

# Washington Professional Licensure Disclosure | Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

## Overview

DeVry University and its Keller Graduate School of Management are committed to providing students with accurate information to help students make informed decisions about their education.

The educational and non-educational prerequisites for Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensure can vary significantly from state to state and U.S. territory. These variations encompass the number of accounting and business course hours, experience, exam success, background checks<sup>1</sup>, and ethical compliance. Understanding these differences is key to determining a student's eligibility to sit for the Uniform CPA exam and apply for licensure in different jurisdictions. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regulations mandate institutions to transparently disclose any additional non-educational requirements necessary to obtain the license or certification for which the program of education is designed to provide preparation.

<sup>1</sup>Results of a background check may disqualify an individual from obtaining licensure. As such, it is your responsibility to determine if your circumstances pose any barriers.

## Education Requirements

To qualify for CPA licensure, you must have completed:

- At least one hundred fifty semester hours (two hundred twenty-five quarter hours) of college education, including:
  - A baccalaureate or higher degree; and
  - An accounting major or concentration as defined as at least:
    - Twenty-four semester hours (thirty-six quarter hours) or the equivalent in accounting subjects of which at least fifteen semester hours must be at the upper level or graduate level (an upper-level course is defined as a course that frequently carries completion of a lower-level course(s) as a prerequisite); and
    - Twenty-four semester hours (thirty-six quarter hours) or the equivalent in business administration subjects at the undergraduate or graduate level.

## Experience Requirements

**The experience must:**

- Be a minimum of 12-months, consisting of at least 2,000 hours.
- Provide you the opportunity to obtain the following competencies. All competencies must be fulfilled to meet the experience requirements for licensure.
  - Assess the achievement of an entity's objectives.
  - Develop documentation and sufficient data to support analysis and conclusions.
  - Understand transaction streams and information systems.
  - Assess risk and design appropriate procedures.
  - Make decisions, solve problems, and think critically in the context of analysis.
  - Communicate scope of work, findings, and conclusions effectively.
- Be obtained no more than eight years prior to the date the Board receives a complete license application.
- Be verified by a qualifying licensed CPA.

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### Qualifying experience may be obtained through:

- The practice of public accounting.
- Employment in industry or government.
- In certain situations, employment in academia may also provide experience to obtain some or all the competency requirements.

### Experience may be:

- Completed through one or more employers.
- With or without compensation.
- A combination of full-time and part-time employment.

### Employment experience must occur in a work environment that provides the opportunity to utilize skills generally used in business, accounting, and auditing including, but not limited to:

- Accounting for transactions.
- Budgeting.
- Data analysis.
- Internal auditing.
- Preparation of reports to taxing authorities.
- Controllership functions.
- Financial analysis.
- Performance auditing.
- And similar skills.

## Ethics Requirements

All Washington CPA candidates must complete the CPA Ethical exam, which includes a course covering the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct. Successful candidates must **score 90% or better** on the examination.

## Other Requirements

- Pass all four sections of the CPA Exam with a score of at least 75 in each section.
- Verify that you have met the good character requirements by answering the questions on your CPA license application.

## DVU Licensure Programs

The following DVU programs meet the educational requirements for CPA licensure in the state of Washington:

- Master of Science in Accounting - Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam Preparation Emphasis
- Master of Accounting and Financial Management – Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam Preparation Emphasis

It is important to note that these determinations apply to individuals holding a bachelor's degree in accounting or a business degree with a focus on accounting or finance. DeVry's bachelor's degrees in accounting and business were used as a baseline for these determinations, and checking with your state board of accountancy is recommended to ensure that all specific educational requirements for licensure are satisfied.

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### CPA Review Courses

Credits obtained from CPA exam review courses cannot be used to fulfil the mandatory concentration in accounting coursework in the following states: FL, KS, NJ, NY, TX, and VT.

### Accreditation

DeVry University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org). The University's Keller Graduate School of Management is included in this accreditation.

Our Accounting Degrees are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) [www.acbsp.org](http://www.acbsp.org). Please refer to the [academic catalog](#) for details.

### Student Relocation

Students who intend to relocate should notify the DeVry University of their location change and review the professional licensure requirements of that state's professional licensing board. Visit the [National Association of State Boards of Accountancy](#) to find the contact information, as well as a listing of statutes for the State Board of Accountancy in each of the 55 jurisdictions. For additional information about student relocation, please refer to the student relocation notice within the [academic catalog](#)

### Other Accounting Related Programs

The programs listed below are not specifically designed to prepare students for licensure. However, they offer valuable knowledge and resources that can provide a foundation in accounting and business concepts as well as practical skills.

The undergraduate programs are classified as pre-licensure programs. For example, every state and territory require a minimum of 150 semester credits of specific coursework for CPA licensure eligibility. Generally, undergraduate programs do not provide enough credits to meet this requirement. Nevertheless, students can leverage the credits earned in these undergraduate programs toward the licensure requirements.

The Graduate Certificate in Accounting Certification Preparation program, with a Certified Public Accountant Exam Preparation option is designed to help students prepare to sit for the CPA exam by offering practical resources and focused exam preparation. Additionally, the program may offer a few extra credits in certain states to help students qualify for CPA licensure.

The remaining programs provide advanced knowledge and skills in accounting and finance to equip students for various non-licensure accounting and finance roles, such as financial analyst, management accountant, internal auditor, budget analyst, and financial manager.

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DeVry University	Keller Graduate School of Management
Bachelor of Science in Accounting	Graduate Certificate in Accounting
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Concentration: Accounting	Graduate Certificate in Accounting Certification Preparation - Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam Preparation
Bachelor of Science in Technical Management – Concentration: Accounting	Graduate Certificate in Accounting Certification Preparation - Certified Management Accountant (CMA) Exam Preparation
Bachelor of Science in Management – Concentration: Accounting	Master of Business Administration (MBA) – Concentration: Accounting
	Master of Science in Accounting - Certified Management Accountant (CMA) Exam Preparation Emphasis
	Master of Science in Accounting - General Accounting Emphasis
	Master of Accounting and Financial Management – Certified Management Accountant (CMA) Exam Preparation Emphasis
	Master of Accounting and Financial Management – Finance Emphasis
	Master of Accounting and Financial Management – General Accounting Emphasis

### Notes and Conditions:

This disclosure does not assure that any state licensure or certification authority will either approve or reject your application for licensure.

This disclosure does not consider any updates or changes in state requirements that may have occurred after publication. Students considering a program leading to licensure are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate licensing agency directly for the most current requirements. Visit the [National Association of State Boards of Accountancy](#) to find the contact information, as well as a listing of statutes, for the State Board of Accountancy in each of the 55 jurisdictions.

### What if I need help understanding this?

DeVry University is happy to help guide you. If you have questions or need assistance in navigating the disclosure, please contact Student Support.

[Call \(800\) 734-4272](#)

[Schedule an Appointment](#)

[Create an Academic Case](#)

### Useful Links

[Washington State Board of Accountancy](#)

**In New York, DeVry University operates as DeVry College of New York.**

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