

Preparing Tomorrow's Professionals: Understanding the New CPA Pathway

Speakers



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Senior Student Recruitment Officer

Family Feud Question

<https://claude.ai/public/artifacts/f4d914ae-d729-4db6-a169-575b952c815f>

What Makes a Career... a "Profession"?

A Profession is Built On:

-  Specialized Body of Knowledge
-  Regulated & Licensed Entry
-  Competency-Based Standards
-  Ethical Obligations & Code of Conduct
-  Commitment to the Public Interest

 **Profession**
Medicine • Law • CPA •
Engineering

 **Credential**
CHRP • CFA • PMP • Red Seal

 **Occupations**
Sales • Marketing • Operations

 **Skills & Certificates**
Google Analytics • Excel • Coding
• CRM

ABOUT CPA CANADA & CPABC



About CPA Canada

National organization supporting a unified Canadian accounting profession with over 217,000 members globally, making it one of the largest accounting bodies worldwide.



About CPABC

Oversees CPA student training, certification, member professional development, and public protection through ethical standards and discipline in British Columbia.

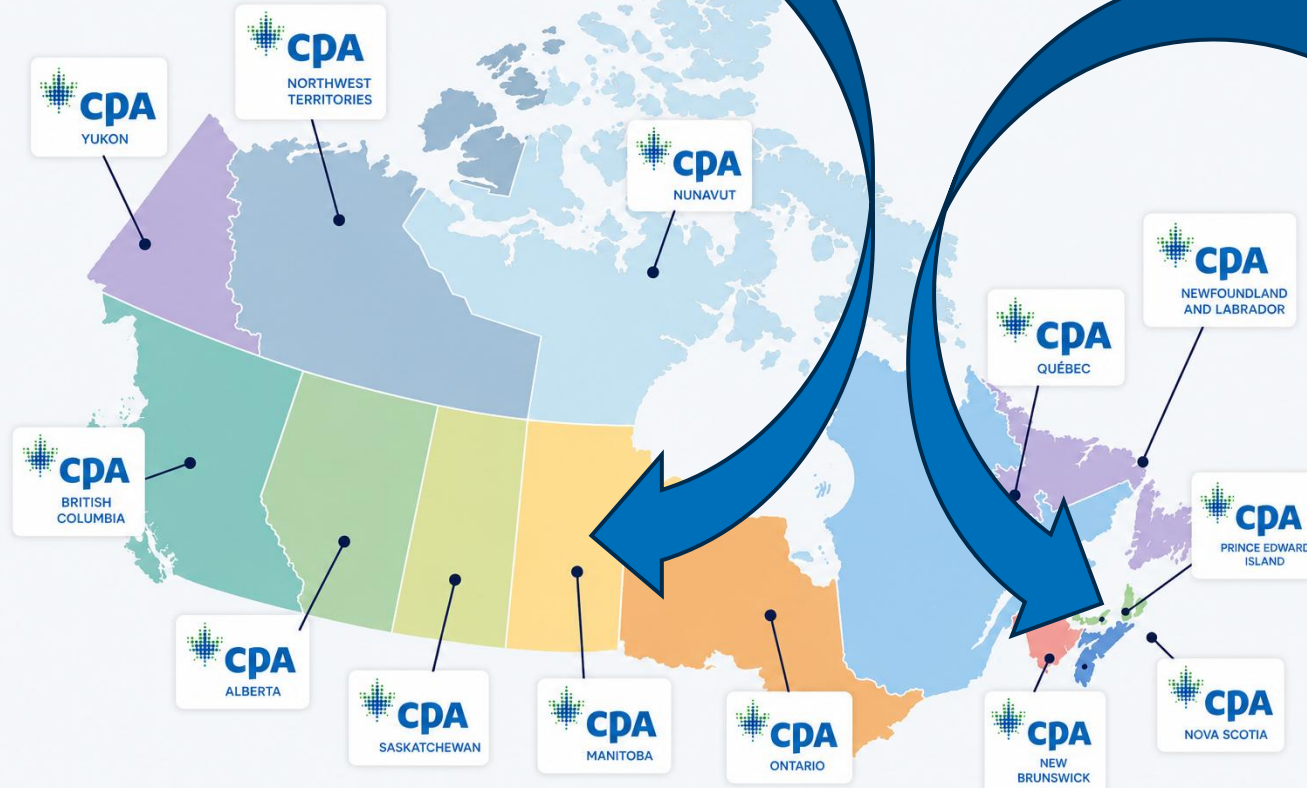
Provincial and Territorial CPA Bodies



CPA

CHARTERED
PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS

WESTERN
SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS



CPA

CHARTERED
PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS




ATLANTIC
SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS



**What's your
biggest barrier to
advising
students on
accounting
careers?**



CPA: What It Is Not vs. What It Is

 CPA IS NOT		 CPA IS
