

CAREER GUIDANCE REPORT 2025–26

Best Career Options After B.Com

Top 8 Courses with Eligibility, Duration, Salary & Benefits

8

Career Paths

Rs.40 LPA+

Top Salary

1–4 Yrs

Course Duration

Based on data from Shiksha.com | www.shiksha.com/accounting-commerce/articles/top-8-courses-after-b-com-blogId-175427

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About This Guide

As India's largest education platform, **Shiksha.com** is committed to helping commerce graduates make the right career decisions. A Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) is one of India's most popular undergraduate degrees — but the real value lies in what you pursue after it. This guide presents the **Top 8 Career Paths after B.Com**, curated from Shiksha.com's extensive career database.

Course	Duration	Avg. Starting Salary	Best For
CA	3–4 Yrs	Rs.7–15 LPA	Audit, Tax, Finance
MBA	2 Yrs	Rs.5–30 LPA	Management, Strategy
CS	2–3 Yrs	Rs.5–10 LPA	Corporate Law, Compliance
CFA	2–4 Yrs	Rs.6–20 LPA	Investment Banking
M.Com	2 Yrs	Rs.3–7 LPA	Academia, Research
CMA	2–3 Yrs	Rs.5–12 LPA	Cost Accounting
ACCA	1.5–2 Yrs	Rs.5–45 LPA	Global Accounting
CPA	1–2 Yrs	Rs.8–18 LPA	US MNCs, Big 4 Global

* Salary figures are indicative averages for 2025–26. Actual compensation varies by institute, city, experience, and employer. Source: Shiksha.com, Naukri.com, AmbitionBox.

COURSE 01 OF 08

Chartered Accountancy (CA)

ELIGIBILITY B.Com graduates can join directly at CA Intermediate level. Minimum 50% marks in B.Com (55% for B.Com Honours) required for direct entry via IPC route.	DURATION 3 – 4 Years	AVG. SALARY Rs.7 – Rs.15 LPA (Freshers) Rs.20–Rs.40 LPA (Experienced)
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Key Benefits of Pursuing Chartered Accountancy (CA)

01 Highest Earning Potential

CA is one of the top-paid professional qualifications in India. Fresh CA graduates from Big 4 firms like Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC earn starting packages of Rs.7–15 LPA, and experienced CAs in senior roles can earn Rs.25–60 LPA or more.

02 Diverse Career Opportunities

CAs are in demand across sectors — banking, finance, auditing, taxation, management consulting, corporate finance, and government services. You can practice independently, join a firm, or work in the industry.

03 Globally Recognised Credential

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is one of the largest accounting bodies in the world. An Indian CA degree is recognised and valued in the Middle East, Australia, UK, Canada, and other countries.

04 Entrepreneurship & Practice

A CA certificate allows you to start your own CA firm, take up independent audit assignments, and offer taxation and financial advisory services — making it ideal for entrepreneurial-minded students.

05 Respect & Professional Standing

The CA profession carries immense social and professional respect in India. It opens doors to board-level positions such as CFO, Finance Director, and Chief Compliance Officer.

06 Wide Exam Accessibility

ICAI exams are conducted twice a year, giving students flexibility. The structured three-level system (Foundation, Intermediate, Final) also allows B.Com students to skip the Foundation level.

COURSE 02 OF 08

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

ELIGIBILITY	DURATION	AVG. SALARY
Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 50% marks. Entrance exams: CAT, XAT, GMAT, MAT, SNAP. Work experience preferred at top B-schools.	2 Years (Full-Time) 3 Years (Part-Time/Distance)	Rs.5 – Rs.12 LPA (Tier-3) Rs.12 – Rs.30+ LPA (Top B-Schools)

Key Benefits of Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA)

01 Versatile Career Scope

An MBA opens doors across finance, marketing, operations, consulting, entrepreneurship, human resources, and supply chain. The degree is not domain-locked, making it one of the most flexible post-graduate options.

02 Strong Industry Network

Top B-schools like IIMs, XLRI, FMS, and SPJIMR offer unparalleled networking opportunities with industry leaders, alumni, and recruiters — invaluable for long-term career growth.

03 Leadership & Management Skills

The MBA curriculum focuses on developing real-world business acumen, leadership, strategic thinking, and decision-making skills that employers value highly in the corporate world.

04 High ROI from Top Institutes

Graduates from IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, and similar top institutes regularly secure placements of Rs.25–50 LPA or higher. Even Tier-2 B-school graduates see significant salary jumps post-MBA.

05 Entrepreneurship Support

Many MBA programmes now include incubation centres, startup labs, and entrepreneurship electives that help students launch and fund their own ventures during or after the programme.

06 Specialisation Options

MBA in Finance, Marketing, HR, Operations, Business Analytics, Digital Marketing, and International Business allow B.Com graduates to deepen their commerce knowledge with management skills.

