



Career Services...Career Services...
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Futures
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**Major of the Month:
 Accounting**

What is one of the top occupations in 2005 with numerous job openings and good income potential? What occupation can you find a job in good times and in bad? Accounting!

The field of accounting is ever changing and is certainly not as boring as the typical image some have of one sitting in an office for ten hours examining company ledgers. "I'm a numbers guy that would never want to be tied down to a desk all day" said accounting Professor Scott Suneson. "My accounting experience as a CPA and internal auditor for a Fortune 100 company brought me in contact with a vast number of professionals who rapidly enhanced my business knowledge and experience" stated Suneson. Some other non-traditional accounting jobs include positions with the Michigan State Police, the FBI or with the Attorney General doing fraud audits.

One of the traditional accounting career paths includes a public accountant, where one might work for a variety of clients providing services in the areas of financial statement preparation or financial and management advising. Other fields of accounting include management or cost accountants, who record and analyze the financial

information of companies; and government accountants and auditors, who work in the public sector maintaining and examining records of agencies and businesses whose

in management, production or human resources, to name a few."

There has actually been a shortage of students going into



Forensic accounting has seen a rapid employment growth

activities are subject to government regulations or taxation.

Accounting is one of the most versatile business degrees. Knowledge and implementation of good accounting procedures are required to achieve success in finance or business, whether it be for an individual, corporation or a government agency. Professor Suneson states "a career choice in accounting gives students a solid understanding of business that will benefit them and allow them to seek careers

the accounting field, due in part to the new 150-hour rule for CPAs; however, enrollment is slowly beginning to grow again as more students are attracted to the profession because of the attention from the accounting scandals.

High analytical skills and good math skills are required for accountants. "You don't need to excel in calculus, but you do need good math skills", according to Suneson. If you fit this category and think you may be interested in this career, visit Career Services for more information.

CAREER BITS

SKILLS

- Proficiency in written and oral communication
- Ability to organize, analyze, and interpret numerical data
- Aptitude for accuracy and detail
- Ability to make sound judgments and decisions and to solve quantitative problems.
- Good computer skills

VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

- Tendency toward analytical and logical thinking
- Patience
- Integrity
- Independence
- Skill with numbers

LIKES & DISLIKES

Some Accountants/Auditors may like:

- working with people
- working on different projects at one time
- good advancement opportunities
- good salaries and working conditions
- travel

Some Accounts/Auditors may dislike:

- working long hours during tax season, audits, or a business's year end.
- often working under deadline pressure.

SALARY RANGE

Economic Research Institute survey of 2004 states:
 Starting Salary: \$40,500
 Average Salary: \$45,000
 Experienced: \$52,500
 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of 2003 states:
 Average MI salary: \$53,500

PLACEMENT

For a list of where some of LSSU's accounting/business grads are working, visit:
<http://www.lssu.edu/academics/business/alumni.php>



What's Hot in Accounting?

Information Technology (IT) Services: Exploding IT growth has created huge opportunities for CPAs with strong computer skills to design and implement advanced systems to fit an organization's needs.

Forensic Accounting: Also known as investigative accounting or fraud auditing, forensic accounting digs below accounting records, searching for evidence of criminal misconduct.

Consulting Services: Individuals, businesses, financial institutions, non-profit organizations and government agencies need CPAs to offer objective advice and assistance.

Environmental Accounting: With increasing resources focuses on environmental issues, CPAs conduct compliance audits and design preventive systems to ensure compliance.

International Accounting: In today's global economy, CPAs with an understanding and mastery of international trade laws and regulations are in great demand.

Tax and Financial Planning: CPAs help individuals and companies with financial planning, investments, taxes, mergers and acquisitions and much more.

List taken from Takin' Care of Business brochure published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. For more information go to: www.aicpa.org.



Accounting professor serving dinner to students during last year's LSSU School of Business senior banquet.

COUNSELOR'S

CORNER



The fall semester is drawing to a close and this will give most of you a well-deserved break from the books. Many of you will be traveling home to stay with your parents or other family members to celebrate the holidays. It's a great time to thank those people in your life who have supported you through this past semester at college. Whether it's financial support, or emotional support, or both, these people have had an impact on your college experience. It's nice to show them it matters.

This is also a good time to discuss with the important people in your life the decisions you are making about career choice. Many of you have learned a significant amount this past semester about options available to you for future goals. Some of you have declared a major, some of you have changed a major, and some of you remain undecided about specific areas of interest. There is still plenty of time to make those decisions but it's important to begin the process of research. The Career Services Office can assist you with this plan. Visit our office and we can equip you to begin the search. Make it a New Year's resolution to stop by our office and see how we can help you.

Best wishes for a happy and restful holiday season!

Mary Jo Meehan, LPC



Career Services

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"To succeed, you will soon learn, as I did, the importance of a solid foundation in the basics of education-- literacy, both verbal and numerical, and communication skills." -Alan Greenspan