



fueled by AICPA



What does it take to become a CPA?

Presented by ThisWayToCPA





What is a CPA?

- Stands for Certified Public Accountant
- Trusted financial advisor who helps individuals, businesses, and other organizations plan and reach their financial goals
- All CPAs are accountants, but not all accountants are CPAs

To become a CPA

- 3 E's are required for licensure:
 - Education
 - [Exam or Uniform CPA Examination](#)
 - [Experience](#)
- State Boards of Accountancy determine the laws and rules for each state/jurisdiction
- Visit ThisWayToCPA.com for [state requirements](#)

Education

- Requirements vary by state/jurisdiction
- Require 150 semester hours
- Number of accounting hours is dependent on [state requirements](#)



Uniform CPA Exam

- Computer-based format
- [Consists of 4 sections](#)
 - Auditing and Attestation (AUD)
 - Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)
 - Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)
 - Regulation (REG)
- 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 requirements](#)

- 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 [state](#) require ethics exam
- Must comply with rules of professional conduct
- [CPA Exam & Licensure Center](#)

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



AICPA Student Affiliate Membership

Become an [AICPA Student Affiliate member](#)

- Benefits include:
 - Exclusive scholarship opportunities
 - Member-only competitions
 - Special discounts on conferences
 - Access to industry news and publications
 - Exclusive discounts and offers on products and services from partners
 - Deals and access to the latest industry information at a fraction of regular prices

State Society membership

- State CPA Society vs. State Board of Accountancy
 - Society is a membership organization
 - Board sets policy
- How do State Societies and AICPA differ?
 - National vs. state/jurisdiction
 - Work closely together in many cases



Let's review

- Education
 - [Bachelor's degree](#)
 - 150 semester hours
- Exam
 - Apply to sit based on [state requirements](#)
 - Pass [all 4 parts](#) with a score of 75 or higher
- Experience
 - 1-2 years in accounting
 - Under a CPA

Let's review (continued)

- License
 - Meet state/jurisdiction 3 E's requirements
 - Other requirements (e.g., ethics exam)
- Continuing Professional Education
 - 40 hours of CPE per year
 - Renew license every 1, 2 or 3 years
- Beyond
 - Join state society, AICPA and volunteer
 - Specialize in one or more areas (e.g., CFF)

- Understand your [state/jurisdiction's](#) requirements
- Take it one step at a time!
 - Focus on the [education](#) requirement first
 - Become eligible to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination
 - [Study for \(and pass!\) the CPA Exam](#)
 - Gain the required experience

What's ThisWayToCPA.com?

- AICPA's website for college students and CPA Exam candidates
- A virtual warehouse chock full of the information (and motivation) you need to pursue a career in accounting
- Includes features like
 - [Find Your Fit](#)
 - [CPA Profiles](#)
 - [CPA Exam & Licensure Center](#)

Other resources

- AICPA website for CPA candidates
 - www.aicpa.org/Membership/Join
- AICPA's website for high school students
 - www.startheregoplaces.com
- NASBA website
 - www.nasba.org