

Illinois Uniform CPA Examination Education Requirements Effective January 1, 2023

Fulfilling the following requirements allows you to sit for the CPA Exam:

Option #1:

Degree: A graduate degree in accounting conferred by a Board-recognized institution of higher education whose accounting program has either AACSB or ACBSP accreditation.

Total Hours: Completion of 120 semester credit hours. *

If you have a graduate degree in accounting but it was not earned through an AACSB or ACBSP accredited accounting program, you will be evaluated under option #4.

Option #2:

Degree: A graduate degree in business conferred by a Board-recognized institution of higher education whose business department has either AACSB or ACBSP accreditation.

OR

Degree: A graduate degree in accounting conferred by a Board-recognized institution of higher education whose business department has either AACSB or ACBSP accreditation.

AND

Total Hours: Completion of 120 semester credit hours. *

Accounting Hours: Completion of 24 semester credit hours in accounting that include courses in taxation and audit. **

If you have a graduate degree in business but it was not earned through an AACSB or ACBSP accredited business program, you will be evaluated under option #4.

Option #4:

Degree: A baccalaureate degree in any concentration conferred by a Board-recognized institution of higher education accredited by and accrediting association recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and/or any accreditation organization approved by the Board.

OR

Degree: A graduate degree in accounting or business conferred by a Board-recognized institution of higher education but without a business or accounting department accredited by the AACSB or ACBSP.

OR

Degree: A graduate degree in any concentration other than accounting or business conferred by a Board-recognized institution of higher education accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and/or any accreditation organization approved by the Board.

AND

Total Hours: Completion of 120 semester credit hours. *

Accounting Hours: Completion of 24 semester credit hours in accounting that include at least one class in taxation and one in audit.

Business Hours: Completion of 12 semester credit hours in business.

Fulfilling the following requirements allows you to obtain certification, which is required for the CPA license:

1. Pass all four sections of the CPA Exam in 18 months.
2. Earn a score of 90 or higher on the AICPA Ethics Exam after completing the course *Professional Ethics: The AICPA's Comprehensive Course (For Licensure)*.
3. Complete the additional education requirements as defined under the options below.

Option #4:

Degree: A baccalaureate or higher degree as defined under the education requirements.

Total Hours: Completion of 150 semester credit hours. *

Accounting Hours: 30 semester credit hours in accounting that include at least one course in Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Tax and Audit.

Business Hours: 24 semester credit hours in business that include 2 semester credit hours in Business Communication and 3 semester credit hours in Business Ethics.

Option #2:

Degree: A graduate degree as defined under the education requirements.

Total Hours: Completion of 150 semester credit hours. *

Accounting Hours: Completion of 30 semester credit hours in accounting that include at least one course in Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Tax and Audit.

Option #1:

Degree: A graduate degree in accounting as defined under the education requirements.

Total Hours: Completion of 150 semester credit hours. *

*Quarter credit hours are converted to semester credit hours by multiplying quarter credit hours by two-thirds.

**Accounting hours earned in a master's degree program are equivalent to 1.6 semester credit hours earned at the undergraduate level. This extra weight is only given to accounting hours, not business or total hours.

NOTE: If you have earned **internship credit** from an appropriately accredited institution that is reported as hours earned on an official transcript, a maximum of three semester credit hours of accounting internship credit hours may be included in the required 24 semester credit hours of accounting. Additional accounting internship credit hours may be used to meet a maximum of three semester credit hours toward the 12 required business hours. An additional six semester credit hours of internship credits may count toward satisfying the non-accounting or non-business hours required to sit for the CPA examination.

NOTE: If you have earned credit by taking **CPA review courses** from an appropriately accredited institution and these CPA Review courses are taught by faculty and/or instructors from your institution, (including Becker Review), we may accept a maximum of 6 SCH toward the required accounting hours. If you have taken review courses totaling more than the six semester credit hours, we may accept up to six more semester credit hours toward the total hour requirement.

If the school is not offering credit for the CPA Review courses and/or the CPA Review courses are not taught by faculty or instructors from that school, we cannot accept the CPA Review credit(s).