

So You Want to be an Accountant

LCCC Career Exploration Podcast

Music:	00:00	Music.
Claudia Lubaski:	00:05	An accountant is more of a strategist. In today's world of global economy, an accountant needs to be a business partner. They need to critically think, help the owner formulate the strategies of moving forward, whether that's downsizing or up-sizing or whatever the case might be. And it's not only while the company's in business, but the strategy includes also succession planning. How do I pass that business on to family members. Or do I sell, do I merge, do I whatever the case might be. So the strategy is, is at the life of the business during the business and at the end of the business it's like a three pronged facet.
Music:	00:47	Music.
Claudia Lubaski:	00:54	It's about putting the pieces of the puzzle together with integrity and ethics. And you do need to love numbers and you need to be passionate about putting that puzzle together.
Music:	01:03	[Music]
Erika Leimbach:	01:08	At what point I decided it was right was at the end of Accounting 151 and I loved it way more than I thought I could ever love an academic class. And I just thought it was so fun. I love taking Accounting exams cause it was just a huge puzzle and I was like, okay, like this, this definitely fits me
Music:	01:31	[Music]
Janet Maltbie:	01:36	From the campus of Lorain County Community College. This is the Career Exploration Podcast on LCCCradio.com the Boom. I'm Janet Maltbie. We explore careers, college majors and more so you can be a success here on the LCCC campus and beyond. I'm a career counselor and I believe completing a degree, pursuing passionate work and debt free living is key to your future. I'm here to help you on that journey and so are my guests.
Music:	02:01	[Music]
Janet Maltbie:	02:08	Today I'll be speaking with Claudia Lubaski, Laurie Gibbs and Erika Leimbach. Our topic of conversation is, "So you want to

complete a degree in Accounting." Laurie is the lead team advisor for students who are interested in pursuing a degree in business related degrees at LCCC. Erika recently completed her bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Ohio State University but got her start here at LCCC as a high school student and is currently working on passing the CPA licensing exam. Claudia Lubaski is Professor Emeritas at LCCC. She has over 17 years teaching experience at various colleges to include Myers College, Hiram College and LCCC. She has over 20 years experience as a business owner and is a CPA, certified public accountant. In 2012, Claudia was named the outstanding two year Accounting educator from the Ohio society of CPAs. Lubaski was the first recipient of the award, which encompassed 23 Community Colleges and 24 regional and branch campuses across Ohio. Welcome to the program, Claudia, Laurie and Erika.

- Janet Maltbie: [03:29](#) Claudia, we'll start with you. After winning the 2012 award, the following comment was made about you. "Her Unique approaches to education are effective. With at least 70% of her students completing her courses with a grade 75% or higher." Can you speak about those unique approaches that you use in the classroom?
- Claudia Lubaski: [03:55](#) Sure, I'd be happy to. In addition to the traditional classroom work, textbook problems, homework, I bring in a variety of professionals to speak about the profession and share what it's like in different career paths. Such as public Accounting, managerial Accounting, forensic Accounting. In addition, we do a lot of projects hands-on. I use real life financial statements so the students have a feel for the real world because obviously the textbook teaches the ideal world. And to me there's a little bit of a difference between ideal and real.
- Janet Maltbie: [04:32](#) Who are some of the people that you invite in? What are the occupations that they have?
- Claudia Lubaski: [04:37](#) I've had in partners from Ernst and Young, I've had partners and owners from smaller regional CPA firms as well as the very small, little one owner CPA firms. I've had FBI agents in. I have had people just sitting for the CPA exam, CMA exam that aren't really fulfilling the entire career path yet, but they're on their way. I have had just business owners from various businesses, including entrepreneurs speaking about what they expect from their CPAs.
- Janet Maltbie: [05:15](#) Is this in all of your classes or is this just in the introductory class?

Claudia Lubaski: [05:20](#) This is in all of my classes.

Janet Maltbie: [05:22](#) Very good. All right. I believe that I saw some projects of your students up there in the commons area and they were like these visual projects. One of them was, it said don't cook the books. And it was a picture of an oven, I believe. Was this from your class?

