

Your child's career in

Accounting

If your child is curious, organised, an innovator and a problem solver, they have the potential to excel in accounting and finance. Help them learn the language of business and explore the world while making a real impact.



What is Accounting?

Forget old stereotypes – today's accountants and finance professionals are impactful players in diverse organisations, from startups to global brands. Learning accounting will teach your child the language of business and lay the foundation for a career blending strategic thinking, analysis and creativity.

This globally portable profession offers leadership potential and combines investigative problem-solving with data-driven insights. Career paths span technology, cybersecurity, data analytics, forensic accounting and sustainability. Opportunities also exist in sports, entertainment, healthcare and the non-profit sector.

With high global demand, accounting offers a secure and rewarding future where your child can pursue their passions.



What Accountants have in common

Accountants share some essential skills and traits that make them thrive in their roles, and these are qualities your child might already show signs of. Here's what many successful accountants have in common:

An eye for detail

If your child is someone who picks up on the smallest details or is meticulous when organising their homework, they might naturally excel in a field where precision is valued.

Analytical mindset

Analysing data or thinking critically about problems are common skills for accountants who use them daily to interpret numbers and make smart financial decisions.

Organisational skills

If your child is the planner in the family, accounting could be a great fit. Keeping finances in check requires a high level of organisation.

Integrity

Accountants need to be trustworthy and handle sensitive information ethically. If your child values doing what's right, that's a solid foundation.

Problem solving

People who love unravelling complex problems or coming up with creative solutions thrive as accountants, who look for ways to improve financial outcomes or untangle complicated issues.

Clear communication

Accounting isn't just about numbers – the story behind them is as equally important. If your child has a knack for making complex ideas simple or enjoys helping others understand things, accounting is a good fit.



"My perception of the accounting profession has changed from it being a boring role because we now have digital technology, like AI, which makes it really exciting."

Jennifer

Jennifer Botha **FCPA**

Why Accounting?



Diverse and meaningful work

A career in accounting and finance offers dynamic, varied daily tasks, from financial analysis and auditing to tax planning and consulting. With specialties like forensic accounting, tax accounting or management accounting, your child can tailor their career to suit their interests and passions, whether it's solving financial puzzles or supporting sustainability initiatives.



Financial rewards and personal skills

Accounting and finance careers come with strong earning potential that grows with experience and expertise. Entry-level roles offer competitive starting salaries, with the opportunity to climb the ladder into well-paid leadership positions. This career also helps build personal financial skills, teaching valuable lessons in budgeting, investment and long-term financial planning – life skills your child will carry forever.



Career stability

Skilled accountants are consistently in demand across industries, providing a stable career path. Advances in automation and data tools now make accounting roles more strategic, enhancing the value accountants bring to businesses.



Leadership pathways

Career progression can lead to executive roles like Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or finance director. These positions offer the chance to influence major decisions, manage resources and inspire teams.



Flexible work options

Many accounting roles offer flexibility, including remote work options and adaptable hours. Your child can enjoy a fulfilling career that fits their lifestyle.



Problem-solving and lifelong learning

Accounting is ideal for curious minds who love solving challenges. From navigating complex financial issues to crafting innovative solutions, the work is intellectually satisfying and rewarding. Continuous learning is a key aspect of accounting, with ever-changing regulations and technologies ensuring there are always opportunities to grow.



Technology and innovation

Automation and AI have transformed the field, allowing accountants to focus on strategic, creative work instead of repetitive tasks. Accountants today also play a role in developing tech solutions, like customised AI tools, driving innovation in their organisations.



Global opportunities

There is global demand for accounting and finance professionals, which means opportunities to work in different countries and industries. With the right qualifications, accountants can transfer their skills to different jurisdictions and find out what makes businesses tick all over the world.



"When I started in accounting, I never imagined I would be running an IT software platform for Monash University. But with this business knowledge, I can work with IT professionals to create an environment and help a lot of finance people to do their jobs in a better way."

Fred

FRED LU CPA

The pathway to a career in Accounting

The good news is, there are plenty of options when it comes to accounting courses. There are certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, bachelor's degrees and master's degrees.

- A certificate, diploma or advanced diploma are great options if your child is seeking an entry into the workforce or not having an ATAR.
- For a well-rounded career with room for growth, a bachelor's degree is the most versatile and widely recognised qualification.
- A master's degree is perfect for career advancement, specialisation or those wanting to change careers into accounting.



No matter which option your child chooses, each pathway offers a solid foundation for a career in accounting and can lead to further professional opportunities and certifications.

1. High school

Choose relevant subjects: While still in high school, students could focus on subjects like mathematics, business studies, economics and accounting. These subjects provide a strong foundation for accounting principles and financial management, but are not often a pre-requisite for a Bachelor of Commerce. Please check the pre-requisites for a Bachelor of Commerce at your chosen university.

2. TAFE

Studying a Diploma or Advanced Diploma of Business at TAFE can be a great way to lay the foundation for a career in accounting if your child is not ready for university. It provides entry to the profession and gives your child time to build their career based on the roles that are the best fit.

3. Undergraduate degree

Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field:

After high school, the next step is typically to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce or Business with a major in accounting, finance or a related field (such as business administration). Most universities offer dedicated accounting programs, which generally take 3-4 years to complete.

Courses typically cover topics like financial accounting, management accounting, auditing, taxation, business law and ethics.

4. Gain practical experience while at university

Internships: Many accounting students participate in internships or part-time roles while studying to gain practical experience. This is valuable for building skills and making professional connections. Some undergraduate degrees will facilitate work placements or internships.

Entry-level jobs: After completing a degree, most aspiring accountants start in entry-level positions, such as accounting assistant, to gain hands-on experience.

5. Professional certification

Certified Practising Accountant (CPA):

The CPA designation is a highly respected professional qualification that can lead to better job prospects and career advancement.

To become a CPA, candidates need to:

- Complete three years of professional experience
- Complete the CPA program, which includes 6 subjects covering various aspects of accounting.

Professional certifications are optional but highly recommended for career advancement.



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