COURSE 03 OF 08

Company Secretary (CS)

ELIGIBILITY B.Com graduates can register directly for the CS Executive Programme. No CSEET required for graduates. Minimum graduation with 50% marks in any stream.	DURATION 2 – 3 Years (Post-B.Com, Executive + Professional levels)	AVG. SALARY Rs.5 – Rs.10 LPA (Entry) Rs.15 – Rs.25 LPA (Senior Level)
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Key Benefits of Pursuing Company Secretary (CS)

- 01 Mandatory Corporate Requirement**
Every listed public company and companies with a paid-up capital of Rs.5 crore or more are legally required to appoint a qualified Company Secretary under the Companies Act, 2013 — ensuring permanent job demand.
- 02 Expertise in Corporate Law**
CS professionals are experts in corporate governance, SEBI regulations, ROC compliance, secretarial audits, and company law — skills that are rare and highly valued in the corporate world.
- 03 Dual Career Path: Job + Practice**
A CS can either work in a company's legal and compliance department or set up their own practice, offering secretarial compliance, legal advisory, and merger & acquisition support to businesses.
- 04 Lower Competition vs CA**
CS exams, while rigorous, are considered comparatively more accessible than CA, offering a strong professional credential without the extreme difficulty level of the CA Final.
- 05 Growing Demand from Startups**
With India's booming startup ecosystem, the demand for CS professionals for IPO readiness, fundraising compliance, and corporate restructuring has grown significantly in recent years.
- 06 Pathway to Corporate Leadership**
CS professionals often grow into roles like Legal Advisor, Compliance Officer, Corporate Affairs Head, and even board-level positions in large conglomerates.

COURSE 04 OF 08

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

ELIGIBILITY Final-year bachelor's students or graduates can appear for CFA Level 1. Must have a valid passport for international registration. 4,000 hours of relevant work experience for charterholder status.	DURATION 2 – 4 Years (3 exam levels, self-paced)	AVG. SALARY Rs.6 – Rs.12 LPA (After Level II) Rs.15 – Rs.35+ LPA (CFA Charterholder)
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Key Benefits of Pursuing Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

01 Gold Standard in Investment & Finance

The CFA designation, awarded by the CFA Institute (USA), is considered the most prestigious global qualification in investment management, equity research, and financial analysis.

02 Global Recognition & Portability

CFA charterholders are sought-after in investment banks, hedge funds, asset management companies, and private equity firms across the US, UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai, and India.

03 Deep Investment Knowledge

The CFA curriculum covers portfolio management, equity valuation, fixed income, derivatives, alternative investments, and ethics — providing unmatched depth in finance and investment.

04 High Salary Ceiling

CFA charterholders working in investment banking, portfolio management, and asset management in India earn Rs.20–50 LPA. Those working abroad (especially in the US or UK) can earn far more.

05 Low Cost, High Value

Despite its global stature, CFA exam fees are relatively modest compared to an MBA. With dedication and self-study, many B.Com graduates clear CFA levels without attending costly coaching institutes.

06 Synergy with CA/MBA

CFA pairs exceptionally well with CA or MBA in Finance — the combined credential positions professionals for top-tier roles in investment banking, M&A; advisory, and wealth management.

COURSE 05 OF 08

Master of Commerce (M.Com)

ELIGIBILITY	DURATION	AVG. SALARY
B.Com or equivalent degree with minimum 45–50% marks. Admission via merit or entrance exam (DUET, university-level tests). Specialisations in Accounting, Finance, Economics, Taxation available.	2 Years (4 Semesters)	Rs.3 – Rs.7 LPA (Entry) Rs.8 – Rs.15 LPA (with Experience/PhD)

Key Benefits of Pursuing Master of Commerce (M.Com)

01 Affordable Academic Upgrade

M.Com fees in government universities are extremely low (Rs.10,000–Rs.40,000 for the full course), making it the most cost-effective way to deepen commerce knowledge and improve career prospects.

02 Foundation for Academic Career

M.Com is the essential stepping stone to pursuing a PhD in Commerce, UGC NET, and ultimately becoming a professor or lecturer at universities and colleges — a stable, respected career path.

03 Specialised Knowledge

M.Com programmes offer specialisations in Advanced Accounting, Financial Management, Taxation, Business Economics, and E-Commerce — valuable for roles in finance and academia.

04 Access to Government & PSU Jobs

M.Com qualifies candidates for numerous government sector jobs, including roles in the banking sector, auditing departments, RBI, and various PSU finance roles.

05 Preparation Platform

Many students pursue M.Com simultaneously while preparing for CA, CS, or MBA — the academic structure gives them time, resources, and domain knowledge to clear these competitive exams.

06 Research Opportunities

M.Com opens pathways into research and publication in commerce, economics, and finance — which builds credibility and is often required for senior academic or consultancy positions.

