

# Accounting Can Take You Anywhere

*...so where do you want to go?*

Buckle up: “Where do you see yourself in five years?” is something you will be asked more and more as you progress through high school, graduate and go on to college.

And for most students, it’s a challenging question to answer. Sure, you can respond with your current plan—it’s always good to have a plan, or at least a tentative one! But deep down you might only know for sure that, wherever you see yourself down the road, you will want the freedom to change course and try different things.

While we won’t try to get you to make that plan to “become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)” today, we do want you to know more about it because it is by far one of the most lucrative, versatile and flexible professions you can join.

## DEPARTURE GATE

“The CPA license is a starting point. It’s a baseline level of knowledge, and where you launch from that point can be so very different.”

—Shelley Johnson, CPA  
Owner – Allman Johnson Company, LLC

**IN**  
**CPA**  
SOCIETY



# Your Passport to Anywhere



## TICKET TYPE

Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) are go-to advisors for every type of organization.

### Business Class

The CPA license separates you from others in accounting/business-related positions by demonstrating you're an expert who has successfully completed additional training and work experience.

### Roundtrip

CPAs are needed everywhere, so you have the ability to work in literally any field—startups, sports, entertainment, travel, fashion, nonprofits, education, political, government, law enforcement and more.

## UPGRADES

Once you earn your CPA license, you can move around into a variety of accounting specialty areas.

### Sustainability

People, planet, profits—you help make sure all three are in good shape for better corporate stewardship.

### Fraud & Forensics

Fraud, tax evasion, money laundering—you investigate financial crimes and provide expert testimony in court.

### Managerial

Investments, budgets, forecasts—you handle them all and help your company or clients understand, too.

### Business Valuation

Should Company A buy Company B or vice versa—you tell people what their business is worth and make recommendations.

### Technology

Whether it's IT, data analytics or cybersecurity, you make sure clients and companies understand their risks and opportunities in a rapidly changing digital business environment.



## BOOKING FEES

In addition to helping people from all backgrounds and companies of every kind, you earn a sweet base take-home pay no matter what. Here are just a few examples:

### **Tax Accountant, Video Game Company**

\$92,500–129,250

### **Financial Analyst, Global Software Company**

\$94,750–129,750

### **Personal Financial Planner for a Celebrity**

\$100K+

### **Accounting Manager, Children's Museum**

\$67,000–88,750

### **Controller, Pet Shelter**

\$79,250–106,000

### **Director of Financial Reporting, International Hotel Chain**

\$154,000–217,500

### **Director of Accounting, Renewable Energy Company**

\$99,250–132,250

### **Special Agent, FBI**

\$69,300–112,200

### **Professor, Local College or University**

\$112,000–182,200

### **President, Your Own Accounting Firm**

\$ Write Your Own Paycheck

## DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DECLARE?

*CPAs share what they want you to know about this career journey.*

“Accounting opens so many doors and opportunities. When I graduated, I never dreamed I would be president of a theme park and have world-class rollercoasters right outside my office.”

—Matt Eckert, CPA

*President & CEO – Holiday World & Splashin' Safari*

“Because of the transferability and value of our skills, we are able to go out and play leadership roles in other industries or in starting a new business.”

—Justin Rumer, CPA

*Partner – Dauby O' Connor & Zaleski, LLC*

“Your age doesn't limit your success. I was part of a team of young people who helped the former Mayor of South Bend win the Iowa Caucuses, raise \$100 million dollars and defy expectations along the way.”

—Jud Brown, CPA

*Partner – Bee Compliance, LLC*

## TRIP INSURANCE

“A big part of why I became a CPA was because it was a safe, secure job. Then I fell in love with it once I started working with clients who inspired me on a daily basis.”

—Amy Northard, CPA

*Owner – The Accountant for Creatives*



## FREE INDIANA CPA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The Indiana CPA Society (INCPAS) has nearly 7,000 members who are CPAs, accounting professionals and students. Here are the benefits of joining as a high school student member:

- ✓ College scholarships (did we mention there's a lot of money in/for accounting?)
- ✓ Add to your resume
- ✓ INCPAS Scholars' application (awesome career awareness and mentoring program)
- ✓ Job shadow opportunities
- ✓ High school internships
- ✓ College readiness events (Indiana has so many great colleges and universities—learn more about their programs)
- ✓ CPA chats (it's never too soon to network!)



### ► LEARN MORE

Scan this code and sign up as a student member for free.  
Or go to [incpas.org/HighSchool](https://incpas.org/HighSchool).

## THANK YOU TO OUR PROFESSION PARTNERS



### Sources:

- AICPA "Start Here, Go Places: Accounting Careers—A Handy Guide to the Good, the Better and the Best One for You"
- AICPA "This Way to CPA: The Future CPA's Guide to Work and World Domination"