 Just Number Crunchers	>>	 Strategic leader and thinker
 Just a Tax Preparer	>>	 Professional expertise
 All Accountants are CPAs	>>	 Technically and professionally trained, designated professional
 Limited to One Industry	>>	 Transferable across industries
 Behind the Scenes Only	>>	 Leadership role and driving decision
 Static or Boring	>>	 Dynamic, future-focused profession

THE CPA DIFFERENCE



Clarity in complexity
We communicate complex scenarios with clarity to stakeholders.



Trust in every decision
We uphold integrity, ethics and the public interest.



Value beyond numbers
We deliver insights that drive meaningful business outcomes.



Impact that matters
We help organizations, communities and economies thrive.

How the Profession Is Evolving



The Canadian CPA profession is evolving rapidly from a traditional accounting role into a more **technology-driven, strategic business leadership profession.**



1 AI & Automation



2 Strategic Advisory



3 ESG & Sustainability



4 Data Analytics



5 Digital Transformation



6 Ethical AI Governance



7 Leadership & Business Strategy



8 Human Judgment & Trust



9 CPA + Technology Integration

**Evolving Today.
Leading Tomorrow.**



CPAs are not just adapting to change — we are leading it.

Current and Growing Demands for CPAs



85% struggled to fill vacant positions



Average CPA age is 47



Growing demand in finance, ESG, regulation, and advisory



20-25% CPAs within 10 years of retirement



Globally recognized professional designation



Strong long-term earning potential

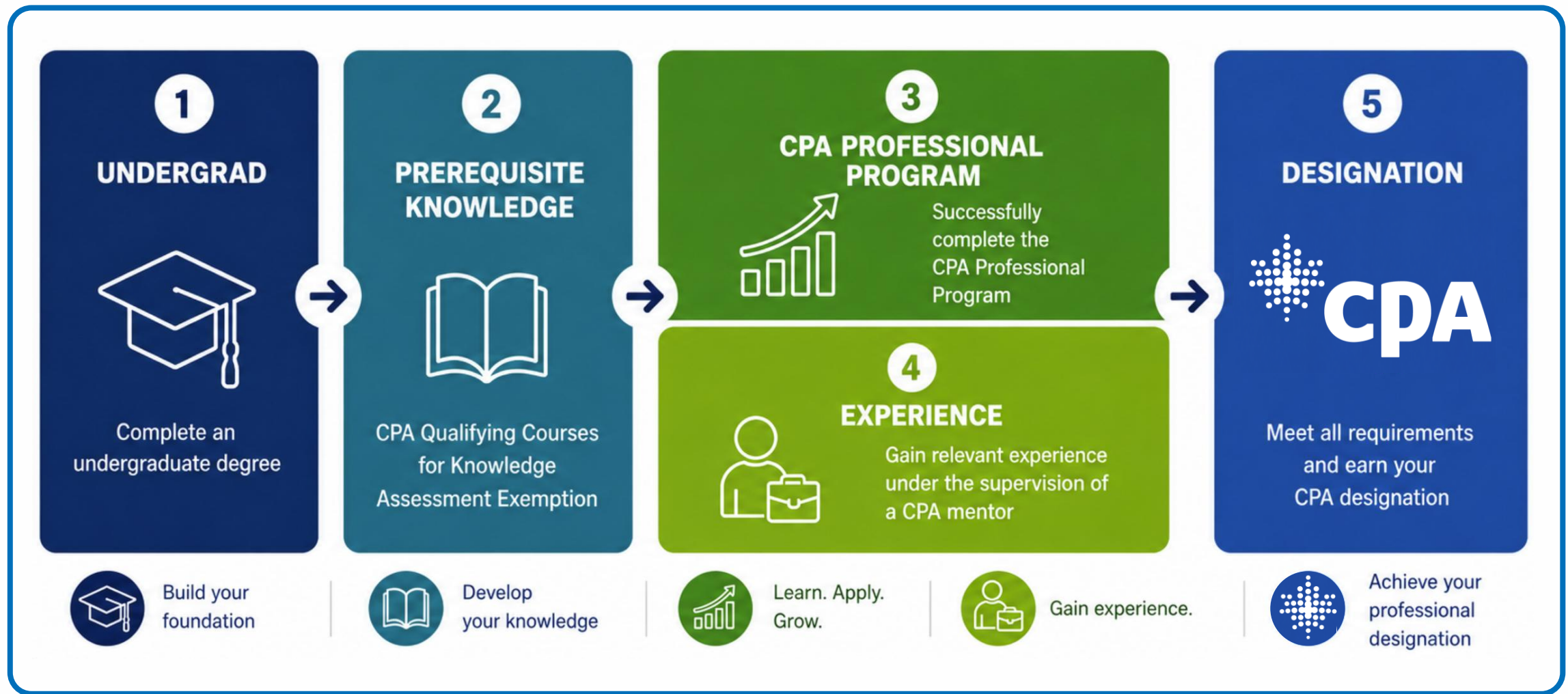
CPA PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM



