



**CARROLL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT**

**Guide to Meeting
Certified Public Accountant
(CPA)
Requirements at
Boston College**

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Revised: October 20, 2011**

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to assist Boston College students interested in becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Requirements to become a CPA vary by state and may change over time. It is therefore an excellent idea to check the Board of Accountancy's web site in the state you plan to practice for the latest requirements (search: 'state' board of accountancy, e.g., MA state board of accountancy). An appendix of selected state CPA web sites is provided at the end of the document.

Given the large number of BC students that end up practicing in Massachusetts and New York, the specific CPA requirements for these states are discussed in this guide. Most other states follow a similar set of rules but students should check with their respective state boards to ensure that they have satisfied all the requirements. If after reading this guide you are still uncertain as to how you will be able to meet the CPA requirements, please consult your accounting professor or seek assistance from the Accounting Department in Fulton 520.

II. CPA REQUIREMENTS

A. General CPA Licensure Requirements. Most states impose the following requirements to become licensed as a CPA:

- (i) Be of good moral character.
- (ii) Minimum age, typically 18 or 21.
- (iii) Bachelor's or baccalaureate degree (not limited to business).
- (iv) Minimum total credit hours (usually 150) including separate minimums in accounting and business.
- (v) Specific topical coverage of accounting and business courses.
- (vi) Minimum work experience.
- (vii) Pass the CPA exam.

Some of the requirements may be waived if the candidate meets a more stringent set of requirements. For example, in Massachusetts, candidates with a graduate degree in accounting from an accredited institution (e.g., BC's MSA program) automatically satisfy the minimum credit and topical coverage requirements and do not require any work experience to qualify for the CPA.

The requirements for taking the exam *may be a sub-set* of the requirements for CPA licensure, thereby allowing a candidate to take the exam even prior to satisfying all of the CPA certification requirements. In the states of Massachusetts and New York, for example, students need only 120 credit-hours to take the exam but would need 150 credit-hours to become a CPA. This distinction will be discussed in the next section.

B. Massachusetts (MA) CPA Requirements.

1. Exam Requirements – To apply for the CPA exam in MA, a candidate must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- expect to complete *at the time of the exam*:
 - at least 120 semester hours of course work;
 - a bachelor's degree;
 - at least 21 semester hours of accounting including coverage in financial accounting, management (cost) accounting, auditing and taxation; and
 - at least 9 semester hours in business including coverage in business law, finance and information systems.

A BC undergraduate accounting major who takes all the required accounting courses (MA021, MA022, MA301, MA302, MA307, MA405) and both Auditing (MA309) and Information Systems (Accounting Information Systems - MA618 or Information Systems Security MA641) will satisfy these examination requirements.

A candidate can apply for the exam in the last semester (or summer term) he/she expects to complete all the educational requirements by submitting a notarized certificate of enrollment indicating the courses he/she is currently taking. The official certificate of enrollment is downloaded from the NASBA web site (http://www.nasba.org/files/2011/02/Cert_Enrollment_Massachusetts.pdf) --- do not use BC's form! In addition, the candidate must submit a final transcript within 90 days of taking the exam. Applications for the exam can be done online at the National State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) website: <http://www.nasba.org/exams/cpaexam/massachusetts/>

Although some states now allow candidates to sit for the exam with a reduced set of requirements, it does not mean that a student should rush to take the exam. Historical test results show that students with a graduate degree (150 credits compliant) pass the exam at a higher rate than students with only an undergraduate degree.

2. CPA Certification Requirements – To be licensed as a CPA in MA, a candidate must:

- pass the CPA exam (and therefore meet all of the requirements to take the exam);
- complete one year of public accounting experience (no experience is required for those with a graduate degree in accounting, business or law); this requirement is waived if you wish only a non-reporting CPA license.

