

THE SKILLS YOU'LL NEED

(and how you'll use them when you're an accountant)

Take a look at our accounting skills checklist below. Some of these skills you may already have. Others, you may need to acquire or strengthen. The UNC Master of Accounting Program will give you the opportunity to learn and strengthen all of these skills, taking you from student to professional.



"HARD" SKILLS

THE SKILLS...	...AND HOW YOU'LL USE THEM!	HAVE IT?
Strategic business insight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How macro economic trends affect individual companies Awareness of U.S. and international business conditions How technology is changing common business practices 	A client is considering "reshoring" its manufacturing, moving factories from overseas locations back to the United States. You are asked to help assess the pros and cons of that scenario.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to file taxes Tax minimization strategies Filing taxes in multiple states or even countries Managing IRS audits 	Companies will seek out help your help in filing their tax returns and ensuring they pay what they're required to, but no more. They often need your help filing returns in multiple states and even multiple countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing accounting systems and processes Understanding GAAP rules and regulatory requirements Spot checking for errors, omissions and even illegal activity 	You'll review company financial statements and accounting systems to make sure they comply with financial accounting standards. You may also help businesses when they want to review their internal operations to make sure they're running optimally.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost accounting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect and analyze data about operations Allocate costs based on accounting principles Understand the implications of different costing methods Present findings clearly and succinctly to executives 	Figuring out how much a product or service actually costs can be more complicated than it first appears. As a cost accountant you'll help companies figure out what things truly cost — key knowledge for any business.	<input type="checkbox"/>

"SOFT" SKILLS

THE SKILLS...	...AND HOW YOU'LL USE THEM!	HAVE IT?
Affinity for problem solving and numbers	A client has asked you to evaluate the cost impact of consolidating factories located in several states to one large location. You'll have to consider numerous factors: tax differences, changes in transportation costs, real estate implications, labor, raw materials cost and more. You'll need to be comfortable with numbers and adept at breaking down a big problem into manageable chunks.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership skills	When leading a team of accountants on a project, like an audit or preparing corporate tax returns, you'll need to organize who does what and ensure everyone's working together toward the overall goal.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work ethic	Maybe you're under pressure to get an especially complex tax filing done on time. Maybe it's a big corporate audit. Whatever the case, there will be times when you have to work longer hours. Do you have what it takes?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication and presentation skills	You've just finished up big audit. Now you've got to present the results, in detail, to the CFO and CEO. Are you ready to deliver a clear, professional presentation to the big client?	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHERE MIGHT ACCOUNTING LEAD YOU?

If you'd like more information on the accounting profession or the UNC Master of Accounting program, our career and admissions experts can help. Contact us at mac_info@unc.edu or 919-962-3209.