Launch Spring of 2027

Advisors continue to play a key role in helping business students navigate this potential career path.

PATHWAY TO BECOMING A CPA



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



Degree + 120-Credit Hours

Post-secondary degree, 120-credit hours and GPA min. 65%



Prerequisite Knowledge

45 credit hours in accounting and business courses **OR**
Passing the Knowledge Assessment



Work & Study Eligibility

Eligibility to work and study in Canada



Good Character and Reputation

Provide satisfactory evidence of good character

IMPORTANT: Additional information on the admission process and requirements will be available soon. All information and dates are subject to change.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE

Pass the Knowledge Assessment Exam

OR

45 credit hours in accounting and business courses

Applicants are required to write the Knowledge Assessment unless they qualify for exemption.

The Knowledge Assessment provides a pathway for applicants who have the prerequisite knowledge but do not have recognized coursework, such as career changers, international learners, or those with relevant experience gained outside traditional academic programs.

45 credit-hours in accounting and business courses.

At least **21 credit hours** cover the following required topic areas:

- Intermediate Financial Reporting
- Advanced Financial Reporting
- Management Accounting
- Finance
- Assurance
- Taxation

The remaining **24 credit hours** may be any accounting or business-related courses

PATHWAYS TO PREPARE FOR KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT



CPA Preparatory courses (14 courses)

2 Year Accounting Post-Degree Diploma

Accredited Master's Program

Complete 45 credit hours requirements

Knowledge Assessment Preparatory Program (12-18 months)

Eligible to write the assessment versus being ready to pass the assessment

CPA QUALIFYING COURSES



Link to course planning tool that helps students select courses that meet the Prerequisite Knowledge requirements to enter the new CPA Professional Program

Required Topic Area	Bachelor of Commerce	Diploma in Accounting
Intermediate Financial Reporting	COMM 450_V (3)	BUSI 450 (3)
Advanced Financial Reporting	COMM 453_V (3)	BUSI 453 (3)
Finance	COMM 370_V (3)	BUSI 370 (3)
Assurance	COMM 455_V (3)	BUSI 455 (3)
Taxation	COMM 355_V (3)	BUSI 355 (3)
Management Accounting	COMM 354_V (3) + COMM 491_V (3)	BUSI 354 (3) + BUSI 493 (3)
Total Credit Hours	21	21

CPA Qualifying Courses for Knowledge Assessment Exemption

University of British Columbia

Accounting and Business Knowledge Requirement

For the CPA Professional Program, applicants are required to [demonstrate accounting and business knowledge](#). This requirement is met by passing the Knowledge Assessment. Applicants may be exempt from the Knowledge Assessment if they have completed the 45 credit hours of qualifying accounting and business post-secondary coursework.