Claudia Lubaski: [05:42](#) Yes, it was. Accounting is changing from rules-based to principle-based. And there's a debate whether Accounting is an art or a science. So I challenged my students last semester to think out of the box and do an art project that had to do with Accounting. It was a lot of fun. We learned a lot. We never solved the debate whether Accounting is an art or a science, but it clearly made all the students really think about it from a different viewpoint.

Janet Maltbie: [06:11](#) And I bet it was a lot of fun. I think one person made a CD cover, I believe. And another person did I think lifecycle. What was it? I'm the life life of the party.

Claudia Lubaski: [06:25](#) Yes. LIFO is an Accounting method, which is last in, first out as opposed to FIFO, which is first in, first out. So one of my students made a little plaque that said she was the life of the party. So the last one in the first one out I suppose, or maybe just the life of the party. I'm not really sure, but we had a lot of fun with that and I will continue that project this semester as well because.

Janet Maltbie: [06:48](#) So you had fun.

Claudia Lubaski: [06:49](#) Yes, yes, yes. Because we had to put some fun into Accounting. Yes.

Janet Maltbie: [06:53](#) Okay. Well let's back up a little bit here and get a just a general overview. I'm going to ask you some kind of basic questions here because I mean, why, why is Accounting so important to a businesses?

Claudia Lubaski: [07:05](#) Accounting is important because it, it puts together the puzzle of a business. So whether you're doing a financial statement and audit a fraud investigation, whatever the case might be, it puts together all of the results of all the hard work, the strategies, the planning, the implementation of a company you can use to financial statements, a balance sheet and a cash flow statement and tell the complete health of a company. So it's not only good for the business owner to know if they're going in the

right or the wrong direction and to make informed decisions. It's good for investors, it's good for third parties that might want to merge or acquire. So it really puts together and shows the result of the hard work strategies and what direction the company should go into.

Janet Maltbie: [07:56](#)

So what does an accountant do?

Claudia Lubaski: [07:59](#)

There's kind of a misnomer that an accountant keeps books, but a bookkeeper is different than an accountant. A bookkeeper would be more of a clerical position and compile or do a compilation of numbers and put together a financial statement. And Accounting is more of a strategist in today's world of global trading global economy, an accountant needs to be a business partner. They need to critically think, help the owner formulate the strategies of moving forward, whether that's downsizing or upsizing or whatever the case might be. And it's not only while the company's in business, but the strategy includes also succession planning. Let's say the owner is thinking of downsizing, retiring. How do I pass that business on to family members? Or do I sell? Do I merge? Do I, whatever the case might be. So the strategy is, is at the life of the business during the business and at the end of the business it's like a three pronged facet.

Janet Maltbie: [09:02](#)

Interesting. So you really not just working behind the computer running numbers, you, there is a lot of personal interaction with people.

Claudia Lubaski: [09:12](#)

There is especially nowadays that might not have been the case back when, but we're a global economy now and folks that want to go into auditing, they're going to do worldwide traveling because they're going to have subsidiaries oversee, they need to audit as well as, as domestic. So it is a global kind of a career and you are very much visual and what you do is very visual.

Janet Maltbie: [09:36](#)

Okay. CPA, what does that stand for and what is a CPA?

Claudia Lubaski: [09:41](#)

Okay. A CPA is a Certified Public Accountant. What makes a CPA stand out from any other account is that you can do attestation engagements, which means signing off on an audit. So only a CPA can do an audit and sign off on that audit.

Janet Maltbie: [09:58](#)

Sign off on an audit. Does that mean that I'm assuming you have a license to become a CPA?

Claudia Lubaski: [10:04](#)

Yes.

Janet Maltbie: [10:05](#) So you're held responsible for the signing off of that essentially what testifying that it's true. Tell me more about that.

Claudia Lubaski: [10:15](#) Yes. A CPA is the license with whatever state you reside in. So if you're in Ohio, it would be with the account accountancy board of Ohio and you are responsible for saying what is in that audit is free of material misrepresentations. Meaning there might be small things here and there, but materially a person can rely on those audited financial statements to make a decision, whether it's accreditor an investor, whatever the case might be.

