

Career

Accountant

An accountant is a financial expert. Accountants study and analyze a company's or an organization's overall financial dealings. They prepare many different kinds of financial reports. These include profit-and-loss statements, which summarize the company's earnings for a given period of time, and balance sheets, which state the current net worth of the company. Another important accounting function is the preparation of tax reports and statements. A company's owners or managers rely on the accountant's reports



to determine whether the company is operating efficiently and profitably, and where improvements can be made.

Accountants are usually college graduates with a major in accounting. They often begin work as junior accountants. After sufficient work experience they take an examination in order to become certified. Upon passing this examination, an accountant becomes a certified public accountant, or CPA. Further

career advancement may lead to promotion to senior accountant, specializing in areas such as cost accounting or auditing. Advancement in a different direction may lead to a financial policy position such as that of controller or to starting an independent accounting company.