At least one course among the 45 credit hours must have been completed within five years of admission, demonstrating recent academic engagement in the field.

45 Credit Hours of Post-Secondary Coursework

Required Topic Areas (21 Credit Hours)

- At least 21 of the 45 credit hours must cover the six required topic areas.
- You must complete at least one course in each topic area.

The following courses can be used to meet the required topic areas (21 credit hours) for Knowledge Assessment exemption.

Required Topic Area	Bachelor of Commerce	Diploma in Accounting
Intermediate Financial Reporting	COMM 450_V (3)	BUSI 450 (3)
Advanced Financial Reporting	COMM 453_V (3)	BUSI 453 (3)
Finance	COMM 370_V (3)	BUSI 370 (3)
Assurance	COMM 455_V (3)	BUSI 455 (3)
Taxation	COMM 355_V (3)	BUSI 355 (3)
Management Accounting	COMM 354_V (3) + COMM 491_V (3)	BUSI 354 (3) + BUSI 493 (3)
Total Credit Hours	21	21

* Some courses may have prerequisites. Please confirm requirements with your institution. Prerequisite courses may be used to meet the other accounting and business topic area requirement (24 credit hours).

Other Accounting and Business Topic Areas (24 Credit Hours)

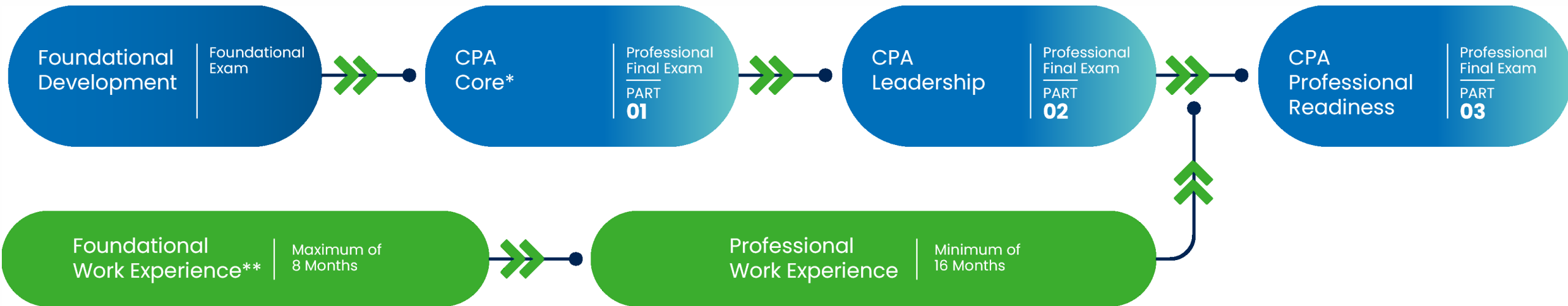
If you need information on how to complete the 24 credit hours of additional accounting or business coursework required for exemption from the Knowledge Assessment, please visit our [website](#).

If you complete the University of British Columbia's Bachelor of Commerce program, you will have completed the 24 credit hours of additional accounting or business coursework.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact a [CPABC Recruitment Officer](#) or a [CPAWSB Admission Advisor](#).

CPA PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM



*Those pursuing careers in public accounting must pass the Licensure version of CPA Core and pass the Licensure version of PFE 1.



