Janet Maltbie: [10:43](#) So, but you've talked about bookkeeper, you've talked about accountant and CPA. Let's, let's talk numbers in terms of what do people make? I'm assuming that a bookkeeper does not make as much as a CPA.

Claudia Lubaski: [10:57](#) No, a bookkeeper does not. That would be a clerical position and you might want to stop at maybe an Associate, which is a two year degree and Accountant would require a four year degree. So obviously there's a different pay scale from a two year to four year degree as far as what they make. It would depend if you go into public Accounting, corporate Accounting, forensic Accounting or what specific career path you took. A partner in a CPA firm though you can go all the way up to one \$50 to \$200 an hour.

Janet Maltbie: [11:26](#) Okay.

Claudia Lubaski: [11:26](#) If you get a CPA designation, you usually make about 50% more than somebody without the CPA designation.

Janet Maltbie: [11:34](#) Okay. So there's, there's a lot of cashola to be made here.

Claudia Lubaski: [11:38](#) Yes, yes, there is.

Janet Maltbie: [11:41](#) Okay. Especially if you're good with numbers. I'm assuming that you need to be good with numbers.

Claudia Lubaski: [11:46](#) Um you need to, you need to be passionate about it. And if you'd like to put puzzles together, you would a good accountant. Because to me that's what it's all about. Whether you're putting that financial statement together, that audit together, the picture of what I've accomplished this year, whether you're doing a forensic fraud examination, it's about putting the pieces of the puzzle together with integrity and ethics. And you do need to love numbers and you need to be passionate about putting that puzzle together.

- Janet Maltbie: [12:15](#) Right. You've taught for many years. Okay. Accounting is not an easy class. There's challenges to it. But when you see students really succeed in your classes, what are the qualities and the skills that you see in them?
- Claudia Lubaski: [12:32](#) Through the years, what I have seen is the student that comes in, one with the passion for numbers. Two, the dedication to learn the subject matter. Accounting is the language of business and that first-class isn't any different than walking into a French class or Spanish class learning a foreign language for the first time. I encourage students to form study groups, bounce ideas off each other, set time aside every day for Accounting because Accounting takes repetition. And if you don't use it, you lose it. So that repetition, repetition will eventually cause them to internalize the subject matter and be successful as they move on through the first or second course and they decide they like it or don't. They might just be taking it for some other reason. If they go on that repetition is key. So I bring in former students that are successful sitting for the CPA exam. I have them talk to my students on how they set up study groups different things. I had one student that was really instrumental and made an impact on my class. He had a girlfriend. He told the girlfriend, I have to do my study group Monday through Thursday night. Don't text me, don't call. And if you stick to that while I get through this program, we'll have a nice date every Saturday night. And it really resonated with a lot of my students and a lot of my students ended up following that, that kind of advice. So I would say dedication because when you decide to sit for one of the certification exams, you really have to be dedicated and not be involved in too many outside activities in life, other than your job or your school and studying. And that determination that, that just will and that want to succeed have to kind of be buried deep and it'll carry you through.
- Janet Maltbie: [14:34](#) And be committed to the work.
- Claudia Lubaski: [14:35](#) Committed to the work. Yes.
- Janet Maltbie: [14:37](#) I remember one of the projects that one of your students did. I'm just, it just came to my memory. It was the the CP or the Accounting food pyramid. In the, I think coffee was on the bottom of it.
- Claudia Lubaski: [14:47](#) Yes.
- Janet Maltbie: [14:49](#) For caffeine or something like that. With a treat on top.

Claudia Lubaski: [14:52](#) Yes.

Janet Maltbie: [14:52](#) I think after the, as a reward for completing the work.

Claudia Lubaski: [14:55](#) And that's how it is.

Janet Maltbie: [14:57](#) Claudia, thank you so much for coming and speaking with us today.

Claudia Lubaski: [14:59](#) Thank you. My pleasure.

