

# THE EDUCAFÉ TIMES



**In this issue : Numbers with a Narrative:  
Crafting Your Career as a Chartered  
Accountant**

**Prescribing Success: Interview with  
Ashwini S, CFO Eduquity Career  
Technologies Pvt. Ltd,**

**Career Queries**

## *Message from the Editor*

Hello Readers!

We bring another edition of The Educafé Times where we talk about another sought-after career opportunity - Chartered Accountancy. Here we discuss the scope of the career, the challenges, and the skill sets required.

Have some new ideas for our newsletter? Share them at [educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com) and get a shoutout.

Happy Reading!!

## Numbers with a Narrative: Crafting Your Career as a Chartered Accountant

Are you someone who likes to deal with finance and numbers? Are you considering a career in Chartered Accountancy (CA)? Are you interested in managing finance, auditing, taxation and becoming a financial advisor? If Yes, then this article will help you explore the career pathway, skillset requirements, and the journey to becoming a Chartered Accountant.

### CAREER PATH

- If you wish to become a Chartered Accountant (CA), you can choose Commerce as your specialization in your 11th/12th or at +2 levels. However, if you have taken Science or Arts as your stream, you can still pursue a CA course.
- After finishing your 11th or 12th grade or +2, you are eligible to take the Common Proficiency Test (CPT), which serves as the entrance exam for the Chartered Accountancy (CA) course. Following that, you can proceed as per the process laid down by the CA association.
- If you have completed your graduation in Commerce with the required subjects and aggregate, you will be exempted from taking the Common Proficiency Test (CPT) and can directly start from the next level, which is the Integrated Professional Competence (IPC) - the Intermediate Course. After that, you can continue to follow the process laid down by the CA association.
- Even if you have graduated in any other stream, you can still pursue your dream of becoming a CA by following the procedure laid down by the Institute and appearing for the relevant exams. For more information, please refer to the website of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) at <https://resource.cdn.icai.org/75086bos60514-icai-prospectus-new.pdf>



After completing the required education, you will be eligible to work in your desired field as a Finance Manager, Tax Manager, Auditor, Certified Public Accountant, Technology and Data Analytics, Risk Management and Compliance, Forensic Accounting, E-Commerce and Startups, Sustainability and CSR, Financial Technology (FinTech), Global Taxation and Transfer Pricing, Healthcare Finance, Advisory and Consulting, Remote and Freelance Opportunities and as a Teacher. You can work as a Chartered Accountant either in a Company in the Finance team and go on to become the CFO or you can set up your own practice

To become a successful Chartered Accountant (CA), it is crucial to possess technical skills, pay close attention to detail, stay up-to-date with market trends, have strong communication skills, demonstrate a willingness to learn, be ethical conduct and exhibit dedication and commitment. Additionally, seeking mentorship can be immensely helpful in embarking on a fulfilling and impactful career in the world of finance.

## Prescription to Success

### *Snippets of an interview conducted with Ashwini S*

Ashwini is a qualified CA and has been working as a CFO for almost a decade now. She has over two decades of experience in financial accounting, MIS, reporting, statutory compliance, and other related fields. Ashwini is skilled in interacting with various stakeholders across different units, regions, and groups. She believes in pushing boundaries and making her own mark. She is also a fitness and travel enthusiast.



### *What motivated you to pursue a career as a Chartered Accountant?*

I wanted to choose a field that was different from the popular options of engineering or medicine, which most people were interested in. My uncle was a highly respected chartered accountant, and he inspired me to pursue a career in this field so as to achieve something significant. The idea of working in a CA firm even before attempting the exam was motivating and encouraged me to pursue this career.

