Accounting is almost twice as popular (187) as the runner-up major (Economics with 95) among CFOs and was also the fourth most popular major among CEOs.

Why is Accounting so important to a successful executive? In a world of Big Data, the accountants’ knowledge of how financial information is generated, translated and utilized provides a framework for understanding how entities operate and succeed.

At Boston College, we provide our accounting majors with the knowledge and skill set to succeed. In the latest CPA exam results (2014), BC candidates passed 72% of all sections of the exam compared to 47% nationally. For candidates who took the exam within one year of graduation, the pass rate is even more impressive at 82.5% compared to 59.7% nationally.

Not surprisingly, our graduates are highly sought after. In our 2015 survey of seniors before graduation, we find that 93% had already secured employment or were pursuing graduate school.

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BC ACCOUNTING GRADS’ MEDIAN STARTING SALARIES: 2013-2015

This graph tabulates the mean starting salaries and bonuses for the classes of 2013-2015 by type of firm and for all accounting graduates.

BC ACCOUNTING GRADS’ INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT DATA: 2013-2015

This graph tabulates the percentage of accounting majors from the class of 2013-2015 who had junior and sophomore internships and their average monthly internship pay.

BC ALUMNI IN THE BIG 4

1,360 BC alumni currently work for one of the Big 4 accounting firms. 18% (238) are partners, principals or directors and 24% (331) are managers or senior managers.

Percentage of graduates who said they would major in accounting again

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This graph tabulates the percentage of accounting majors from the class of 2013-2015 who had junior and sophomore internships and their average monthly internship pay.
There are four parts to the CPA exam. Overall pass rates are calculated by dividing the total number of successful attempts by the total attempts in all four parts of the exam. CPA exam results are taken from the 2006-2014 Uniform CPA Examination School Performance book published by the National State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA).

This table presents the overall pass rates for first-time exam candidates who took the exam within one year of graduation. Because candidates can take the exam even without an accounting degree and can retake the exam multiple times, pass rates of first-time candidates taken within one year of graduation better reflect the results of recent accounting graduates.
Above: Naming of CSOM Teaching Seminar as the Wilson Teaching Seminar, in honor of Prof. Pete Wilson. Faculty from L to R: Susan Shu, Alvis Lo, Lian Fen Lee, Jeff Cohen, Pete Wilson, Sugata Roychowdhury, Dean Andy Boynton, Carolyn Wilson, Amy Hutton, Vishal Baloria, Ewa Sletten, Mark Bradshaw and Billy Soo.


CLASS OF 2014-2015 EMPLOYERS

Aetna
AIG
Anchin Block & Anchin LLP
Andersen Tax (WTAS)
Bain Capital
Baidu Inc.
Baker, Newman & Noyes
Barclays Capital
BDO
Blackstone Group
Blum Shapiro
Broadhaven Capital Partners
Cantor Commercial Real Estate
CCMP Capital
Charles River Associates
Citigroup
Clifton Larsen Allen LLP
Cohn Reznick
CSN Stores
Deloitte LLP
Deloitte Consulting
Defense Contract Audit Agency
Definitive Healthcare
Design Communications Ltd
Deutsche Bank
Digital Capital Advisors
Dixon Hughes PLLC
Duff & Phelps LLC
Ellington Management Group
EY LLP
Eze Software
Feeley & Driscoll
FTI Consulting
General Electric
Goldman Sachs
Grant Thornton LLP
Greentech Capital Advisors
Hancock Capital Management
ING Financial Partners
Jefferies & Co.
Johnson & Johnson
Johnson O’Connor Feron LLP
JP Morgan Chase
Keefe Bruyette and Woods
KeyBanc
Kelmar Associates
KPMG LLP
Liberty Mutual
MacQuarie Bank
Malone Bailey LLP
Marcum LLP
McCladrey (now RSM)
Northern Trust Corporation
PwC LLP
Putnam Investments
Raymond James
Rothstein, Kass & Company
State Street Bank
TD Bank Securities
Teach for America
True Partners Tax Consulting
UBS
United Health Group
US Coast Guard
VM turbo
Wells Fargo Bank
Wolf & Company