**This work experience can be completed before the Foundational Development module.

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




What the Program Develops



CPA vs. Other Pathways

	CPA	CFA®	MBA
 Best for	 Broad finance & business careers across all sectors	 Investment management, banking (capital markets)	 Management/Leadership, career pivots, and entrepreneurship
 Entry requirement	 Bachelor degree + prerequisite knowledge OR pass Knowledge Assessment exam	 Bachelor degree	 Bachelor degree + work experience
 Program length	 2 years	 3–4 years (self-study, 3 exams)	 1–2 years full-time
 Cost (approx.)	 \$14,500 + GST (same rate for domestic/international, often employer subsidized)	 \$4,320 USD	 \$30,000 – \$120,000 +
 Graduation requirement	 Education + Exam + Experience (competency based)	 3 levels / 3 exams + experience	 Completion based (grades)
 Regulated profession	  Yes – licensed profession and regulatory framework in the federal Income Tax Act	  Partial – regulatory recognition by CFA Institute and Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC)	  No
 Practical experience required	  Yes – 24 months	  Yes – 4,000 hours in 36 months	  No

Common Student Objectives *(and How to Direct them)*

 Student Says	 Consider	 Why?	
 I want options – I don't know what industry I'll end up in	CPA	 Maximum sector flexibility	
 I want to work in investing, or wealth management	CFA	 Built for investment and portfolio careers	
 I want to switch careers or move into leadership	MBA	 Designed for career pivots for non-business backgrounds and general management trajectory	
 I want to start a business someday	CPA or MBA	 Ideal foundation for entrepreneurs and business leaders	
 I want to work internationally	CPA	 Globally standardized with mutual recognition agreements	
 I want the most credible, recognized credential	CPA	 Regulated designation that is globally recognized	

HOW TO APPLY

How to apply to CPA is based on your Applicant Type

<https://www.cpawsb.ca/future-learners/apply-for-admission-to-cpawsb>

[HOME](#) / [FUTURE LEARNERS](#) / APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO CPAWSB

Apply for Admission to CPAWSB

Before registering for a module in the [CPA Professional Education Program \(CPA PEP\)](#) or a [CPA preparatory course](#), applicants must first be admitted to CPAWSB.

IMPORTANT: CPAWSB only accepts applications from people who will be governed by CPA bodies in Western Canada (BC, AB, SK, MB, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut). If you wish to register for CPA PEP or CPA preparatory courses outside of the Western Region, do not apply for admission to CPAWSB. Please contact CPA Ontario, CPA Atlantic, or CPA Quebec directly for more information about applying in those regions.

Select the Appropriate Applicant Type

Before starting the admission process it is important to identify your applicant type. Your applicant type will determine:

- The admission steps you need to follow
- The documents you will need to have submitted to CPAWSB
- The resources and information you will need access to



The Financial Reporting Cycle



Company
sells
products and
collects
revenue



Accountants
prepare
Financial
Statements
(F/S)



Company
hires a Public
Accounting
Firm (CPA)



CPAs issue
and signed
their audit
report



Company
files audited
financials
with
regulators



Company
files
corporate
taxes

Common Starting Points for CPA Career

Industry

Public Accounting Firm

CAMPUS RECRUIT OPPORTUNITIES



FULL TIME POSITIONS

Who qualifies: Students entering into their final year of study (have less than one year left to complete degree), able to work FT

Start dates: Sept or Oct (some Jan starts)

Recruit cycle: Summer intern/co-op return offer or Spring/Fall of the prior year

Why it matters: New grads begin the CPA program at the same time they start work



SUMMER INTERN POSITIONS

Who qualifies: 2nd and 3rd year students, returning for one full year of study

Start dates: 4 months in May

Recruit cycle: Spring recruit of the year prior

Why it matters: Opportunity to try out firm, gain experience and network. Employers evaluate interns and strong performance can lead to a return offer for full-time employment after graduation.



CO-OP POSITIONS

Who qualifies: Students registered in co-op program

Start dates: 4 months in May, Sept or Jan (Jan-April is busy season)

Recruit cycle: Spring or fall recruit

Why it matters: Offers real firm experience and highly valued by employers during busy periods

Transaction Services & Deal Advisory



Mission: *A private equity firm is about to spend \$200M acquiring a company. They hire you to tell them: are these financials real? Are the profits sustainable? What are they not telling us?*

What you'll do:

- Conduct financial due diligence on acquisition targets to validate earnings, uncover hidden risks, stress-testing assumptions
- Build Quality of Earnings (QoE) reports that determine whether a deal proceeds and at what price
- Work on IPOs, divestitures, mergers, and restructurings across every industry
- Advise private equity funds, family offices, and corporations on the financial logic of their deals

What it takes to succeed:

- Financial modelling
- Deal structuring
- Industry analysis
- Negotiation support

Risk & Forensic Accounting



Mission: A company has just been hit by a cyberattack. Millions may have been stolen and regulators and insurers want answers. Your job is to trace what happened, quantify the loss, and determine whether the company's controls failed.

