

Education Requirements: Sitting for the CPA Exam and Getting Licensed in Indiana



You've likely already done a lot academically, but what "counts" for the purposes of education requirements to sit for the CPA Exam? While recreational electives are fun, sadly there's no jury to hear your case about how frisbee golf or bowling could translate into accounting. Below, we break out the Indiana Board of Accountancy's education requirements to sit for the Exam and to apply for the CPA license.

✓ 120 Semester Hours Required to Sit for the Exam

You can sit for the CPA Exam at 120 semester hours of college education (or equivalent, if a different grading scale is used), including at least one credit in accounting or business administration.

Note: 150 semester hours is still required for licensure.

Pro Tip: While you can sit for the Exam at 120 hours, to be licensed you need to make sure you've met the necessary education requirements. Review the following info for additional details about everything you need on your transcript for licensure.

✓ Education Requirements for CPA Licensure

1. A baccalaureate or graduate degree from a college or university that is accredited by an accrediting organization is required for licensure.
2. Candidates with a baccalaureate degree need 24 semester hours in accounting and at least 24 semester hours in business administration and economics courses (other than accounting courses).
3. Candidates with a graduate degree need at least 24 semester hours in accounting at the undergraduate level or 15 semester hours in accounting at the graduate level or an equivalent combination thereof; and at least 24 semester hours in business administration and economics courses (other than accounting courses).

✓ What Kinds of accounting hours are required?

Accounting hours must include courses covering financial accounting, auditing, taxation and managerial accounting.

✓ What types of classes count for the business administration and economics course requirements?

Business Administration courses may include up to 6 hours of business and tax law courses, and up to 6 hours of technology or computer science courses, including—but not limited to—data analytics, data interrogation techniques, digital acumen, information systems, and other business-related content areas included in the Uniform CPA Examination Blueprints, or as may be approved by the board.

Do my hours include a mix of undergraduate and graduate accounting course work?

If the accounting hours are a mix of graduate and undergraduate, the higher number of required hours applies. An equivalent combination of undergraduate and graduate semester hours would be a total of 24 semester hours calculated at the rate of 1 and 1.6 semester hours for each actual 1 semester hour in accounting at the graduate level and 1 semester hour for each actual 1 semester hour in accounting at the undergraduate level.

Indiana's rule says I need to earn a degree that is accredited by an accrediting organization—what does that mean?

A college or university is recognized by the Indiana Board of Accountancy if it is accredited by one of the following regional accrediting associations:

- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Regional Accrediting Organizations
- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools/ Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- North Central Association of Schools and Colleges
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges/Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges

This information is easily accessible on most college/university websites because they want to promote their accreditation and usually mention it somewhere on their home page.

What if I'm not sure if I'm meeting the education requirements and want to see if a course counts or not?

NASBA offers an optional Advisory Evaluation to identify any academic deficiencies in your education before you submit your application at nasba.org/CPAExam/Indiana.

Get more detailed information about the requirements for sitting for the CPA Exam and the education requirements for licensure:

NASBA — nasba.org/CPAExam/Indiana | 1 (800) 272-3926

IPLA — in.gov/pla/professions/accountancy-home | (317) 232-2960

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