Alternate Paths to the CPA

Consider one of the alternate paths to the CPA designation if you have:

- 120 credit hour university degree (4 year degree)
- 51 credit hour courses or Legacy Accredited Program
- Minimum 70% average in required courses; must pass all courses

CPA, CA – Legacy Path (2014 Path)

- Must register by March 2014 with CPA Ontario to write the Legacy Professional Examinations (CKE, SOA, UFE), with employment/offered of employment in an Approved Training Office (ATO).
- Must complete all professional education requirements and practical experience before February 1, 2020.
- Students who have not completed all of their education and evaluations by June 2015 will be bridged to CPA PEP and its evaluations, as appropriate.

For complete information and registration requirements go to CPAOntario.ca (Become a Member)

CPA, CA – Advanced Access into CPA PEP (Challenge Path)

- Must register before February 1, 2015 with CPA Ontario with employment/offered of employment in an ATO.
- Must complete transitional bridging program.
- Must complete all Professional Education and Practical Experience Requirements before February 1, 2020.
- Must challenge exams for Core and Elective Modules (Electives must be tax and assurance).
- Complete the two Capstone Modules.
- Complete the Common Final Examination.

For complete information and registration requirements go to CPAOntario.ca (Become a Member)

CPA – Transitional Path

- No employment entry requirement.
- Can complete practical experience in an ATO or through Experience Verification (EV).
- Must complete transitional bridging program.
- May challenge exam(s) and/or attend module(s).
- Must complete all Professional Education and Practical Experience Requirements before June 1, 2020.

For complete information and registration requirements go to CPAOntario.ca (Become a Member)

For more information visit goCPAOntario.ca
To submit a transcript visit goCPAOntario.ca/transcripts
To register for an info session visit goCPAOntario.ca/infosession

Contact Us

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The Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) Designation

A guide to becoming a Chartered Professional Accountant that will lead you to a career as one of Canada’s top strategic and financial decision-makers.

Steps to Achieving your CPA designation

You can choose to become a CPA at different stages of your life. Whether you are a student in university or a working professional, the CPA offers different paths to earning your designation.

1. Submit a Transcript

Submit a copy of your university or college degree transcript in English or French for a free evaluation.

Visit goCPAontario.ca/transcripts

2. Meet requirements for admission into CPA PEP

Your transcript evaluation will determine if your undergraduate degree has met the required subject area coverage to enter directly into the CPA PEP.

If you do not have the required subject area coverage as part of your undergraduate degree, you can obtain the prerequisites through the following two options:

a) CPA Prerequisite Education Program (CPA PREP):

CPA PREP is designed for those who have an undergraduate degree, regardless of the discipline, and lack some or all of the prerequisite courses required for admission to the CPA PEP. CPA PREP is delivered on a part-time basis through a combination of online, self-study and/or classroom learning to allow for maximum flexibility and accessibility. CPA PREP is modularized to allow students to complete only those modules they require.

b) Recognized university courses or programs

Without Subject Area Coverage

University Degree

CPA Prerequisite Education Program (CPA PREP)

With Subject Area Coverage

3. Complete CPA PEP

CPA PEP is a graduate-level program, which combines online learning, self-study, classroom lectures and teamwork. CPA PEP will take students two years to complete on a part-time basis.

The modularized program comprises:

• Two common core modules that integrate all of the six core competency areas with a focus on financial reporting and management accounting.

• Two elective modules that allow students to develop deeper skills in their areas of interest. Students must select two of the following four electives: assurance, performance management, tax and finance. Students pursuing careers in public accounting must choose assurance and tax.

• A capstone integrative module that focuses on the development of the enabling competencies such as leadership and professional skills and the integration of core competencies.

• A capstone examination preparation module that focuses on the integration of the six core competency areas, which will also prepare the students for the Common Final Examination.

4. Successfully complete CPA Evaluations

CPA PEP includes individual evaluations and team-based assessments:

• Each core and elective module culminates in an examination, which must be successfully completed for admission to the next module.

• The capstone integrative module assessment includes presentations and team-based assignments, and culminates in a business case completed as part of a team.

• The Common Final Examination is a three-day examination requiring students to demonstrate depth and breadth. Students must demonstrate depth in the following areas:

  – Financial reporting or management accounting
  – One other competency area; and
  – Breadth must be demonstrated in all areas

Note: Students wishing to obtain their licence to practise public accounting must select financial reporting and assurance as their depth areas.

5. Complete Qualifying Practical Experience

All students must complete a minimum term of 30 months of paid, relevant and progressive practical experience that is approved by the CPA Profession.

Experience can be gained in two ways:

• Approved path: students will be employed in training positions offered by offices and organizations in paths approved by the CPA profession.

• Experience verification: students gain qualifying practical experience outside of approved training programs through relevant employment and submit detailed experience reports for approval by the CPA Profession.

Both paths will require students to be appropriately supervised and monitored.

*Ideally, practical work experience is completed concurrently with CPA PEP, but not a requirement.