CPA and Accounting Careers

To be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in Texas one must:
• Be educated: Bachelors degree with 150 hours and 30 Accounting hours
• Be experienced: work in the field for one to two years
• Be successful: pass all four parts of the CPA exam (75+ is passing)
  o Sections are: Auditing and Attestation, Financial Accounting and Reporting, Regulation, and Business Environment and Concepts
• Other requirements include an ethics course, background check, and fee
  o Contact the Texas State Board of Accountancy website
• Every accountant must have integrity, objectivity, diligence and independence
  o Must have 3 hour ethics class

Careers
Auditing with the “Big Four” (Deloitte, Ernst and Young, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers)
• Begin as staff in training programs and perform audit or tax functions
• Seniors plan and conduct the audit: budget and track hours, train staff, delegate duties, review working papers, and draft the audit report
• Managers supervise two or more audit engagements, handle problems, determine procedures, maintain standards and bill the client
• Partners make sure audits are in line with standards, handle client relations, recruit staff and sign reports

Tax: Compliance with tax laws and forward planning
Consulting: Aiding effectiveness (business outcomes) and efficiency (resources)
Litigation: Explaining accounting to judges and juries and calculating damages
Fraud: A “Certified Fraud Examiner” probes into complicated crime issues
Financial: Accounting is crucial to banking, investments, planning and systems
Managerial: A “Certified Management Accountant” aids in internal decisions
Industry: From Clerk to Controller: managing and producing helpful information

Skills needed:
Organized, logical, efficient and patient people will do well in accounting. New problems arise frequently, and being shrewd enough to handle them appropriately without irritating the client is required. An analytical mind that can juggle several things at once and explain complexity in simple wording is good to have.