Janet Maltbie: [15:01](#) We're going to take a break and when we return, we'll speak with Laurie Gibbs who is an academic advisor and specializes in the helping students interested in completing a business degree to include Accounting at Lorain County Community College and beyond. She'll be talking about the right sequence of courses you need to take if you're interested in pursuing the degree at LCCC. This is the Career Exploration Podcast on LCCCradio.com the boom. We'll be right back.

Music: [15:27](#) [Music]

Speaker 4: [15:35](#) Hi, I'm Janet Maltbie. Are you undecided about your college major? If so, I encourage you to sign up for my SDEV 103 Career Exploration and Life Planning class offered online through LCCC. The course helps you decide if a career is right for you and it helps you to explore other college majors and professions you may not have considered. It's a late starting two credit course that begins mid semester and can be completed totally online. Call (440) 366-4033 to add the class or to make an appointment to see an advisor about enrolling in SDEV 103 Career Exploration and Life Planning. The number to call is (440) 366-4033 or if you are already an LCCC student, go online to add the course to your MyCampus account today.

Music: [16:25](#) [Music]

Janet Maltbie: [16:36](#) Welcome back if you're just joining us, this is the Career Exploration Podcast on LCCCradio.com. My special guests are Claudia Lubaski and Laurie Gibbs and our topic of conversation is , "So you want to complete a degree in Accounting." We just heard from Claudia, who's Professor Emeritas here at LCCC and teaches our Accounting classes. Next we'll hear from Laurie Gibbs who advises business students and can help you chart a course for success and degree completion in Accounting at Lorain County Community College and beyond. Laurie is the lead team advisor for students who are interested in pursuing a

degree in business related degrees. At LCCC, she has three years experience advising students on the required and recommended courses to take while completing an Associate's degree on this campus, but she also helps students transition to a four year college so they can complete a bachelor's degree in Accounting through our University Partnership program or other Ohio Colleges and Universities. Welcome to the program, Laurie Gibbs, so glad to have you here. If a person wants to start at LCCC and is interested in Accounting, what classes should they take the very first semester?

- Laurie Gibbs: [17:48](#) On our Accounting curriculum guide, we have five classes a student will typically take in their first semester, including Accounting 151 which is their intro to Accounting, Economics, their English. Normally a statistics class if they're going to be going on to a partnership institution and our SDEV 101, which is an intro, how to be successful in college,
- Janet Maltbie: [18:08](#) That's a lot of classes.
- Laurie Gibbs: [18:10](#) It is a lot of classes.
- Janet Maltbie: [18:11](#) Is that 12 credits?
- Laurie Gibbs: [18:12](#) It is actually 14 credits.
- Janet Maltbie: [18:13](#) 14 credits.
- Laurie Gibbs: [18:14](#) The first semester.
- Janet Maltbie: [18:16](#) That's a lot. For the first year, first semester.
- Laurie Gibbs: [18:21](#) It is a heavy semester. And I will tell you a lot of our students come in and it's a very important part of the very first discussion that you have with a student, is trying to see if that kind of a schedule will work with the rest of their lives. It's important to talk about a student who might be working part time or full time and the other responsibilities that they have to see if this is actually a good plan for that particular student.
- Janet Maltbie: [18:43](#) Right. Because if they have a lot of things going on, that could be a daunting schedule.
- Laurie Gibbs: [18:49](#) It, it certainly can be. And it is for a lot of our students and Accounting is always one of our big classes that we talk about to the students coming in. That this is, it's a four credit class, but it's more than that. It has Accounting labs, it takes a lot of time

and dedication and it can be a class that a lot of our students want to withdraw from when they get stressed out and that's an unfortunate piece to that because taking the Accounting and getting through that in the very first semester is important sequentially in completing the program in a two year timeframe.

Janet Maltbie: [19:18](#)

Talk more about that, that sequence and why that's so important.

