

Scholars Program

About the Program



What's it all about?

The world is changing and so is the accounting profession. The Minnesota Society of CPAs recognizes that new efforts are necessary to make sure the profession mirrors the general business community, which is why we've launched the MNCPA Scholars Program to encourage students of diverse backgrounds to consider accounting as a profession. Not only will advances in ethnic diversity increase the talent pool of future CPAs, but it will enable the profession to better serve clients and employers, as well as strengthen the CPA's role as an objective expert.

MNCPA scholars have the unique opportunity to get an up-close, real world glimpse of the CPA profession. You will meet respected CPAs, have dinner with firm partners and even work alongside real CPAs.

MNCPA Scholars are paired with their own mentor for the year to help establish goals, understand the profession and provide advice. In addition to having a mentor and gaining hands-on experience, scholars will receive a \$1,000 academic gift, business attire for events, college letter of recommendation, skills development, and more upon successful completion of the program. For more information, visit www.mncpa.org/scholars.



"I've really enjoyed the program, and I feel like I'm going to actually use the information I'm getting out of it."

— Max, former Hopkins High student

"I know my students have really **enjoyed** the **experience** and **connections** they made. Buying them professional dress and all the monthly activities have **enhanced** their **confidence** and is such a **positive experience** that helps them stay on track as they make that difficult decision as to where and what to major in for college."

— Dan Gasner, Kennedy High School, Bloomington



Scholars and mentors

You will be paired with a CPA mentor for the and together will communicate via text, phone and email each month. During these chats you'll create goals, learn more about the accounting profession, talk

about college and discuss career-related questions. Communication is essential to the success of this program. At least once per semester, you and your mentor will meet for coffee or lunch. You'll also participate in a job shadow day at your mentor's firm.



Events

You'll participate in various monthly events. While it's understandable that you might need to skip an event, you'll need to attend at least 70% of the events. Potential events include:

- Learning about business dress and dining etiquette.
- Visiting firms and companies to hear from the CPAs who work there.
- Touring a local university.
- Hearing from a CPA panel of professionals working in interesting roles.
- Participating in a skill building session.
- Shadowing your mentor to get a real glimpse of what it's like to be a CPA.
- Group activities, such as case studies, to get a feel for accounting.

The time commitment for each event varies. Events are held weekdays during or after school. The MNCPA will work with your school to excuse an absence for an event. There is usually only one event planned per month, but some months may have two events while others may not have any.



How it works

Excited for the opportunity to become one of our next scholars? We're excited to hear from you! To be considered, fill out an application, complete the student questionnaire, have a teacher or employer complete the reference questionnaire and include a copy of your transcripts. Applications and instructions can be found at www.mncpa.org/scholars or from your teacher. If accepted, you will be notified during the summer.

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