What you'll do:

- Investigate corporate fraud, embezzlement, and financial crime to follow the money through complex webs of transactions
- Quantify economic damages in legal disputes: insurance claims, shareholder litigation, business interruptions
- Testify as an expert witness in civil and criminal proceedings where your report becomes evidence in court
- Work with law enforcement (RCMP, BCSC, FINTRAC), law firms, and insurance companies

What it takes to succeed:

- Investigation
- Financial reconstruction
- Legal writing
- Expert testimony
- Data analytics

ESG & Climate Finance



Mission : A mining company is about to report its climate impact to investors. Billions in capital depends on whether those numbers are credible. Your job is to measure what's real, assess the risk, and make sure the story holds up under scrutiny.

What you'll do:

- Measure and audit Scope 1, 2, and 3 carbon emissions across global supply chains and applying the same rigour as a financial audit
- Help companies align to TCFD, CSRD, ISSB, and SEC climate disclosure frameworks before they become mandatory in Canada
- Build carbon accounting systems that can withstand regulatory and investor scrutiny
- Assess climate-related financial risks and translate them into quantified business impacts
- Advise executives and boards on sustainability strategy, disclosures, and risk exposure

What it takes to succeed:

- Carbon accounting
- Sustainability frameworks
- Climate risk modelling
- Assurance

High-Impact CPA Employer Support Program

Program Component	Key Employer Considerations
Program Structure	PPR vs. EVR, CPA mentor & supervision, onboarding for off-cycle hires
Financial Support	Tuition coverage, reimbursement rules, out-of-pocket costs
Study & Time Support	Paid study days, exam leave, blackout periods
Performance Expectations	Pass requirements, timelines, consequences for delays
Incentives & Retention	Bonuses, vacation rewards, clawback agreements

Employers who actively support CPA candidates see stronger retention, faster development of finance leaders, and higher engagement.

EMPLOYERS THAT HIRE CPA STUDENTS



Doane Grant
Thornton



Deloitte.



Mosaic
HOMES



Vancity



*This slide does not reflect all employers in the CPABC Employer Network, for the most current and up to date listing, please reference <https://careers.bccpa.ca/>

WHY BECOME A CPA?



Globally Recognized

Your CPA travels with you across the world.



Career Flexibility

Offers flexibility for a meaningful career



High Earning Potential

Consistently earn more across sectors



Always in Demand

Always in demand & hold management and executive roles

Final Family Feud Question

<https://claude.ai/public/artifacts/f4d914ae-d729-4db6-a169-575b952c815f>

STUDENT RECRUITMENT OUTREACH TEAM



Market: Workforce, Career Changers, Universities, Colleges, Indigenous Advising
Regions: Northern BC, Vancouver Island, Yukon

Schools: CMTN, CNC, NIC, NLC, UNBC, VIU, YukonU

Alice Wong
Senior Student Recruitment Officer
alice.wong@bccpa.ca



Market: Universities, Colleges, High Schools
Regions: Vancouver, Lower Mainland

Schools: BCIT, Camosun College, Douglas College, KPU, UBC, UVic

Quy Le
Student Recruitment Officer
qle@bccpa.ca



Market: International Students, Newcomers, Colleges, Universities, Working Professionals
Regions: Thompson, Okanagan, Kootenay

Schools: COTR, OC, Selkirk College, TRU, UBCO, UCW

Ilyas Kayran
Student Recruitment Officer
ikayran@bccpa.ca



Market: Universities, Colleges, High Schools
Regions: Fraser Valley, Lower Mainland

Schools: ASM, CapU, Langara College, RRU, SFU, TWU, UFV, YorkvilleU

Wynn Wang
Student Recruitment Officer
wwang@bccpa.ca

RESOURCES



Attend an Information Session

Attend a free information session to learn about the designation or participate in a variety of networking, panel and speaking engagements.



