Did you know that the Telfer School is the only faculty in the University of Ottawa that boasts a Career Centre? They provide a service that builds, develops, and maintains successful partnerships between students, alumni and employers and it is all for free! Now knowing this, why not take advantage of the opportunities that the Centre offers?

Studying accounting in my third year at the Telfer School of Management, I know for a fact that it is hard to learn from your classes the hands-on information you need to know when looking for a job. That’s why the Centre offers a vast number of services that you should take advantage of. Here is a list of what the Centre can do for you:

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**What does your Career Centre offer you?**

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**Workshops:**
These take place on a weekly basis and offer expertise in different areas of business. For example, they offer activities that are designed to provide you with the employability skills and experience required to becoming the ultimate business leader.

**Company Information Sessions:**
The sessions allow students to explore their career options by learning more about the different companies that are hiring.

**Individual Consultations:**
Want a more personal and private consultation service? Career Counsellors and Relationship Managers are here to assist and guide you through your degree.

**Networking Events:**
Twice a year, the Career Centre hosts large events to facilitate networking opportunities between students and employers which can help you learn more about yourself and what you are interested in.

**Programs:**
The Centre offers internship and volunteer opportunities, and mentorship programs in order to complement your strong academic foundation. These programs help you develop your employability skills, acquire professional experience and expose you to networking opportunities.

If you have any questions or wish to take advantage of what the Career Centre can offer you, you can visit www.telfer.uottawa.ca/careercentre or call 613-562-5656.

**Visit us at:**
Career Centre
Telfer School of Management
University of Ottawa
Desmarais Building
55 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1N 6N5
Room: 1100

*by Elizabeth McLachlan*
3rd year Accounting
Caree

Are you a student looking for part-time, summer, contract or full-time work? The Telfer Networking Convention (TNC) enables students in all years to meet with employers who are looking to hire. Held in the winter semester, this Convention is a great way to get familiar with employers and also a fantastic opportunity to brush up on your networking skills.

The Telfer Networking Convention hosts a wide variety of employers who are looking for employees with different specializations and levels of education. Past employers have been Kraft Canada, RBC, MD Physician Services, Le Chateau and many more. The TNC is held on the fourth floor of the Desmarais Building and is conveniently set up to maximize your time at the Convention. Each employer will have a booth with representatives standing in front ready to chat and answer any questions you may have. In addition to making contacts at various companies, you will learn about the different companies and see what they have to offer.

In order to participate in the Telfer Networking Convention, you must attend a preparation workshop. Once you have completed the Preparing for a Telfer Convention workshop, you will automatically be registered for the TNC. You will be able to register for the workshop in January by visiting our website or by visiting us at the Telfer Career Centre in DMS 1100. Hope to see you there!

By: Leah Swanstrom
4th year Accounting

As students in the 21st century, we are all aware of the innovation and advancements happening right before our eyes. Sometimes keeping up with everything going on around us can be overwhelming. Surely questions such as these have run through our minds countless times: Will I be ready when I graduate? Will I find a job? Will I succeed at work?

However, have we ever thought of developing different areas of our minds to better anticipate these changes? Howard Gardner, a professor of Cognition and Education at Harvard University, has. His book 5 Minds for the Future addresses the need for developing our minds to become better leaders. The minds he describes, and expresses the need for, include: the disciplinary, synthesizing, creating, respectful, and ethical minds.

The disciplinary mind stresses the importance of being “master of your domain” regardless of the field. This frame of mind is classic as it is impossible to be successful without excelling in a particular area. In his book, Gardner states that “…students must see information not as an end in itself or as a stepping-stone to more advanced types of information, but rather as a means to better-informed practice,” which is a reality that many forget, or lose focus of.

Howard Gardner moves on to describe the respectful mind. He points out that there is an immense difference between respect and tolerance. This mind frame is imperative since we live in a world full of diversity. Pursuing the development of the respectful mind will allow future leaders to accept and celebrate change and variety.

Finally, the ethical mind is addressed. As we know, being ethical is selecting the most honorable option in a situation where we are presented with various alternatives. Without developing this frame of mind, irreversible and immoral decisions are likely to be made. Excellent work and social responsibility will be the results of instilling this mindset.

Since change will be forever present, it is important for the leaders of tomorrow to think about what mindset needs to begin developing in their lives today.

By: Edna Gavan
2nd year Finance / Accounting
As we all know, the field of commerce is full of professional designations, and accounting is no exception. This article will help clear the confusion around choosing a target designation, as well as introduce some of the lesser-known professional designations!