### *Can you describe your day-to-day responsibilities and challenges as a CFO? A typical day involves*

- Talking to bankers to ensure we have a sufficient line of funds
- Having team meetings/training with my accounting team to ensure we are adhering to all the statutory compliances. I also try to ensure that we automate as many processes as possible to safeguard against human errors.
- Meeting the top management / Board of directors to discuss the various reports related to the costing, projects, risk analysis, etc. of the company or discuss business-critical scenarios.
- Talking to various departments in the organization to ensure we, at accounts, get proper documentation.

### *What are the recent changes in the accounting profession, and what are the future trends that will shape the industry?*

The fundamentals of accounting will remain constant, but the automation in the industry will transform accounting into a process-oriented profession. The strict rules and regulations imposed by ICAI on auditors are proving to be the backbone of chartered accountants, helping to regulate all businesses

### *What are the essential skills and qualities for someone to become a successful Chartered Accountant?*

To become a Chartered Accountant, one must exhibit excellent time management, punctuality, analytical skills, and most importantly, integrity. It is crucial to continuously learn and apply skills, as the CA exams assess the application of knowledge rather than just rote learning.

### *How do you balance the demands of a challenging career in Chartered Accountancy with maintaining a healthy work-life balance?*

Planning is crucial for a successful career, especially in a demanding role like CFO. I prioritize planning and organization to avoid delays in meeting my deliverables. Regular exercise helps me stay healthy and energized, allowing me to balance work and personal life effectively.

### *Nowadays, even students pursuing Arts can take up CA. What are your views on this?*

The most crucial aspect of becoming a Chartered Accountant (CA) is the practical application of what we learn. Therefore, it's perfectly acceptable for students pursuing Arts to take up CA as long as they have an inclination towards the subjects. From my experience, I have seen many science students successfully completing CA without any difficulty.

*Some students start pursuing CA when they are in their degree. Do you recommend this? Can they do justice to both?*

Certainly, I began my journey to become a Chartered Accountant right after completing my Pre-University Course. This decision helped me save a significant amount of time. Pursuing a degree becomes much more manageable when one prepares for the CA exams concurrently. Therefore, there is no harm in pursuing both a degree and a CA qualification together. However this involves a lot of study and hard work and one should be passionate about the profession to do justice to both.

*What advice do you have for students who are contemplating pursuing a career as a Chartered Accountant?*

Chartered Accountancy is an excellent profession where you will be responsible for overseeing the financial and accounting well-being of an organization, which is the backbone of any business or industry. Timely and accurate reporting and analysis can save companies and help them move forward.

**Keen to know more on  
Contact us:  
ashvini.s@eduquity.co  
m**

## Career Queries

by : Dr. Sudha Bhogle



*What are the potential career paths for a B.Com graduate? How can one balance a B.Com degree with professional qualifications such as a CA*

A Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) degree equips students with a broad knowledge of managerial skills, focusing on general business principles, accounting, economics, and quantitative skills. B.Com graduates can pursue various courses, such as M.Com, Master of Finance (MFin), Master of Accounting (MAcc), (MBA), Chartered Accountancy (CA), Chartered Financial Accountancy (CFA), Cost and Works Accountant (ICWA) and Company Secretatry (CS).

Technically, one can pursue B.Com and CA simultaneously. However, the CPT exams (Level 1 of the CA course) can only be attempted after completing the 12th standard examination. Both B.Com and CA require a significant amount of time and hard work, making it sometimes difficult to strike a balance between the two. For more details, please check the following website: <https://www.icai.org/>

All these courses have ample scope. However, it is advisable to choose the course that offers wider options in later stages and put in one's best effort. Being skilled in various areas is essential to survive and thrive in today's competitive world. To build a successful career, it is crucial to have proper synchrony between interest and ability. Therefore, check the abilities required to succeed in your area of interest and work on it to choose the stream that best fits you.

*We will talk  
about this in our  
next Edition .*

*Can you guess?*

Mail us your answers at  
edufestudentsolution  
s@gmail.com

**Want to get  
featured in  
our newsletter?  
FOLLOW US ON**



edufest student solutions



edufest.excellence

**Confused about your career?**

