

# CPA: DISCOVER A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

## THE PERKS OF BEING AN ACCOUNTANT

A career in accounting is a career with far more potential than you ever imagined. It's an exciting and growing profession with numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth and success throughout your lifetime.

Becoming a Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) can open even more doors and opportunities in your career! It may be a rigorous process, but the benefits are well worth the extra effort.

## ACCOUNTANT VS. CPA: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



All CPAs are accountants, but not all accountants are Certified Public Accountants. CPAs are highly regarded, licensed professionals who:

- Have met their state's higher education, work experience requirements and ethics requirements
- Have passed all four sections of the CPA Exam
- Are licensed by their state's board of accountancy
- Maintain a commitment to high ethical standards



## CPA = ENDLESS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



The old stereotype of the boring accountant endlessly crunching numbers in a small office is far from reality. Today, becoming a CPA can lead to a number of exciting career options. Here are just a few:

- Tax and Financial Planning
- Business and Industry
- Forensic Accounting
- Information Technology and Consulting
- Education
- Government
- Public Accounting



# THE VALUE OF A CPA LICENSE

You might be wondering if you need to spend the extra time and effort to get your CPA license. "Can't I make a decent living as an accountant?" Well, sure. But the CPA is a credential that sets you up for a different career. Here's why:



## **Prestige and Respect**

After years of academic and technical training – and passing the rigorous CPA Exam – CPAs are often viewed as an elite group of professionals.



## **Competitive Edge**

Earning a CPA license demonstrates your commitment to the profession and provides a competitive advantage when applying for jobs or leadership/management positions.



## **Income Potential**

CPAs make 5%-15% higher salaries than their non-CPA counterparts – which can add up to more than \$3 million over a 40-year career!



## **Career Security**

Due to a shortage of experienced accounting professionals in business today, CPAs are in more demand than ever before.



## **Job Satisfaction and Variety**

CPAs have a plethora of career paths to choose from and have above-average flexibility and upward mobility.

## STEPS TO CPA GREATNESS

Remember the three E's – Education, Examination, and Experience.

- Get your bachelor's or graduate degree
- Complete 150 semester hours of college credit\*
- Pass the CPA Exam
- Complete one year of full-time accounting work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed CPA\*

*\*Effective Aug. 1, 2026, Texas will have an alternative pathway that requires a bachelor's degree, two years of qualified work experience, and passage of the CPA Exam..*

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