Laurie Gibbs: [19:22](#)

The way that our curriculum works here at the college, a student needs to take Accounting 151 and 152 in their very first fall and spring semesters and the reason why that becomes so important for them is that our intermediate Accounting 251 is only offered in the fall semester as a full term class. So for students who want to stay on track and want to complete within that two year timeframe, it's a critical component. More important than maybe even some of the other classes that we had mentioned getting through that sequentially.

Janet Maltbie: [19:50](#)

So you're really encouraging them. If they decide that the 14 credits is too much and they come back and say, I think I need to drop something. You're really encouraging them to stick through that Accounting class and don't drop it because then later on they'll be out of sequence.

Laurie Gibbs: [20:05](#)

We really are and in fact I had this very conversation with a student this morning who reached out to me about her Accounting class, has a child, has other responsibilities at home and is very stressed out already. Within the first week of the Accounting class. We had to have that discussion about, well if you do this now that these are going to be the consequences of not having completed. That having to wait until the Spring and there are options for a student who does for some reason choose not to complete the 151 in the fall semester. They can take it in the Spring semester and then if they have the motivation and desire and want to be able to come back in the Fall semester to take that 251 course. The Accounting 152 is offered in the summer semester. It's just done at a much quicker pace, taking 16 weeks of material into an 8 week time frame. But again, for the right student, for a very motivated student who wants to get back on track, that is an option.

Janet Maltbie: [20:58](#)

Right. Is there tutoring available specifically for the Accounting class?

Laurie Gibbs: [21:03](#)

Absolutely. We have scheduled appointments that students can do during certain times of the week. We also have walk-ins that

are available, I believe Tuesdays and Thursday evenings and there's also online tutoring. So if a student goes to e-tutoring and puts that into the LCCC search box, they can submit their information and be reached out to by tutoring services to have support from that way as well.

- Janet Maltbie: [21:25](#) Yeah, and Claudia was talking about how important it is to get together with other students.
- Janet Maltbie: [21:28](#) Absolutely.
- Janet Maltbie: [21:30](#) Have study groups, so you're not going through this by yourself.
- Laurie Gibbs: [21:33](#) Right. That's something that we talk about in SDEV 101 a lot is that inter-dependence and using other students as resources and opening up the doors and allowing yourself to let others help you get through that process as well.
- Janet Maltbie: [21:45](#) Can you talk about a student that you recently helped overcome some of the challenges that they were facing as they were pursuing their degree in Accounting?
- Laurie Gibbs: [21:54](#) Our students, as you know, Janet from working on at advising, all of our students here, uare most of our students, it's not figuring out if they have a challenge, it's what challenge that they have. It's trying to remove those barriers. It's trying to make things possible. I had a student this morning who also was having difficulty not being able to make their CSS 121 class work for them because the computer that they have at home isn't functioning with the required components that they need to be successful in the course. However, instead of just kind of letting this go, I always try to take the extra step as many of our advisors do. And so I reached out to the instructor and I said, you know, have we really determined that the student can't complete the course in the way that she needs to? And unfortunately the answer was actually yes. However the next step was, well, what about our computer recycling program here and is that something that we could possibly put into place? So that's our next step. And we, I reached out to Hikmat Chedid um, hat's going to be coming up in the next couple of weeks. So what we're going to talk about with this student is the option of withdrawing from the 16 week class, but adding a late start class and then hopefully being able to supply her with the equipment that she needs with a computer that will work and function as she needs to so that she can continue on and continue with the degree that she wants.

