

# PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING – CPA PREPARATION CERTIFICATE

## Information for CPA (Certified Public Accountant) Exam Candidates

For students working toward the CPA examination, Oakton is accredited with the Illinois Board of Examiners. Exam candidates with a master's degree in accounting that is recognized by the Board of Examiners are immediately qualified to sit for the exam. CPA exam candidates without a master's degree in accounting must successfully complete 150 hours of college/university credit, including a bachelor's degree in any field. Within those 150 hours, there are some specific requirements:

(a) 30 semester hours in accounting. All accounting courses, with the exception of ACC 255, can be counted toward the 30 accounting hours required by the Illinois Board of Examiners.

(b) 24 semester credit hours of business courses (other than accounting). These business courses must include 3 credit hours of business ethics (BUS 107 or MGT 276) and 2 credit hours of business communication (embedded in MGT 118). For students that still need to satisfy the remaining business credits, Oakton recommends ECO 201, ECO 202, BUS 221, and BUS 222 because economics and business law are tested on the CPA exam.

For information about the CPA exam, visit [www.ilboe.org](http://www.ilboe.org). For more information concerning the program, course transferability, or the CPA exam, contact the department co-chair or visit [www.oakton.edu/accounting](http://www.oakton.edu/accounting).

36 Semester Credit Hours; Curriculum: 0006

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Courses for a Certificate</b>		
ACC 153	Principles of Financial Accounting	4
ACC 154	Principles of Managerial Accounting	4
ACC 241	Intermediate Accounting I	4
ACC 242	Intermediate Accounting II	4
ACC 244	Income Tax Accounting	3
ACC 260	Auditing	3
ACC 266	Advanced Accounting	3
ACC 274	Advanced Tax Accounting	3
Additional ACC courses to complete 30 accounting hours <sup>1</sup>		
BUS 107	Business Ethics	3
or MGT 276	Corporate Social Responsibility and Decision Making	
MGT 118	Effective Management Communications	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>37</b>

Students will meet the certificate requirements for sitting for the CPA examination identified in item (a) if they take the program listed above. For item (b), the 24 credit hours in non-accounting business courses, it is recommended that students consider taking the following courses: ECO 201, ECO 202, BUS 107, BUS 221, BUS 222, MGT 118. These all include CPA topics.

**Note:** Before students take courses needed to meet the requirements outlined above, it is strongly recommended that they send a list of courses in these areas that they already have, in addition to those they expect to take, to Board of Examiners for pre-approval. This pre-approval will be valid for three years. See [www.ilboa.org](http://www.ilboa.org) for more information.

<sup>1</sup> Students must have a total of 30 credit hours of accounting in order to receive this 36-credit-hour certificate. Depending on how many credit hours were received for the accounting courses required for the certificate (from previous versions of these courses at Oakton or from other institutions), students may need to take more or fewer than two hours of accounting electives. Note that the Illinois Board of Examiners counts all courses with the ACC prefix as part of the 30 required accounting hours, with the exception of ACC 255 Careers in Accounting.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of:

1. Financial accounting topics covered in intermediate and advanced accounting, including the ability to work with the FASB Codification Database.
2. Managerial accounting, including the application of Microsoft Excel.
3. Topics related to individual, corporation, and partnership taxation, including the ability to work with the RIA Checkpoint research database.
4. CPA topics related to auditing, including cases that require judgment and critical thinking analysis.
5. Business ethics cases that require synthesis and evaluation.
6. Business memos in professional formatting as required by the CPA Exam.

## Professional Accounting - CPA Preparation Certificate Pathway

The following Pathway is recommended for students pursuing the Professional Accounting - CPA Preparation Certificate.

Course	Title	Hours
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
ACC 153	Principles of Financial Accounting	4
MGT 118	Effective Management Communications	3
BUS 107 or MGT 276	Business Ethics or Corporate Social Responsibility and Decision Making	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
ACC 154	Principles of Managerial Accounting	4
ACC 241	Intermediate Accounting I	4
ACC 244	Income Tax Accounting	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Summer Semester</b>		
ACC 260	Auditing	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
ACC 242	Intermediate Accounting II	4
ACC 266	Advanced Accounting	3
ACC 274	Advanced Tax Accounting	3

ACC Elective	2-3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>36-37</b>

**Note:** Pathway is a recommended sequence of courses. Students should contact the department co-chair to discuss the course sequence as well as course prerequisites and recommendations.