

## Internship Course Credit

- Subject to approval by the Accounting Department chairperson, students may apply for course credit for completion of qualifying accounting internships (see below). To ensure a timely graduation, compressed track courses and summer school may be required. Seek guidance from your advisor.
- ACCT 4391 [Undergraduate]
- ACCT 5391; ACCT 5395 [Graduate]

## Job Opportunities

- **Public Accounting:** Focuses on auditing and tax functions

**Audit:** An independent examination to check the fairness of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on whether an entity's financial statements are free of material misstatements

**Tax:** Internal and external tax functions, including personal, corporate, international and tax research and strategy

- **Internal Audit:** Most major companies have an internal audit department, independent of management, that conducts compliance audits, develops internal controls and establishes accounting information systems
- **Financial Reporting/Analyst**
- **Government:** City, County, State, Federal, IRS, SEC

## What is public accounting?

Public accounting is a prestigious professional career. As a Certified Public Accountant, you may work directly with companies from all industries as an auditor, advisor or tax accountant. Working in the client service industry provides maximum opportunities for career growth, knowledge and monetary rewards.

**Visit us online:**

[www.stthom.edu/cameron](http://www.stthom.edu/cameron)

## For more information

### Accounting Department Chair

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### Career Services

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### Alumni Board

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### Chairperson of the Internship and Mentoring Committee of the CSB Alumni Board

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### Graduate Association of Accounting Professionals (GAAP)

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## Additional Resources

### American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

[www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org), [www.startheregoplaces.com](http://www.startheregoplaces.com)

### INROADS

[www.inroads.org](http://www.inroads.org)

### Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants

[www.tscpa.org](http://www.tscpa.org)

Be sure to explore how you can participate in your local chapter by searching for Houston, TX, within the Web sites.

# Accounting



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ST. THOMAS

*Educating Leaders of Faith and Character*

3800 Montrose Blvd.  
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*The University of St. Thomas is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.*



*Cameron*  
**School of Business**

UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

# College Initiative Begins Here



## The Big Four

The four largest public accounting firms are referred to as the “Big Four.” They conduct the vast majority of audits for publicly traded companies as well as many private companies. The Big Four firms have offices in downtown Houston and are listed below, with their 2008 revenues and employees:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Employees</u>
PricewaterhouseCoopers	\$26.2bn	164,000
Deloitte	\$26.1bn	169,000
Ernst & Young	\$21.4bn	144,000
KPMG	\$20.1bn	135,000

## Tier Two and Local Firms

The next group of public accounting firms, referred to as “Tier Two,” consists of mid-sized to large firms that operate in a similar fashion to the Big Four, albeit with a smaller footprint. Some of the Houston-based firms include:

- Grant Thornton, LLP
- BDO Seidman, LLP
- BKD, LLP
- UHY, LLP
- Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, PC
- Gainer, Donnelly & Desroches, LLP
- Briggs & Veselka Co., PC

Other prominent Houston-area public accounting firms:

- Malone & Bailey, PC
- Harper & Pearson Co., PC
- Melton & Melton, LLP
- Hein & Associates, LLP
- Null-Lairson, PC
- EEPB, PC
- McGladrey & Pullen, LLP
- Fitts, Roberts & Co., PC
- Calvetti, Ferguson & Wagner, PC
- Mir Fox & Rodriguez, PC
- Margolis, Phipps & Wright, PC
- McConnell & Jones, LLP
- Weinstein Spira & Co., PC

## Accounting Internships

**Who can apply:** If a student is interested in pursuing employment with the Big Four, they will need to obtain an audit or tax internship during college. Students in the five-year BBA/MBA accounting program are best positioned to obtain an internship.

**What it entails:** A Big Four audit or tax internship is a 10-week, program which begins annually in January. Students have the opportunity to work face-to-face with clients. The University recognizes the benefit of internships and grants 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit. This credit is contingent on degree program structure and administrative approval. To graduate on time, past students have taken mid-semester and summer classes.

**When to apply:** Students in the five-year BBA/MBA accounting program should:

- Interview during the spring of year three
- Complete internship in the spring semester of year four or five

**Where you work:** An internship is an opportunity to work in a professional environment alongside experienced audit or tax accountants. Students will gain experience with many types of clients and work in a dynamic team environment.

**Why apply:** Completing an internship will better position for students to secure full-time employment with a Big Four firm, which generally commences in the fall of May graduation. Additionally, an internship scheduled during the student’s college career will provide a more unique point of view that will support your last year.

**How to prepare:**

- Maintain a solid GPA and educate yourself about jobs available to accounting majors
- Practice interviewing skills, find business work experience and build your resume
- Become distinctive by engaging in leadership activities
- Reach out to Career Services and your accounting professors

## Internship Qualifications

- Enrolled in a study program that at graduation will result in being 150-hour CPA Exam eligible (such as the five-year BBA/MBA accounting program)
- GPA (Degree major & Overall) – Recommended minimum 3.2 or above
- Citizenship – U.S. citizen, permanent resident
- Interview two years before graduation from the five-year BBA/MBA accounting program
- Internship is one year before graduation

## Next Steps

- Start now! Be proactive! Become a member of professional organizations, such as the TSCPA, ALPFA, AICPA, NABA, ASCEND, HBSA.
- Create your resume. Utilize the services of the Career Services Center
- Get a job and/or participate in extracurricular activities to enhance your resume and develop leadership experience
- Consider INROADS and other organizations that assist with career development
- Map out your course load semester-by-semester to ensure graduation in five years

