The CPA Exam and Requirements

Adapted and modified from material originally created by David Reinus.
An extra $1,024,870 with a CPA license.
Obtaining your CPA License

Education | Exam | Experience

Every state is unique
Send college transcripts to the California Board of Accountancy (CBA)

Step 2
Submit application (Set up CBA Client Account at https://www.cba.ca.gov/cbt_public/join_form)

Step 3
Select sections and pay fees (within 90 days of receiving Payment Coupon)

Step 4
Receive Notice to Schedule (NTS)

Step 5
Schedule the exam sections
## California Educational Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Requirements</th>
<th>To Sit for CPA Exam</th>
<th>To be Licensed</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baccalaureate Degree</strong></td>
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<td>24 accounting units</td>
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<td>24 business units</td>
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# California Educational Requirements

To sit for the CPA Exam and to be licensed, you must complete the following educational requirements:

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**Total units required:**
- To sit for CPA Exam: 120 units
- To be licensed: 150 units
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<td>Requirement</td>
<td>CPA Requirements</td>
<td>CSUN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Units</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS Related Units</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Over 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics Units</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CPA Ethics Requirement

- **RS 361** 3 units
- **PHIL 305 or BLAW 368** 3 units
- **ACCT 460** 1 unit
- **Accounting Ethics Course** 3 units**

** 10 units

**
- CSUN (ACCT 511)
- Santa Monica College
- Pasadena College
- Glendale College
- UCLA Extension
# Prometric Testing Centers

(Glendale, Camarillo, Culver City)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Qtr Window</th>
<th>2nd Qtr Window</th>
<th>3rd Qtr Window</th>
<th>4th Qtr Window</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN OPEN</td>
<td>APR OPEN</td>
<td>JUL OPEN</td>
<td>OCT OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB OPEN</td>
<td>MAY OPEN</td>
<td>AUG OPEN</td>
<td>NOV OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR CLOSED*</td>
<td>JUN CLOSED*</td>
<td>SEP CLOSED*</td>
<td>DEC CLOSED*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The first 10 days of the closed months are available.
“Test Drive”

- $30
- Actual check-in
- ID confirmation
- Documentation checking
- Image capture of fingerprint
- Assignment of a locker
- Seated at a computer
- Sample test (at a computer for 15 minutes)
- Become familiar with parking, location, and commute time to the center.
Four Sections

Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)
Auditing and Attestation (AUD)
Regulation (REG)
Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auditing &amp; Attestation</td>
<td>$208.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Accounting &amp; Reporting</td>
<td>208.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Environment &amp; Concepts</td>
<td>208.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>208.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee ($50 re-application)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$933.60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notice to Schedule (NTS)

- NTS is good for 9 months.
- Candidates may sit for one or more sections at any time and in any order.
- Section(s) not passed cannot be taken within the same (3-month) window.
- Must pass all four sections within a rolling 18-month period.
Rolling 18-Month Period

1 18
x x
1
18 Months

Zap! X
1 2
1

Zap! X
1 3
3

Zap! X
1 3
3

1 4
x x
1
18

3 4
x x
1
18

2 1 1
18
The Exam
## Timing for Each Exam Section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Part</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial (FAR)</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit (AUD)</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation (REG)</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (BEC)</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
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Total = 16 hours
For details about each topic and task for the CPA exam, see the [blueprints](https://www.aicpa.org/content/dam/aicpa/becomeacpa/cpaexam/examinationcontent/downloadeddocuments/cpa-exam-blueprints-effective-20180101.pdf) at
The exam focuses on higher order skills.

-- Only Auditing

Evaluation

Analysis

Application

Remembering and Understanding
Financial (FAR) – Structure

- Two multiple-choice question (MCQ) testlets contain 66 questions.

- Three testlets containing 8 task-based simulations (TBS); research question and document review simulation included.
Two multiple-choice question (MCQ) testlets contain 72 questions.

Three testlets containing 8 task-based simulations (TBS); research question and document review simulation included.
Regulation (REG) – Structure

- Two multiple-choice question (MCQ) testlets contain 76 questions.

- Three testlets containing 8 task-based simulations (TBS); research question and document review simulation included.
Business (BEC) – Structure

- Two multiple-choice question (MCQ) testlets contain 62 questions.
- Two testlets containing 4 task-based simulations (TBS).
- One testlet containing 3 written communications.
Total testing time: 4 hours

First MCQ Testlet

Second MCQ Testlet

First TBS Testlet

Second TBS Testlet

Third TBS Testlet (Written Communication in BEC)

Optional Break

Clock Runs

Optional Break

Clock Runs

Standardized Break

Clock Stops

Optional Break

Clock Runs
California Experience Requirements

- **Accounting Experience**
  - 1 year in a CPA firm (public accounting) or
  - 1 year in a non-CPA firm (private accounting or government) *in the accounting function and under the direct supervision of a CPA.*

- **Auditing Experience** (Optional)
  - 500 hours
  - *Only required if authority to sign audit reports is desired.*
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
<td>49.27%</td>
<td>48.59%</td>
<td>45.86%</td>
<td>47.28%</td>
<td>46.35%</td>
<td>45.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEC</td>
<td>56.43%</td>
<td>52.99%</td>
<td>55.41%</td>
<td>56.48%</td>
<td>55.46%</td>
<td>55.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAR</td>
<td>41.59%</td>
<td>44.42%</td>
<td>45.55%</td>
<td>46.75%</td>
<td>47.60%</td>
<td>48.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>49.99%</td>
<td>47.24%</td>
<td>48.45%</td>
<td>49.43%</td>
<td>49.41%</td>
<td>48.48%</td>
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Exam Scoring
A passing score is 75 ~Psychometrics & Psychometricians~

The MCQ testlets have two levels of difficulty – medium and difficult. The questions are weighted on the level of difficulty. The difficult questions receive more points in reaching 75.
The California Board of Accountancy Uniform CPA Examination Handbook

at

http://www.dca.ca.gov/cba/applicants/exambook.pdf
Online Ethics Exam

50 multiple choice questions
90% score required
300-page self-study course
3 attempts
One year to pass
$150 ($125 if member of CalCPA)

Membership in CalCPA is free for students and for one year while taking the CPA exam.
CPA Review Course?

- Study time is used more efficiently.
- Strategies for taking the exam are learned.
- Practice doing task-based simulations.
- Keeps you disciplined and organized.
- Most efficient way to review what you’ve already learned.
- Increases probability of passing.
- Obtain immediate feedback from practice exams.
- Obtain practice navigating the computer screen and simulations.
For a tutorial and practice exam for each section of the CPA exam, go to aicpa.org/cpaeexam and click Tutorial and Sample Tests