

S.NO	Institute/Course	website	Overview of the Institute	Eligibility	Papers	Passing Requirement	Other Courses offered
5.	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)	http://www.aicpa.org/	<p>Committed to member service and the public interest, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and its predecessors have been serving the accounting profession since 1887.</p> <p>The Uniform CPA Examination is the examination that individuals must pass in order to qualify for licensure as Certified Public Accountants in any of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands).</p> <p>The Uniform CPA Examination is one of the "Three Es" - Education, Examination, and Experience - that are required for licensure as a CPA. Consequently, passing the Examination is not, in itself, sufficient to meet requirements for licensure.</p> <p>The Fundamental Purpose of the AICPA</p> <p>The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants is the national, professional organization for all Certified Public Accountants. Its mission is to provide members with the resources, information, and leadership that enable them to provide valuable services in the highest professional manner to benefit the public as well as employers and clients.</p> <p>In fulfilling its mission, the AICPA works with state CPA organizations and gives priority to those areas where public reliance on CPA skills is most significant.</p> <p>AICPA OBJECTIVES</p> <p>To achieve its mission, the Institute:</p> <p>A. Advocacy</p> <p>Serves as the national representative of CPAs before governments, regulatory bodies and other organizations in protecting and promoting members' interests.</p> <p>B. Certification and Licensing</p> <p>Seeks the highest possible level of uniform certification and licensing standards and promotes and protects the CPA designation.</p> <p>C. Communications</p> <p>Promotes public awareness and confidence in the integrity, objectivity, competence and professionalism of CPAs and monitors the needs and views of CPAs.</p> <p>D. Recruiting and Education</p> <p>Encourages highly qualified individuals to become CPAs and supports the development of outstanding academic programs.</p> <p>E. Standards and Performance</p> <p>Establishes professional standards; assist members in continually improving their professional conduct, performance and expertise; and monitors such performance to enforce current standards and requirements.</p>	<p>International candidates are eligible to qualify as U.S. Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) as long as they meet Board of Accountancy eligibility requirements in one of 54 U.S jurisdictions - the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. (The 55th jurisdiction, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, is not yet ready to accept CPA applicants.)</p> <p>International candidates must be prepared to take the Uniform CPA Examination in one of the 54 U.S. jurisdictions. (It is not offered anywhere else.) They must also be able to take the CPA Examination in English. (It is not available in any other language.)</p> <p><i>Qualifying through a board of accountancy is the ONLY route to the CPA designation. There is NO central professional body in the U.S. through which candidates may qualify as CPAs</i></p> <p>All CPA candidates must pass the Uniform CPA Examination to qualify for a CPA certificate and license (i.e., permit to practice) to practice public accounting. While the exam is the same no matter where it's taken, every state/jurisdiction has its own set of education and experience requirements that individuals must meet.</p> <p>Most states/jurisdictions require at least a bachelor's degree to be eligible to become a CPA. As for experience, most states/jurisdictions require at least two years public accounting experience. Many states/jurisdictions also accept non-public accounting experience (e.g., industry, government), although the number of years deemed acceptable are typically higher than for public accounting. In addition, some states/jurisdictions have a one-tier system, whereby candidates must pass the CPA exam and fulfill the experience requirements to obtain both the certificate and license. Others have a two-tier system in which you can obtain the certificate upon passing the exam, then must fulfill the experience requirements to obtain the license to practice in public accounting. Because so many factors determine whether a state/jurisdiction is considered one- or two-tier, it is recommended that you contact your state board for interpretation.</p> <p>The 150 Hour Requirement</p> <p>A certified public accountant (CPA) in today's environment must not only have a high level of technical competence and a sense of commitment to service, but must also have good communications and analytical skills, and the ability to work well with people. Employers are looking for individuals who have the ability to analyze and evaluate complex business problems and the interpersonal skills and maturity to make decisions in a client- and customer-service environment.</p> <p>To obtain the required body of knowledge and to develop the skills and abilities needed to be successful CPAs, students should complete 150 semester hours of education. Many states/jurisdictions now require or will require 150 semester hours of education for obtaining the CPA certification. Colleges and universities in these states/jurisdictions determine the curriculum for pre-licensure education of CPAs; it typically features a good balance of accounting, business, and general education.</p> <p>To Become a CPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 E's are required for licensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Education – Exam or Uniform CPA Examination – Experience • State Boards of Accountancy determine the laws and rules for each state/jurisdiction <p>Visit NASBA (National Association of State Boards of Accountancy) for each state's requirements http://www.nasba.org/</p> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements vary by state/jurisdiction • Most states now require 150 semester hours • Number of accounting hours (in the 150 total) is dependent on state requirements <p>As of July 2008, <i>Currently six jurisdictions do NOT have the 150 hour requirement in place: California, Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont and the Virgin Islands.</i></p> <p>Uniform CPA Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer-based format • Consists of 4 sections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Auditing and Attestation – Business Environment and Concepts – Financial Auditing and Reporting – Regulation • Same test no matter where it is taken • Passing score is 75 on a 0-99 scale • Question types include multiple choice, simulation and written communication • Eligibility to sit for exam depends on state <p>According to the CPA Examination Mission Statement, the purpose of the Exam is "To admit individuals into the accounting profession only after they have demonstrated the entry-level knowledge and skills necessary to protect the public interest in a rapidly changing business and financial environment."</p>	<p>Auditing and Attestation (AUD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the engagement • Internal controls • Obtain and document information • Review engagement and evaluate information • Prepare communications <p>Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business structure • Economic concepts • Financial management • Information technology • Planning and measurement <p>Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts and standards for financial statements • Typical items in financial statements • Specific types of transactions and events • Accounting and reporting for governmental entities • Accounting and reporting for nongovernmental and not-for-profit organizations <p>Regulation (REG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and professional responsibility • Business law • Federal tax procedures and accounting issues • Federal taxation of property transactions • Federal taxation—individuals • Federal taxation—entities 	<p>Generally, boards of accountancy report scores on a numeric scale of 0-99, with 75 as a passing score. This scale does NOT represent "percent correct." A score of 75 reflects examination performance that has been judged to represent the knowledge and skills needed to protect the public. The New York State Board of Accountancy has elected to report a pass or fail status instead of numeric scores.</p>	

