

MEETING THE COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

Question. If I am a transfer student and I took a class at a community college and had to take a very similar course again at UC Santa Barbara, will all of the units count toward the requirements?

Answer. Yes. Because your community college coursework will be documented on a separate transcript from the UC Santa Barbara transcript, you are allowed to count all of the units. If you repeat the same course at the same school, however, you cannot count the units twice.

Question. If I want to study abroad while at UCSB, can the courses I take while abroad be used to meet the CPA course requirements?

Answer. Yes. Courses that you take during a study abroad program that is run through UCEAP will show up on your official UCSB transcript and as long as the course titles meet the CPA requirements, they will apply.

Question. Do classes taken on a Pass/No Pass basis count toward the CPA course requirements?

Answer. Yes, they do count. All courses taken through the Economics department **MUST** be taken for a letter grade.

Question. Do both upper division and lower division classes count toward the CPA course requirements?

Answer. Yes, both levels of coursework count.

Question. Can I list a course more than once on the planning worksheet?

Answer. No. Courses can only be listed once.

Question. Do courses taken through the UC Santa Barbara Extension meet the CPA course requirements?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Do Advanced Placement credits that I took in high school count toward the 150 unit requirements?

Answer. Yes, however, you won't be able to use these credits to meet the specific accounting, business, and ethics course requirements.

Question. Are there any other programs that I can participate in that will help me get to the 225?

Answer. Yes. The department coordinates two programs via UC Santa Barbara Extension – Strategic Business Program (SBP) and the Professional Preparation Program in Accounting. For more information about these programs, please visit the Career Connection office, North Hall 2119, or see the “CPA at UCSB” work sheet at: http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/undergraduate/career_connection/CPA_at_UCSB.pdf

Question. Even with planning and taking courses in SBP and the Professional Preparation Program in Accounting, I am going to fall short of the CPA course requirements by one or two courses. What should I do?

Answer. Many students are in this situation. We recommend that students consider taking classes at local community colleges in the summer and fall after graduation. Many of these classes are offered online and can be flexible to meet your post-graduation schedule.

Question. Can I apply for and take the CPA exam while I am a student?

Answer. Generally, no. The requirements to be able to take the CPA exam are:

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- A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE
- 36 UNITS OF ACCOUNTING
- 36 UNITS OF BUSINESS-RELATED

Once you complete these requirements (even if you still have to meet other educational requirements for licensure), you can apply with the California Board of Accountancy to take the CPA exam.

Question. Where can I obtain the official information on the new educational requirements for CPA licensure?

Answer. In addition to the information provided by Career Connection at ucsbecon.com, the California Board of Accountancy has developed a webpage specific to providing up-to-date information on the new licensure requirements. You may access this page via the following link:
http://www.dca.ca.gov/cba/applicants/ed_requirements.shtml.

Question. What does the minimum and maximum wording mean on the CBA tip-sheet?

Answer. The minimum means that you must fulfill that section. For example in the 30 unit Accounting Study section, a minimum of 9 of those units must be additional accounting units. The other 21 units can come from a variety of areas, as defined by the CBA tip-sheet.

MAPPING YOUR COURSE PATHWAY

Question. Can you tell me which classes I've taken meet the CPA Education Requirements?

Answer. Unfortunately, the State Board does not publish a list which shows which college courses are approved to satisfy their requirements and will not discuss an applicant's coursework unless they have a current application on file. Each applicant must use his/her best judgment to determine whether their courses meet the CPA board's requirements before applying. The Career Connection office can guide you based upon the criteria that the board has set, but the State Board has the final say.

Question. Are there tools available to help me plan my coursework so that I can meet the requirements?

Answer. We have developed a worksheet of the new requirements under "CPA Worksheets" at ucsbecon.com that you can fill in to track what courses you have taken and what you need to take in the future. In addition, the CBA has a worksheet that you can use.

Question. Who can I talk to or meet with to find out more about planning out my course load to meet the requirements?

Answer. The department established the Career Connection office (North Hall 2119) to assist students with navigating the CPA educational requirements. Current advising hours are posted on the blog (ucsbecon.com).

ETHICS STUDY REQUIREMENT

Question. Is there a list of ethics-related courses at UC Santa Barbara that I can take to satisfy the 15-unit Ethics Study requirement?

Answer. Yes. Please see the CPA Worksheets section at ucsbecon.com. The worksheet has both UC Santa Barbara general courses, as well as SBP courses that will fulfill the ethics section.