

Frequently Asked Questions



FAQs and How to Respond

Although we may not foresee every question that will arise when speaking with students, there are a few that are frequently asked. Below you'll find these commonly asked questions, along with suggested responses, to help you prepare how you might respond.

Question	Answer
How much money do you make?	Salary is an important factor for your career. And while CPAs are well compensated, salaries vary based on role, experience, additional certifications and location. <i>Consider directing students to the Robert Half Salary Guide for salary ranges by job title and city.</i>
Do you work a lot?	There may be periods of time when you're busier than others. But it's a give and take. While you may have times that you're working more than 40 hours a week, putting in that time allows time for travel and time off during slower weeks.
Are all accountants boring?	Absolutely not! Since accountants serve all industries, as an accounting professional you have the opportunity to work in an industry that you're passionate about. <i>Consider listing industries like sports, entertainment, etc.</i>
What skills do I need to be good at accounting? Do I have to be good at math?	Accounting is the language of business. It's not math, but understanding what the numbers mean and being able to explain that to your client is important. Be curious, have an analytical mind and be able to communicate your findings.
What if I don't want to do taxes?	While tax is one area of accounting, there are so many other areas that you can work in outside of tax, like forensic, ESG, audit, technology, etc.
What is the culture like at your company?	Company culture is the shared values and practices that shape an organization's personality. <i>Share the things that you look for in a company and how your firm supports that (i.e., they support your growth and learning). Suggest that students think about what's important to them and keep that in mind when meeting with potential employers.</i>
How do I stand out as I start my career?	Find your passions and find ways to volunteer in those passions. You'll gain valuable skillsets that will benefit you later on. And be curious now. Connect with other CPAs to learn more about their path.
What if you're asked a question you don't know the answer to?	Be honest. Don't be afraid to say you don't know the answer. But offer to help find it - consider offering to look it up, or parking it off to the side to revisit later.