- Janet Maltbie: [23:14](#) Yeah, that is great. And I hope that students realize that that's, that's part of the role that the advisor plays here on the campus. If you're having issues or challenges, reach out to your advisor and oftentimes there is a person there that can help you with the support that you needed and come up with some strategies to overcome some of the issues or some of the challenges that you faced. You do not have to go through this alone.
- Music: [23:37](#) [Music]
- Janet Maltbie: [23:41](#) Laurie, thank you so much for being a part of this conversation. I hope that a lot of students listened to it and reach out to you, Laurie, especially when they're considering a degree in Accounting and so that they can reach out and and and talk about this very important major here on this campus. If you are considering a degree in Accounting, I would urge you to make an appointment to see Laurie Gibbs or a member of the business advising team. They're here to help you choose the right classes, in the right sequence and chart a course for success here on the Lorain County Community College campus and beyond. The number to call to make an appointment is (440) 366-4033 the number again is (440) 366-4033
- Janet Maltbie: [24:26](#) Next on our program is a student who has completed a bachelor's degree in Accounting in a sitting for her CPA licensing exam.
- Janet Maltbie: [24:33](#) It's all here right now on LCCRadio.com the Boom will be right back.
- Music: [24:39](#) [Music].
- Janet Maltbie: [24:50](#) The Boom is a student radio station on the campus of Lorain County Community College. The views and opinions expressed by the on air talent do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Lorain County Community College faculty and staff. Thank you for listening to college radio, heard 'round the world LCCRadio.com, the Boom.
- Janet Maltbie: [25:17](#) Welcome back. This is the Career Exploration Podcast on LCCRadio.com, the Boom. I'm Janet Maltbie. Today we are discussing Accounting as a profession in ways you can be a success here on the LCCC campus and beyond. With me now is Erika Leimbach. Erika got her start here on the LCCC campus as a high school student through our college credit plus program. She completed her Associate of Arts degree, then transferred to

the Ohio State University. She is currently in the process of completing her CPA licensing exam. Welcome to the program, Erica.

- Erika Leimbach: [25:53](#) Thank you.
- Janet Maltbie: [25:55](#) Tell us about your time here at LCCC.
- Erika Leimbach: [25:57](#) So I started at LCCC part time my freshman and sophomore year. I just took a couple classes, my freshman, sophomore year of high school and then starting my junior year of high school and into my senior year of high school I came to LC full time instead of going to the high school for any classes at all.
- Janet Maltbie: [26:19](#) Wow. That's, that must have been, was that a little scary doing that?
- Erika Leimbach: [26:23](#) It was definitely scary. My sister came with me, which helped a lot. She is a year younger than me, so she started her sophomore year. But only the first semester we took classes together. After that. It was kind of, you're on your own.
- Janet Maltbie: [26:37](#) You took several Accounting courses here?
- Erika Leimbach: [26:39](#) Yes, I took 151 and 152.
- Janet Maltbie: [26:41](#) And why you take those two classes?
- Erika Leimbach: [26:45](#) So I knew that I be graduating with my high school diploma as well as my Associate of Arts at the same time and transferring to Ohio state. I knew that I would have my GEs completely done if not almost done, and I thought that I wanted Accounting, but I didn't want to end up at Ohio state going, yes, Accounting! Turns out I hate it, and having to start all over and not having something productive to do in the meantime, since my GEs were done. So I decided to take the first two Accounting classes just to try them out. Make sure that I liked them and make sure it was what I wanted to do, at least for the next however many years of my life.
- Janet Maltbie: [27:27](#) Right. Accounting is not easy.
- Erika Leimbach: [27:30](#) Yeah, it definitely, it's very different from a lot of other things.
- Janet Maltbie: [27:35](#) You need to be dedicated to the major. Right. What helped you pass the classes and understand those concepts?

