

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

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Why study Accounting at Western Kentucky University?

The demand for accountants remains strong, with careers like Certified Public Accountant (CPA) offering excellent salaries and clear paths for advancement. At WKU, our accounting programs are dedicated to fostering a supportive environment that promotes student success and engagement. We equip students with essential communication skills, sharpen their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, and develop their technical expertise in accounting and analytics.

Students also benefit from career mentoring, professional development opportunities, networking with industry professionals, and active participation in student organizations. Our graduates consistently rank among the top CPA Exam performers in Kentucky and surrounding states. Additionally, more than 60% of our seniors gain valuable, career-related experience before graduation. Through a combination of technical training, business foundations, real-world projects, and hands-on learning, WKU prepares students to excel in the dynamic field of accounting.

- **MEDIAN SALARY**
 - \$81,680
The data above is pulled from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/accountants-and-auditors.htm>
- **PROJECTED GROWTH**
 - 6% -- Employment of accountants and auditors is projected to grow 6 percent from 2023 to 2033 (Faster than average).
The data above is pulled from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/accountants-and-auditors.htm>
- **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**
 - Audit Associate, Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Controller, Financial Analyst, Accounting Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Cost Accountant, Tax Consultant, Business Consultant
- **TOP SKILLS**
 - Financial Reporting, Auditing, Tax Planning and Compliance, Data Analysis, Problem-Solving, Strategic Thinking, Professional Communication

Degree

- Accounting, Bachelor of Science (602) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/business/accounting/accounting-bs/>)

Faculty Professor

Yining Chen PhD (Business Administration), University of South Carolina - Columbia, 1993

Associate Professor

Jason M. Bergner PhD (Business Administration), University of Kentucky, 2011

Stacy R. Bibelhauser PhD (Business Administration), University of Kentucky, 2004

Nicholas J. Fessler PhD (Business), Indiana University-Bloomington, 1999
Minwoo Lee PhD (Business Administration), University of Pitts Pittsburgh Camp, 1993

Assistant Professor

Charles O. Kile PhD (Business Administration), Washington University, 1993

Jonathan F. Ross PhD (Business Administration), University of Kentucky, 2013

Pinky Rusli PhD (Business Administration), University of Kentucky, 2017

Pedagogical Assistant Professor

Heather L. Glass MS (Accountancy), College of Charleston, 2010

Braden G. Grant MS, Western Kentucky University, 2014