S.NO	Institute/Course	website	Overview of the Institute	Eligibility	Papers	Passing Requirement	Other Courses offered
5.	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)	http://www.aicpa.org/	<p>Committed to member service and the public interest, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and its predecessors have been serving the accounting profession since 1887.</p> <p>The Uniform CPA Examination is the examination that individuals must pass in order to qualify for licensure as Certified Public Accountants in any of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands).</p> <p>The Uniform CPA Examination is one of the "Three Es" - Education, Examination, and Experience - that are required for licensure as a CPA. Consequently, passing the Examination is not, in itself, sufficient to meet requirements for licensure.</p> <p>The Fundamental Purpose of the AICPA</p> <p>The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants is the national, professional organization for all Certified Public Accountants. Its mission is to provide members with the resources, information, and leadership that enable them to provide valuable services in the highest professional manner to benefit the public as well as employers and clients.</p> <p>In fulfilling its mission, the AICPA works with state CPA organizations and gives priority to those areas where public reliance on CPA skills is most significant.</p> <p>AICPA OBJECTIVES</p> <p>To achieve its mission, the Institute:</p> <p>A. Advocacy</p> <p>Serves as the national representative of CPAs before governments, regulatory bodies and other organizations in protecting and promoting members' interests.</p> <p>B. Certification and Licensing</p> <p>Seeks the highest possible level of uniform certification and licensing standards and promotes and protects the CPA designation.</p> <p>C. Communications</p> <p>Promotes public awareness and confidence in the integrity, objectivity, competence and professionalism of CPAs and monitors the needs and views of CPAs.</p> <p>D. Recruiting and Education</p> <p>Encourages highly qualified individuals to become CPAs and supports the development of outstanding academic programs.</p> <p>E. Standards and Performance</p> <p>Establishes professional standards; assist members in continually improving their professional conduct, performance and expertise; and monitors such performance to enforce current standards and requirements.</p>	<p>International candidates are eligible to qualify as U.S. Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) as long as they meet Board of Accountancy eligibility requirements in one of 54 U.S jurisdictions - the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. (The 55th jurisdiction, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, is not yet ready to accept CPA applicants.)</p> <p>International candidates must be prepared to take the Uniform CPA Examination in one of the 54 U.S. jurisdictions. (It is not offered anywhere else.) They must also be able to take the CPA Examination in English. (It is not available in any other language.)</p> <p><i>Qualifying through a board of accountancy is the ONLY route to the CPA designation. There is NO central professional body in the U.S. through which candidates may qualify as CPAs</i></p> <p>All CPA candidates must pass the Uniform CPA Examination to qualify for a CPA certificate and license (i.e., permit to practice) to practice public accounting. While the exam is the same no matter where it's taken, every state/jurisdiction has its own set of education and experience requirements that individuals must meet.</p> <p>Most states/jurisdictions require at least a bachelor's degree to be eligible to become a CPA. As for experience, most states/jurisdictions require at least two years public accounting experience. Many states/jurisdictions also accept non-public accounting experience (e.g., industry, government), although the number of years deemed acceptable are typically higher than for public accounting. In addition, some states/jurisdictions have a one-tier system, whereby candidates must pass the CPA exam and fulfill the experience requirements to obtain both the certificate and license. Others have a two-tier system in which you can obtain the certificate upon passing the exam, then must fulfill the experience requirements to obtain the license to practice in public accounting. Because so many factors determine whether a state/jurisdiction is considered one- or two-tier, it is recommended that you contact your state board for interpretation.</p> <p>The 150 Hour Requirement</p> <p>A certified public accountant (CPA) in today's environment must not only have a high level of technical competence and a sense of commitment to service, but must also have good communications and analytical skills, and the ability to work well with people. Employers are looking for individuals who have the ability to analyze and evaluate complex business problems and the interpersonal skills and maturity to make decisions in a client- and customer-service environment.</p> <p>To obtain the required body of knowledge and to develop the skills and abilities needed to be successful CPAs, students should complete 150 semester hours of education. Many states/jurisdictions now require or will require 150 semester hours of education for obtaining the CPA certification. Colleges and universities in these states/jurisdictions determine the curriculum for pre-licensure education of CPAs; it typically features a good balance of accounting, business, and general education.</p> <p>To Become a CPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 E's are required for licensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Exam or Uniform CPA Examination - Experience • State Boards of Accountancy determine the laws and rules for each state/jurisdiction <p>Visit NASBA (National Association of State Boards of Accountancy) for each state's requirements http://www.nasba.org/</p> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements vary by state/jurisdiction • Most states now require 150 semester hours • Number of accounting hours (in the 150 total) is dependent on state requirements <p>As of July 2008, <i>Currently six jurisdictions do NOT have the 150 hour requirement in place: California, Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont and the Virgin Islands.</i></p> <p>Uniform CPA Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer-based format • Consists of 4 sections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Auditing and Attestation - Business Environment and Concepts - Financial Auditing and Reporting - Regulation • Same test no matter where it is taken • Passing score is 75 on a 0-99 scale • Question types include multiple choice, simulation and written communication • Eligibility to sit for exam depends on state <p>According to the CPA Examination Mission Statement, the purpose of the Exam is "To admit individuals into the accounting profession only after they have demonstrated the entry-level knowledge and skills necessary to protect the public interest in a rapidly changing business and financial environment."</p>	<p>Auditing and Attestation (AUD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the engagement • Internal controls • Obtain and document information • Review engagement and evaluate information • Prepare communications <p>Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business structure • Economic concepts • Financial management • Information technology • Planning and measurement <p>Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts and standards for financial statements • Typical items in financial statements • Specific types of transactions and events • Accounting and reporting for governmental entities • Accounting and reporting for nongovernmental and not-for-profit organizations <p>Regulation (REG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and professional responsibility • Business law • Federal tax procedures and accounting issues • Federal taxation of property transactions • Federal taxation—individuals • Federal taxation—entities 	<p>Generally, boards of accountancy report scores on a numeric scale of 0-99, with 75 as a passing score. This scale does NOT represent "percent correct." A score of 75 reflects examination performance that has been judged to represent the knowledge and skills needed to protect the public. The New York State Board of Accountancy has elected to report a pass or fail status instead of numeric scores.</p>	

