

Information for Students Interested in Pursuing a CPA Accounting Professional Licensure – Fall 2026

Students enrolling in the University's accounting programs may be interested in becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Some states require a CPA license to be employed as a public accountant.

While all CPAs are accountants, not all accountants are designated as CPAs. To become a CPA, applicants must pass licensure exams (generally, the CPA exam) and fulfill any educational and other requirements established by state boards, including defined minimum numbers of credit hours and specific coursework.

If a student plans to seek a CPA, please know that:

- Requirements for obtaining a CPA are regulated by each state, may vary for each state, and may change over time. Students should review the educational and other requirements for licensure for any state in which they plan to seek employment.
- Regarding educational requirements, some states allow candidates to sit for the CPA exam with 120 credits of post-secondary education and other states require 150 credits of post-secondary education¹. Regardless of whether a state allows you to sit for the exam with 120 or 150 credits, each state will vary as to the specific accounting and/or business courses required to be taken prior to being eligible to take the exam.
- Being eligible to sit for the CPA exam does not necessarily make a student qualified to be certified or licensed as a CPA in a particular state. Depending on the state there can be additional work experience and ethics requirements.

Beginning in 2025, states began to change the requirements to be licensed as a CPA by providing an alternative pathway. Generally, and again, students should consult the rules in the state they plan to take the CPA exam; these states allow a student to become a CPA by passing the exam and have 2 years of work experience. Those states have also preserved the prior requirements of becoming a CPA through 150 credit hours and one year of work experience. More information about state requirements for those seeking a CPA license can be found at:

- <https://nasba.org/stateboards/>
- <https://atlascpaindex.com/cpa-requirements>.

Our Curriculum and CPA Exam Preparation

- **Undergraduate Students:** The University has determined that if a student completes their undergraduate degree at the University of Scranton, they will be eligible to sit for the CPA exam in the following states: Pennsylvania, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, and Massachusetts. In addition, in all these states, except Maine and Massachusetts, have adopted the alternative pathway. The University has not yet determined whether the undergraduate degree program meets educational requirements to be eligible for the CPA in other states.
- **Graduate Students:** If you have earned your undergraduate degree at the University of Scranton and complete your Masters of Accountancy at the University you will fulfill the

¹ When referring to both the 120 and 150 credits, this document refers to credits earned during a semester.

education requirements necessary to sit for the CPA exam in the states listed above. The University has not yet determined whether the MACC program meets educational requirements for the CPA in other states.

For more information, contact the University's [Accounting Department](#).