

What does it take to become a CPA?

There are three different areas required to become a licensed CPA: education, exam and experience

EDUCATION

- ◆ Baccalaureate degree
- ◆ 225 quarter units of coursework
- ◆ Accounting & business coursework

EXAM

- ◆ Apply to sit for the CPA exam after graduating
- ◆ Pass all 4 parts with a 75% or higher

EXPERIENCE

- ◆ 1 year of accounting-related experience, under a licensed CPA

Can I earn all 225 units at UCSB?

A 200 unit maximum applies to most UCSB students (speak with your college advisor for information about your personal situation).

Even though 225 quarter-units are equivalent to 5 years of coursework, students can and do achieve the unit requirement by using advanced placement credits, earning a Strategic Business Program Certificate (SBP) via UCSB Extension, and The Professional Preparation Program in Accounting (10 week summer program - 24 units), taking additional UCSB courses and taking courses at community colleges.

This non-master's approach has the benefit of being flexible, economical and can be completed faster than many master's programs at other universities. This approach allows you to begin your career while you finish your coursework.

What programs does UCSB have to help me fulfill the CPA educational requirements?

UCSB's Department of Economics and Extension have collaborated to develop two programs that can assist students in meeting the new educational requirements. Both of these programs have a fee of \$140/unit.

Strategic Business Program - 16 or more units

The Strategic Business Certificate Program (SBP) is a collaboration between the Department of Economics and UCSB Extension. SBP is designed to provide participants with a solid foundation in important business strategy areas; including accounting, business formation, law, finance, and the foundations of business strategy. SBP is intended for UCSB students who want to enhance their degree with a business specific certificate and individuals who need additional units for CPA certification. SBP units CANNOT be applied toward your graduation or major requirements. You can begin these courses as early as your freshman year.

Professional Preparation Program in Accounting - 24 units

The Professional Preparation Program for Accounting is designed to help you meet the California requirements for CPA Licensure. You can fulfill 24 quarter units toward CPA (Certified Public Accountant) Licensure in only 10 weeks. This program is only offered during summer. It is recommended that you enroll in this course the quarter Courses are offered in an intense, high-quality sequence, designed to provide the detailed knowledge and skills desirable in a professional accountant. Courses cover professionally based material that expands upon the academic accounting curriculum offered by the UCSB Economics Department. Courses provide information that broadens student understanding and knowledge of modern business methods and environments. Taken together, the four courses in the sequence also cover topics included in the CPA examination

In addition to those two programs, students are encouraged to enroll in honors sections (available for some accounting courses), and take additional UCSB units if time, and schedule, permits. The Career Connection office (North Hall 2119) can assist you with planning and preparing to meet the CPA educational requirements.