Auditing and Attestation (AUD). This section covers knowledge of auditing procedures, generally accepted auditing standards and other standards related to attest engagements, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge.

Business Environment and Concepts (BEC). This section covers knowledge of general business environment and business concepts that candidates need to know in order to understand the underlying business reasons for and accounting implications of business transactions, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge.

Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR). This section covers knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles for business enterprises, not-for-profit organizations, and governmental entities, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge.

Regulation (REG). This section covers knowledge of federal taxation, ethics, professional and legal responsibilities, and business law, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge.

Experience

- A candidate is an applicant for a CPA license
- Many states require the candidate to have 1 – 2 years experience under a CPA
- Additional requirements vary by the candidate's:
 - Education – e.g. Graduate degree vs. 150 hours of undergraduate
 - Employer(s) – e.g. Public accounting firm vs. industry
 - Type of work – e.g. Tax professional vs. auditor

Licensure

- Licenses gives the right to practice public accounting
- Some states require Ethics exam
- Must comply with rules of professional conduct

Maintaining the License

- Continuing Professional Education (CPE)
 - Typically 40 hours per year
 - Types (e.g. computer-based vs. group/classroom learning) of CPE vary by jurisdiction
 - May need Ethics training and compliance
 - Subjects vary depending to type of license and area of employment
- Renewal every period

Beyond

- Join state society, AICPA and volunteer
- Specialize in one or more areas (e.g. CFF)

Most requirements are determined by the state/jurisdiction in which you hope to practice

Resources

- NASBA web site at <http://www.nasba.org/>
- AICPA web site for CPA candidates at <http://www.aicpa.org/Becoming+a+CPA/CPA+Candidates+and+Students/>
- Start Here Go Places web site at <http://www.startheregoplaces.com/>