

10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ACCOUNTING

Accounting is necessary to every business, but it's much more than numbers. Here are some facts about accounting that may surprise you.

1. It's not all about money.

Accountants tabulate ballots and tally votes for Oscar winners and Heisman Trophy candidates, keeping mum on the results until the big announcement.

2. Accounting is important.

From Wall Street to Main Street, from stock trading to taxes, every aspect of our financial system depends on accountants. They safeguard the accuracy of financial information.

3. It's more than doing taxes and bookkeeping.

Every business needs accountants to plan budgets, make projections and operate. Accountants guide a company's financial decisions, from investment strategy to operation expansion.

4. You can fight crime.

An accountant helped put away Al Capone. A CPA holds the FBI's No. 3 position. Forensic and investigative accountants help uncover embezzlement and many other crimes.

5. Many CPAs earned their undergrad degree in something not related to accounting.

Many CPAs earned their undergrad degree in something not related to accounting. It doesn't matter what your undergraduate major was — English, biology, art history or something else not related to business. You can earn a MAC degree and leave the program qualified for an accounting career and prepared for the CPA exam.

6. Accounting is a group activity.

Don't expect to sit alone crunching numbers all day. With many complex topics and projects, accounting often requires teamwork.

7. You can own your business.

Many accountants start their own accounting firms, become independent financial advisors or even start other businesses. Great money management and a strong business understanding make them good business owners.



8. You'll work with people other than accountants.

You'll work with managers, engineers, people from many other departments — human resources, marketing, research and development, and more — as you help with those budgets and financial decisions.

9. You can do U.S. tax accounting internationally.

Some accountants live overseas — Rome, Paris and other exotic locations — to provide tax accounting services to U.S. companies with international divisions and international companies with U.S. divisions.

10. You can be famous.

Rock legend Mick Jagger and singer Janet Jackson both studied to be accountants. Former CPA and former Major League Baseball manager Kevin Kennedy made extra money doing his players' taxes early in his career. Author John Grisham began his career as an accountant.

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. Visit us online at mac.unc.edu or contact us at mac_info@unc.edu or 919-962-3209.