



Bob Burke Certified Public Accountant (CPA)



I am a certified public accountant (CPA) and partner in a large accounting firm. I work in the audit practice and service mostly technology and biotechnology clients.

How long have you been a certified public accountant?

Forever! Actually, close to 30 years.

Where do you currently work?

RSM is the name of my firm, and I'm based in Massachusetts.

How do you spend most of your time at work?

Every day is different, but my primary activities are planning, directing and supervising the work done by my teams, developing the staff that work for me, dealing with clients and complex issues, and selling our services in the market.



Why did you choose this career?

I attended business school intending to major in finance, but found that accounting is a very versatile field. There are so many options beyond what I chose to do. I have stayed in the profession because the work is highly varied and challenges me at many different levels. No two days are the same and I like that.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

Being a CPA requires an accounting degree and passing the CPA exam; it also requires work experience. Qualifying for the exam now requires 150 college credits (basically, a fifth year of college). When I graduated, it was only 120 hours. Working at an accounting firm for some period of time is a great place to develop skills and see different things.

BOB'S FUN FACT

I am a big heavy metal fan even though I don't look the part. Metallica and Iron Maiden are my favorite bands.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Different people, different clients, different situations. Some accounting jobs can be highly routine, but not mine. I love the variety in what I do.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Sometimes I have to tell a client something they don't want to hear. Delivering bad news in a way that preserves the underlying relationship is very challenging.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Accounting is the language of business, making it a great foundation for just about any business career.



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