

Accounting 101:

The Fundamentals of College, Accounting and Future Success



Name: Bryan Gonzalez Luciano

School: Chapman University

Major: Accounting and Business Administration

Expected Graduation Date: December 2014

What advice would you offer to a high school student considering accounting?

Be open-minded. At first, it may seem difficult because it's not something you've been exposed to before. However, that's part of the challenge and journey of achieving success. Give it a go and attend each accounting class ready to learn and hungry to gain as much knowledge as possible.

What one word would you use to describe studying accounting?

Interesting. My father told me, "Accounting is 1 percent math and 99 percent analysis." I gave it a try and it turned out accounting is a very interesting subject—it's like learning a new language.

Why do you want to get your CPA license after getting a degree in accounting?

Having those three letters after your name entitles you to more opportunities in the job market. A degree in accounting is special, but it has more weight when you earn your CPA license. It shows you're a hard worker, dedicated to your goals and are maximizing the potential of your education.

What is the most important lesson you've learned as a college student?

Make sure you manage your time wisely. "Time is money." For me, money doesn't have to just be cash. It can be knowledge, power or earning potential—don't waste it.



Name: Harjot (Joti) Kaur

School: CSU, Monterey Bay

Major: Accounting

Expected Graduation Date: December 2013

What advice would you offer to a high school student considering accounting?

Get yourself a mentor. An accounting student who is about to graduate is full of knowledge. When I started at CSU, Monterey Bay, all I knew was that I wanted to major in accounting. Once I found and met with my mentor, she helped me select classes, gave me interview tips and offered advice on different careers in accounting.

What made you decide to study accounting?

My first course at Heald College was Accounting 101 and I loved it. Working on the debits, credits and annual reports was so much fun. For me, crunching and balancing numbers was a piece of cake compared to researching and writing papers.

What one word would you use to describe studying accounting?

Systematize.

Why do you want to get your CPA license after getting a degree in accounting?

Obtaining a CPA license is a must for opening the door to better opportunities (and you can't forget about the salary increase). My dream job is to become a forensic accountant for the FBI. To achieve that dream I will need my CPA license.

We asked five accounting students at different universities across California for the inside scoop on what it takes to thrive when studying to become a CPA.



Name: Marlon Pasamba
School: CSU, Los Angeles
Major: Accounting
Expected Graduation Date: June 2014

What advice would you offer to a high school student considering accounting?

Do some research and learn about different areas in accounting you might want to pursue. Then create a goal for yourself, share your goal with those who support you and keep your eye on that goal.

What do you enjoy most about studying accounting?

I enjoy that moment when I understand an accounting principle. When studying for an exam, it is not about memorization. It is about knowing how to apply those principles.

What one word would you use to describe studying accounting?

Logic.

What is the most important lesson you've learned as a college student?

You are not alone. You will not be successful if you just depend on yourself. There are a lot of people who can, and are, willing to help you—you just have to reach out to them.



Name: Cam Tran
School: Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Major: Business
Expected Graduation Date: March 2014

What advice would you offer to a high school student considering accounting?

There is a common misconception that accounting involves only math and sitting in a cubicle without a social life. However, a career in accounting completely defies this stereotype. Do some research and talk to professionals in the field. It's a great career path that offers lots of different opportunities.

What do you enjoy most about studying accounting?

Besides balancing a balance sheet, I enjoy meeting so many people from different walks of life. It's interesting to hear their stories, how they decided to pursue careers in accounting and how they got to where they are today.

What one word would you use to describe studying accounting?

Fun.

Why do you want to get your CPA license after getting a degree in accounting?

As Confucius said, "Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life." Earning a CPA license will allow me to hone my skills and knowledge, develop my passion for accounting, help me grow as a professional, and prepare me to do my best in the workplace.

Accounting is 'interesting,'
'intriguing' and 'fun.'



Name: Francis Sameon

School: Golden Gate University

Major: Business
(Accounting Concentration)

Expected Graduation Date: December 2013

What advice would you offer to a high school student considering accounting?

Take a couple of accounting courses and see if you enjoy them. If you do, fantastic! If not, then you haven't lost anything; you've still gained something by learning how to read financial reports and knowing how businesses work. Skills you use in accounting, such as judgment, conceptualization and critical thinking, are not limited to just the business environment but are useful in all aspects of life.

What do you enjoy most about studying accounting?

It's like a puzzle you have to break apart and piece back together. I enjoy working on case studies and problem sets because it hones my critical thinking skills and my attention to detail.

What one word would you use to describe studying accounting?

Intriguing.

What strategy has made you successful as an accounting student?

Taking advantage of additional course materials and office hours offered by professors. This has helped me gain additional understanding of my courses and build a rapport between me and my professors. This is especially helpful when I need help making a career decision or getting a letter of recommendation.

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