

Certified Public Accountant

What's required to sit for the CPA Exam in Michigan?

What's required to become a licensed CPA in Michigan?

I. *What's required to sit for the CPA Exam in Michigan?*

The requirements to sit for the CPA Exam are separate from the requirements to become a licensed CPA in the State of Michigan.

1. Baccalaureate degree with a concentration in Accounting from an accredited college or university and at least 24 semester hours of general business subjects.

A concentration in accounting is defined as 24 semester hours of accounting principles, including auditing, and at least 24 semester hours of general business subjects.

The accounting principles must include study in Auditing, Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Accounting Systems and Controls, U.S. taxation and Governmental/fund accounting.

2. Baccalaureate degree in another discipline, provided student has taken at least 24 semester hours of accounting subjects, including Auditing, Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Accounting Systems and Controls, Governmental/fund accounting, and U.S. taxation, but not more than 6 semester hours of taxation, AND at least 24 semester hours of general business subjects.
3. The following courses at WSU will meet the accounting content requirements to sit for the CPA exam:
 - Auditing: ACC 5996 *or* ACC 7180
 - Financial Accounting: ACC 5100 **and** ACC 5110 **and** ACC 5115 *or* ACC 7040 **and** ACC 7050
 - Managerial Accounting: ACC 5160 *or* BA 7000
 - Accounting Systems and Controls: ACC 5130 *or* ACC 7145
 - Governmental/fund accounting: ACC 5180 *or* ACC 7188
 - U.S. Taxation Introduction: ACC 5170 *or* ACC 7120

Although not specifically required to be eligible to sit for the exam, it is recommended that students planning to sit for the exam also consider taking the following courses:

- Advanced Accounting I: ACC 5120 *or* ACC 7122
- Cost Accounting, Control & Analysis: ACC 7130
- Advanced Tax Problems: ACC 5270 *or* ACC 7320
- Business Law II: ACC 5190 *or* ACC 7220

4. Internship for credit, ACC 5890 and ACC 7990, count toward the 150 credits but do not count as either accounting credits or general business credits.
5. Educational requirements must be completed within 30 days following the day of the examination for which the candidate sits.
6. For more exam information, visit www.nasba.org
7. Candidates with foreign education credentials MUST have the credentials evaluated by a member of the National Association of Credentials Evaluation Services.

Go to www.naces.com for more information and the procedures to obtain evaluation of educational credentials.

II. *What's required to become a licensed CPA in Michigan?*

- A. Effective July 1, 2003, certificate applicants must have completed 150 semester hours of college education, passed the uniform CPA exam, and obtained one year of qualifying accounting experience.
- B. The 150 semester hours of college education must include:
 1. 30 semester hours of accounting subjects, including not more than six semester hours of taxation, and
 2. 39 semester hours in general business courses, including a minimum of 3 semester hours, but not more than 12 semester hours, in at least five of the following areas: Business Law, Economics, Ethics, Finance, Management, Marketing, Taxation, Statistics, and Business Policy.
 3. If you have a master's degree with a concentration in accounting, you must simply have at least 150 semester hours of college credit. There are no further educational requirements beyond those to sit for the CPA exam, namely 24 credits in accounting and 24 credits in other business subjects.
 - a. A concentration in accounting is defined as twelve semester credits of graduate accounting courses, excluding information systems and tax classes.
- C. Applicants must have passed all four sections of the uniform CPA exam within an 18 month period.

The CPA exam is administered via computer and the four parts of the exam may be taken separately. The CPA exam consists of Auditing and Attestation, Financial Accounting and Governmental, Regulation (Tax, Business Law and Ethics) and Business Environment. Starting in April 2017, each part of the exam is four hours in length.

More information on the computerized exam is available at www.cpa-exam.org.

- D. Applicants must also have one year (2000 hours) of qualifying experience. The experience may be earned part-time, but 2000 hours must be earned within a five-year time period.

On November 23, 2010, Governor Granholm signed into law *Public Act 215*, which expands the experience requirement qualification for CPA certification. While applicants are still required to complete one year experience (2,000 hours), the new *Public Act 215* permits the experience to be gained through employment in industry, academia, government or public accounting. Previously, candidates could only gain their experience in public accounting or specific areas of government. The examination and educational requirements remain unchanged by this new law, which is already in effect.

Any applications for the CPA certificate received by the State of Michigan will be processed under the new requirements; however, the State is currently developing new forms and systems for implementation of this reform, so applications may take some time.

- E. Once an applicant passes the CPA exam, there is no specified time limit in which they must meet the work experience. Part-time work and experience earned as an intern will qualify.

Any questions concerning the work experience requirements should be directed to the Michigan State Board of Accountancy, Tel: 517-241-9249 or visit their website: www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-35299_35414_35451-113534--,00.html or www.nasba.org

CANDIDATES MAY TAKE THE CPA EXAM PRIOR TO SATISFYING THE 150 CREDIT HOUR RULE PROVIDED THEY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO SIT FOR THE EXAM OUTLINED ABOVE, BUT THEY MUST MEET THE 150 CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION AND LICENSE IN MICHIGAN.

THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY IS THE GOVERNING BODY WITH ULTIMATE AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXAM AND THE GRANTING OF THE CPA CERTIFICATE.

July 18, 2016