Book a Zoom Call

Book a Zoom advising appointment.



Email Us

Contact the recruitment team by sending an email to recruitment@bccpa.ca.



Phone Us

Please call at: 604.872.7222 (toll free 1.800.663.2677)

UPCOMING EVENTS

27
MAY

Information Sessions

CPABC Accounting Night in Canada

Online ⌚ May 27, 2026 | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Learn how to transfer your international education and work experience (accounting/finance) towards the CPA program and confer the CPA designation.

28
MAY

Information Sessions

Mentor Mindset: Feedback is a Gift

Online ⌚ May 28, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Feedback is a Gift is a practical, interactive workshop designed specifically for CPA mentors supporting candidates in both EVR and PPR pathways. This 60-minute session will equip mentors with clear, structured approaches to...

2
JUN

Networking/Panel

Kickstarting Your Professional Accounting Career

Online ⌚ Jun 2, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Kickstarting Your Professional Accounting Career is a one-hour interactive workshop featuring a panel of three newly designated CPAs. Each panelist will share their personal career journey, highlighting where they started and the...

9
JUN

Information Sessions

Online CPA Information Session

Online ⌚ Jun 9, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

The CPA program will be covered in detail including an open Q&A with CPABC staff member.

24
JUN

Information Sessions

Online CPA Information Session

Online ⌚ Jun 24, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

The CPA program will be covered in detail including an open Q&A with CPABC staff member.

29
JUN

Information Sessions

CPABC Q&A Webinar

Online ⌚ Jun 29, 2026 | 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Still have questions about the CPA program after attending one of the info sessions? Join us and ask away!

9-21
SEP

Career Events

CPABC Career Week

Hybrid ⌚ Sep 9 - 21, 2026

Step into the future of accounting and business with the **CPABC Career Week** —a dynamic, multi-day event designed to ignite your career journey and expand your professional horizons.



CPABC Events Webpage

Stay Connected



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Email Us

Contact the recruitment team by sending an email to recruitment@bccpa.ca.



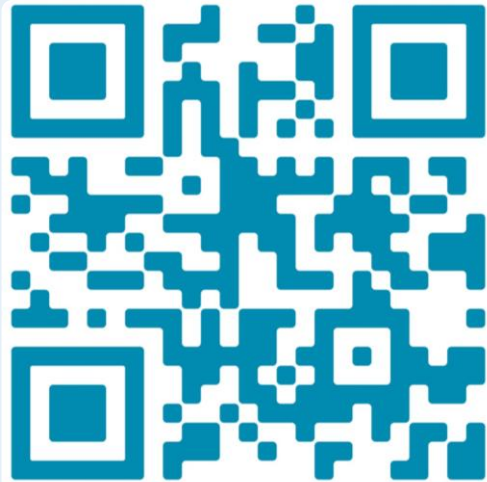
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Book a Zoom advising appointment.



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Email us

Contact our recruitment team at recruitment@bccpa.ca
bccpa.ca/become-a-cpa/questions-lets-chat/

Book an advising call

Have more questions about the CPA program? Get in touch with us.
bccpa.ca/become-a-cpa/questions-lets-chat/

The screenshot shows a blue login form with the following elements: a 'Login' title, an 'EMAIL' label above a white input field, a 'PASSWORD' label above another white input field, a 'Remember me?' checkbox, a green 'LOG IN' button, and a link for 'Forgot/reset your password.' at the bottom.

Create a My CPA Profile

Manage your CPA Program, including transcript assessment, program progress, module registrations, exam registrations, annual re-enrollment and more
my.cpawsb.ca



Prerequisite Knowledge

CPA Qualifying Courses for Knowledge Assessment Exemption - NEW CPA Program
bccpa.ca/become-a-cpa/admissions/knowledge-assessment-exemption