

THE EDUCATIONAL PATH TO BECOMING A CPA

INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS WITH A DEGREE IN A DISCIPLINE OTHER THAN ACCOUNTING

There are several options available to fulfill the educational requirements necessary to be licensed as a CPA in the State of New York. Before discussing them in detail, you should first know the requirements to take the CPA examination in the State of New York. The State requires that you complete not less than 120 credits, and that you have successfully completed one or more courses in each of the following four areas: Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Auditing, and Federal Income Taxation. The other educational requirements discussed herein must be fulfilled prior to obtaining your license, but do not prohibit you from taking the exam, provided you have met the requirements noted above.

OPTION I; THE MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING

This is by far the preferred option. Queens College has a registered 150 hour program with the State, meaning that any graduate of our 30 credit Masters of Science program will automatically qualify as having met the necessary educational requirements to be licensed as a CPA in New York State without any transcript review. The Masters will also greatly enhance your career advancement opportunities, especially if you intend to practice in the area of Public Accounting.

To gain admittance to our program you must complete the undergraduate concentration requirements for an Accounting major, excepting that you do not have to take Accounting 372 and the two required electives. Specifically, here are the courses you need:

Financial Accounting - usually 4-5 courses through Advanced

Managerial Accounting - 2 courses

Auditing - 2 courses

Business Law - 2 courses

Microeconomics

Macroeconomics

Statistics

Corporate Finance

Money & Banking

Computer Science or Information Systems - 1 course

To the extent possible, we will try and waive pre-requisites in order to shorten the time it will take for you to complete your undergraduate requirements. If you take a minimum of 24 undergraduate credits and earn a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better, you will be exempt from the GMAT exam. If not, you will need to take the GMAT. The required score depends on various factors such as your undergraduate performance and your GPA at Queens. The absolute minimum acceptable score is 450, but that may be substantially higher, depending on your individual circumstances.

OPTION II: OBTAINING A SECOND BACHELORS DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING

This option requires you to take a minimum of 45 credits at the College. You must fulfill the entire Accounting concentration requirements (62 credits) less any credits transferred from your previous degree. Please note that the only Accounting courses generally transferable are Accounting 101, 102, 201, 261, and 305. You may also be subject to College wide Liberal Arts requirements and other University requirements. In most cases, once you have obtained this degree, you should qualify under the 150 credit educational requirement, however the State will review all of your transcripts and make the final determination.

OPTION III: TAKING COURSES AS A SECOND DEGREE OR NON DEGREE STUDENT TO FULFILL THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF NEW YORK STATE

If you elect this option, you must be in contact with the State and devise an individual program that will qualify you for CPA licensing. Generally among the 150 credits, 33 credits are required in Accounting and 39 credits are required in Economics/Business/Business Law. We cannot and will not advise you as to which specific courses satisfy any specific requirements, and you must assure yourself that you are taking the proper courses to fulfill the necessary requirements. Understand that you will not have a degree in Accounting and cannot represent yourself of having one under this option.