There are three well-known accounting designations: Chartered Accountant (CA), Certified Management Accountant (CMA), and Certified General Accountant (CGA). These designations all have different functions and not one is superior or inferior to the other. Let’s look at a breakdown of each designation’s unique characteristics.

Chartered Accountant (CA)
Most students, upon entering university, have probably only heard of the CA designation. It is the best-funded of the three and the most internationally recognizable. It’s no surprise then that it gets the majority of student attention! It is required for public auditing in Canada, so if you plan on inspecting the books of other companies, this is the designation for you.

Certified Management Accountant (CMA)
This designation serves a special purpose. Put simply it is “an accounting designation for managers, to show that they can understand the financial aspects of their management decisions.” If management positions are your goal, a CMA would give you credibility as someone who “also understands the numbers.”

Certified General Accountant (CGA)
If you want to work as an accountant, controller, or in other related position within the industry, this designation is the best fit for you. The CGA designation qualifies you to prepare financial statements and manage internal controls within private and public companies. It shows a general understanding of accountancy and that is exactly what’s needed for accounting in enterprises!

Now that we have reviewed the main designations, it’s quite clear that each is different from the other and that they should not be directly compared.

Proposed Merger? Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA)
However, as you may be aware, there is discussion of merging the three designations (CA, CMA and CGA) into a single unified Canadian designation: Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA). The reason for this is simple. Most other countries in the world only have one professional accounting designation. Other countries find Canada’s system confusing and inefficient. Merging the designations would give Canada a single unified brand, which will receive greater international recognition and attract international business to Canada.

Other Designations, CIA and CISA
There also exist two other professional accounting designations: Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). These designations fulfill specialized roles. Most new graduates do not need to be concerned with acquiring these designations, but should know that they exist! If your job requires one of these specialized designations, you can be sure that your manager will ask you to get them.

Hopefully, this article has given you better insight into the world of professional accounting designations. By doing a bit of research, you should be able to choose one that best fits your ideal accounting job!

For more information on designations, please visit the issuing organization’s website:

CA: [http://www.cica.ca/](http://www.cica.ca/)
CGA: [http://www.cga-canada.org/en-ca/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cga-canada.org/en-ca/Pages/default.aspx)
CPA: [http://cpacanada.ca/CIA](http://cpacanada.ca/CIA)
CIA: [https://na.theiia.org/certification/CIA-Certification/Pages/CIA-Certification.aspx](https://na.theiia.org/certification/CIA-Certification/Pages/CIA-Certification.aspx)
CISA: [http://www.isaca.org/Certification/CISA-Certified-Information-Systems-Auditor/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.isaca.org/Certification/CISA-Certified-Information-Systems-Auditor/Pages/default.aspx)

By: Brian Chan
3rd year Accounting
It’s a brand new academic year. You’ve just bought all your textbooks and started taking notes during lectures in all six of your classes. You have two case studies due next week, along with a test. You’re part of three clubs, which require you to do some administrative work to recruit new students. You have networking and social events to attend. You have a part time job working 20 hours a week. And even after all this, your friends still expect you to go out every Saturday night!

Not to worry, this is the typical life of any university student. A busy student life is what makes it so enjoyable. Although it can be fun, it is also very easy to fall behind and get overwhelmed by everything crashing down on you. Here are some tips to help you manage your time well:

**Use an agenda!**
Planning your day is essential. Write down all your important dates, including assignments due dates and events, so that you know what you need to accomplish each day. Doing this will help you set small goals and you will be able to achieve more. It will also help you stay organized and on top of your hectic schedule.

**Pick what’s important**
If you have multiple events going on or multiple assignments due around the same time, pick which ones are most important and start working on those. This could mean starting assignments that are due earlier than others or attending a networking event instead of a party. This will help you prioritize what is more important to you, so you know where to begin.

**Block out distractions**
If you’re on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube while studying, you’re not doing it right. If you’re texting every five minutes, you’re not doing it right either. Get rid of any electronic devices that you don’t need and focus on the books. Turn off your phone or just put it away. If you need your laptop, refrain from using the internet. This will ensure that your full attention is on your work.

**Feel free to say NO!**
If you’ve got a lot going on, feel free to let people know. If you’re being asked to go out when you know you need to get work done, feel free to say no! As well, if you have a commitment to a club that you can’t fulfill, ask another member to help you out. Remember, university is about academics first, everything else comes second. Whether it is some work you need to do for a club or a social activity, tell your peers and colleagues that you’re feeling swamped with work and they will understand.

I hope you have an amazing year. Be sure to use these tips to stay more organized and to manage your time. Remember, these tips alone won’t entirely help; it depends on how much you put into it as well.

*By: Naushin Vighio*
3rd year Accounting