- Erika Leimbach: [27:42](#) One, my brain is wired to be very logical, so that definitely helped. Just, I'm a very logical person and I love solving puzzles and problems, but also I am very passionate about Accounting specifically about taxes. And so just the idea of, okay, this makes sense, like my debits equal my credits. That's so exciting! And I'd get like all of a sudden shot of endorphins whenever I was able to balance something. So I think the passion was kind of what kept me going when it got difficult.
- Janet Maltbie: [28:15](#) At what point did you decide that Accounting was right for you.
- Erika Leimbach: [28:19](#) At the end of Accounting 151 and I loved it way more than I thought I could ever love an academic class. And I just thought it was so fun. I love taking Accounting exams cause it was just a huge puzzle and I was like, okay, like this, this definitely fits me.
- Janet Maltbie: [28:39](#) And at, at a young age, did you like working with numbers or
- Erika Leimbach: [28:44](#) I always liked solving puzzles and logic problems and I always was interested in business. So my mom owns a business and I live on a farm and so farm business and my mom's, it was always just the talk at the dinner table and I thought it was super interesting and Accounting is the language of business. Like if you don't understand what's happening with the numbers, you can't really run a business. So I think those two things just tied in really, really well.
- Janet Maltbie: [29:13](#) Did you feel that LCCC prepared you well for the bachelor's degree in Accounting?
- Erika Leimbach: [29:18](#) I really do. Because I did transfer over to Ohio State right after I graduated from high school. I was in the dorms with a bunch of people who had just taken AP credit or even no college prep credits and just come straight from high school. And they all talked about like these classes are so difficult. Like just this schedule and I just sat there with another girl who'd actually also gone to LC and were like, I don't understand what's going on. Like this is easier than high school was. So I think especially with the GEs, some of my classes at LC were even more difficult than my ones at Ohio State. So it made the transfer super smooth. I was set up, ready to go from the moment I stepped onto Ohio State's campus because of what I experienced here.
- Janet Maltbie: [30:09](#) What would you say to students who are just starting out here in our planning to transfer to another college?

Erika Leimbach: [30:14](#) I think even the classes that you don't really understand why you're taking them. Just use them as like, okay, this is another good way that I learn or this is another way to study. Just kind of use them as study practices. Because even the classes that you don't see a direct impact towards your degree, whether that be your Accounting or not, it's going to get harder as you go. And I think especially with Accounting, if you want to get your CPA, the degree is just the first part of it. And then you have studying for the CPA. So every opportunity you get to learn how to study or learn how to learn more efficiently is worth it.

Janet Maltbie: [30:55](#) You're, you're studying to pass the CPA exam right now? Yes. How much time are you putting in for that?

Erika Leimbach: [31:01](#) I try to put in about 40 hours a week. There's four exams, so you have to pass all four exams within 18 months of each other and that's just the exam part of the CPA certification.

Janet Maltbie: [31:13](#) So a big chunk of your life right now is just studying for this exam.

Erika Leimbach: [31:17](#) All I've done since the first week of May this year is just study full time. When I was taught, when I talking to CPAs and people that are currently CPAs, the biggest advice that they gave me about studying is don't try to do it while you're working. If you have to, it's definitely accomplishable. But if you have a choice, take some time study. So that's what I'm doing. I'm taking the first half of this year to just study, take my exams until I pass and put my effort into it. And then I'll use the last couple months of my gap year to hopefully travel or maybe just work and save money. We'll see.

Janet Maltbie: [32:00](#) Nice. So you graduated in May?

Erika Leimbach: [32:02](#) I did.

Janet Maltbie: [32:03](#) And so now you're taking some time off to study for the CPA exam.

Erika Leimbach: [32:10](#) Yes.

Janet Maltbie: [32:10](#) And then you're gonna when do you plan to actually start working?

Erika Leimbach: [32:14](#) I will start in late October of 2020.

Janet Maltbie: [32:19](#) So a year from now? Yes. Wow. Where were you thinking about studying or going abroad or, or travel?

Erika Leimbach: [32:26](#) So I'm hoping to go to Europe. I never studied abroad when I was at LC or at Ohio State. And so I tried to save all of the money throughout college I would have spent on study abroad. With the intent of I'm going to go for a couple months and try to do it cheaply, stay in hostels, but I'll enjoy Europe without having to worry about the studying. Like, I would have done for study abroad.

Janet Maltbie: [32:51](#) Erika, I wish you the best as you complete these CPA exams and then have a great break and then come back refreshed to start your new journey. We'd come back and let us know how the travels went and, and how the new job is going?

Erika Leimbach: [33:08](#) Of course.

Janet Maltbie: [33:10](#) Thank you so much for meeting with us today. If you're interested in the Accounting program here on the LCCC campus, call (440) 366-4033 and asked to meet with a business advisor today. That number again is (440) 366-4033 you've been listening to the Career Exploration Podcast on LCCCradio.com, the Boom. I'm Janet Maltbie. Thanks for listening.

Music: [33:35](#) [Music].