COURSE 06 OF 08

Cost & Management Accountant (CMA)

ELIGIBILITY	DURATION	AVG. SALARY
B.Com graduates can register directly for CMA Intermediate. Conducted by ICAI-CMA (Institute of Cost Accountants of India). No Foundation exam required for graduates.	2 – 3 Years (Post B.Com)	Rs.5 – Rs.10 LPA (Entry) Rs.12 – Rs.25 LPA (Senior/CMA Final)

Key Benefits of Pursuing Cost & Management Accountant (CMA)

01 Specialised Niche in Cost Management

CMA professionals are experts in cost accounting, management accounting, and financial planning — skills in high demand in manufacturing, infrastructure, FMCG, and energy sectors.

02 Mandatory in Listed Companies

Large listed companies and government enterprises are required to maintain cost accounting records audited by a Cost Accountant — ensuring strong and consistent job demand.

03 Recognised by Government Bodies

CMA is recognised by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), SEBI, RBI, and other government bodies — making CMAs eligible for regulatory and compliance roles.

04 Cost Audit Practice

CMAs are authorised to conduct Cost Audits under the Companies Act, 2013. This provides an independent practice stream similar to what CAs enjoy in financial audit.

05 Complements CA & MBA

CMA certification alongside CA or MBA gives professionals a unique edge in financial control, budgeting, and strategic cost management — especially valued in CFO and finance director career tracks.

06 Affordable Exam Route

CMA exam fees and study material costs are lower than CA or CFA, making it an accessible route to a recognised professional qualification for B.Com students.

COURSE 07 OF 08

ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

ELIGIBILITY	DURATION	AVG. SALARY
B.Com graduates receive 9 paper exemptions out of 13 (based on degree equivalency). Minimum 65% in relevant B.Com subjects for maximum exemptions. English proficiency required.	1.5 – 2 Years (Post B.Com, with exemptions)	Rs.5 – Rs.10 LPA (India) Rs.20 – Rs.45 LPA (UK/Middle East/Singapore)

Key Benefits of Pursuing ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

01 Recognised in 180+ Countries

ACCA is accepted by major employers, audit firms, banks, and regulators across 180+ countries including the UK, UAE, Singapore, Australia, and Malaysia — making it the most globally portable accounting qualification.

02 Maximum Exemptions for B.Com Graduates

B.Com graduates can claim up to 9 paper exemptions, significantly reducing the time to complete the qualification. This makes ACCA far faster for commerce graduates than starting fresh.

03 Access to Big 4 Globally

ACCA is the preferred professional accounting qualification at Deloitte, PwC, EY, and KPMG's offices across the Middle East, UK, and Southeast Asia — ideal for those targeting international careers.

04 Gateway to UK Chartered Accountant

ACCA provides a clear pathway to becoming an ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales) member through the ICAEW-ACCA partnership — opening up top-tier UK opportunities.

05 Practical Experience Requirement

ACCA requires 3 years of practical work experience, which professionals can gather while working full-time — unlike many certifications that demand full-time study commitment.

06 Flexible Self-Study Option

ACCA exams can be taken at computer-based testing centres throughout the year, allowing working professionals to study at their own pace without disrupting their current employment.

COURSE 08 OF 08

Certified Public Accountant – USA (CPA)

ELIGIBILITY	DURATION	AVG. SALARY
150 credit hours of education (B.Com + supplementary coursework may suffice). Approved by State Board of Accountancy (NASBA). Relevant accounting credits mandatory. US Social Security Number or ITIN needed for some states.	1 – 2 Years (4 exam sections, flexible)	Rs.8 – Rs.18 LPA (India, MNCs) Rs.40 – Rs.90+ LPA (USA equivalent)

Key Benefits of Pursuing Certified Public Accountant – USA (CPA)

01 Most Recognised Credential in the USA

The CPA license is the gold standard for accounting in the United States. For B.Com graduates targeting US-based MNCs, Big 4 firms, or international finance roles, CPA is an unmatched credential.

02 Premium Salary in MNCs

CPA-holders working in MNC finance teams, Big 4 audit firms, or US-listed companies in India command salaries significantly higher than non-CPA accountants — typically 30–60% premiums.

03 Career Pathway to the USA

Holding a US CPA license is one of the strongest credentials for Indian finance professionals seeking to migrate to or work in the United States — both in public accounting and corporate finance.

04 Covers US GAAP & IFRS

CPA curriculum provides deep training in US GAAP, IFRS, business law, taxation, and audit — skills that are directly transferable to roles in US-listed companies and MNCs operating globally.

05 Combines Well with Indian CA

Many Indian CAs pursue CPA to become dual-qualified, making themselves competitive for leadership roles in global organisations, international audit firms, and cross-border M&A; transactions.

06 Growing Demand from IT & BPO Sector

India's large IT, ITES, and BPO sector employs thousands of CPA-certified professionals in finance leadership, US GAAP reporting, and investor relations — and this demand is growing year on year.