing/Assurance Services
  - Tax Transaction
  - Advisory
  - Forensic/Investigative Accounting

- **Private Accounting**
  - Financial Management
  - Internal Auditing
  - Budget Analysis
  - Tax Planning
  - Personal Financial Planning

- **Government**
  - Auditing
  - Financial Reporting
  - (Revenue Agent) Research

- **Rotational or Leadership Development Programs**
  - EX: Audit Leadership Program

**Rotational and Leadership Development programs are usually 2-3 year training programs that can be valuable for undergraduates to launch into their career. More information about the types of programs and the industries they are available in can be found on the Feld Center’s site [HERE](#).

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (CPA)

The CPA track is for students who plan to take the CPA exam, a key step towards becoming a licensed CPA. The CPA license is required for most professionals who pursue careers as auditors or tax accountants in public accounting firms and is a highly respected professional credential outside of public accounting. This certification track is typically combined with a functional track. Every U.S. state and territory determines their own requirements for taking the CPA exam and becoming a licensed CPA. The recommended courses will help you to pass the CPA exam, but the specific required courses may be different from the recommended courses listed here. You should refer to the specific requirements of the state or territory under whose rules you apply to take the CPA exam.

CERTIFIED MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTANT (CMA)

The CMA track is for those students who plan to take the CMA exam, a key step towards earning the CMA certification. The CMA certification is a respected credential for accounting and finance professionals working for corporations. This certification track is typically combined with a functional track.

INTERNSHIP AND JOB SEARCH RESOURCES

- **Vault**
- **Pardee Library**
- **Accounting**
- **BLS/O*Net**
- **Indeed**
- **Simply Hired**
- **Internships**
- **Glassdoor**
Questrom/BU Clubs: Joining clubs is a great way to gain experience and build your professional network. Below are specific club(s) within Questrom for those interested in Accounting. For a complete list of business specific Questrom Clubs, please visit here and for a list of BU wide clubs that offer organizations across larger interest areas ranging from health to nonprofits, please visit here.

- Accounting Association – Email their contact or visit their Facebook page for more information.
- BU Entrepreneurship Club

Faculty Concentration Liaison: Matthew Packard

Professional Associations: Professional Associations exist on the regional and national level. They host national conferences discussing relevant topics, networking events and training and professional development opportunities.

If you are interested in careers in accounting here are some professional associations, you may want to consider joining:

- Association of Accountants and Professionals in Business
- American Institute of CPAs
- American Accounting Association
- Massachusetts Society of CPAs
- Institute of Internal Auditors

LinkedIn Groups: LinkedIn is a crucial part of anyone’s job search and networking strategy, and one of the most underutilized pieces are groups. On LinkedIn groups you can develop more targeted networks on various criteria including location, industry, function and more! Below is a list of sample LinkedIn groups accounting concentrators may want to consider, for more assistance on using this feature please make an appointment with a UDC Career Advisor at bu.joinhandshake.com:

- Accounting and Finance Professionals (AaFP)
- Big Four Accounting Consulting
- Jobs for Accountants
- Business Control