- complete at least 150 semester hours of course work within 3 years of passing all four parts of the exam;
- meet **at least one** of the following educational requirements:
 - obtain a graduate degree in accounting from an AACSB accredited accounting program or one that has been approved by the Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy (*BC's MSA program meets this requirement*); or
 - obtain a graduate degree in business administration (e.g., MBA, MSF, MST) of which 18 graduate (or 30 undergraduate) semester hours are in accounting with specific coverage of financial and managerial accounting, auditing and taxation, and 18 graduate (24 undergraduate) semester hours are in business. A combination of graduate and undergraduate credits may be used to meet the requirements but each undergraduate credit is equivalent only to 3/5 of a graduate credit; or
 - obtain an undergraduate degree in business of which 30 semester hours are in accounting with specific coverage of financial and managerial accounting, auditing and taxation, and 24 semester hours are in business courses other than accounting with specific coverage of business law, information systems, finance and coverage in at least one of the areas of economics, business organizations, professional ethics and/or business communication; or
 - obtain an undergraduate degree in any non-business field but with 30 semester hours in accounting with specific coverage of financial and managerial accounting, auditing and taxation, and 24 semester hours are in business courses other than accounting with at least three semester-hours in the areas of business law, business information systems, professional ethics and finance.

All education credits must be completed at a nationally or regionally accredited institution but are not limited to the candidate's degree-granting institution. Credits taken at a two-year accredited school (or overseas as part of an exchange program) are accepted only if transferred and recognized by a nationally or regionally accredited institution.

C. New York (NY) CPA Requirements

1. Exam Requirements – To sit for the CPA exam in New York, a candidate must:

- complete at least 120 semester hours of course work and

- complete at least a course in each of the following accounting topical areas: financial accounting, cost or management accounting, audit and attestation and taxation. Audit must be taken in the junior or senior year.

A BC undergraduate accounting major who takes all the required accounting courses (MA021, MA022, MA301, MA302, MA307, MA405) and Auditing (MA309) will satisfy these examination requirements.

Unlike Massachusetts, a New York state candidate must have completed 120 credit-hours *prior* to applying for the exam.

2. CPA Certification Requirements – To be licensed as a CPA in New York, a candidate must:

- be at least 21 years old;
- be of good moral character;
- pass the CPA exam;
- have at least one year of qualifying experience (according to New York requirements, working for a public accounting firm will suffice even if you do not practice auditing);
- meet **at least one** of the following requirements:
 - complete at least 15 years of public accounting experience acceptable to the State Board for Public Accountancy;
 - obtain a bachelor's or higher degree and complete 150 semester hours of course work including 33 semester hours in the professional accountancy content areas, which include but are not limited to the following subjects: financial accounting and reporting, cost or managerial accounting, taxation, auditing and attestation services, fraud examination, internal controls and risk assessment, and accounting information systems, and 36 semester hours in general business courses including but not limited to business statistics, business law, computer science, economics, finance, management, marketing, operations management, organizational behavior, business strategy, quantitative methods, and information technology systems. The curriculum must also include coverage in business or accounting communications, ethics and professional responsibility and accounting research.

All education credits completed at an accounting program that is registered with the NY Department of Education as licensure-qualifying or equivalent to a registered program, or at an accounting program that is accredited by a body accepted by the Department (e.g., AACSB) will be accepted. ***Boston College satisfies this requirement.*** Courses taken online are acceptable only if offered at a regionally accredited college or university. Pass/fail grades are acceptable in all subjects except accounting.

III. MEETING THE CPA REQUIREMENTS AT BOSTON COLLEGE

A. **Undergraduate Degree in Accounting only** – A BC undergraduate with a concentration in accounting is required to take the following six three-credit courses:

MA021 – Introduction to Financial Accounting
MA022 – Introduction to Managerial Accounting
MA301 – Financial Accounting Standards & Theory I
MA302 – Financial Accounting Standards & Theory II
MA307 – Managerial Cost Analysis
MA405 – Federal Taxation

plus one elective from:

MA 309 – Auditing
MA 351 – Financial Statement Analysis
MA 602 – Accounting Theory
MA 618 – Accounting Information Systems
MA 641 – Information Systems Security Management & Forensics

1. Qualifying for the CPA Exam Only. To meet the requirements for taking the CPA exam in MA, a BC undergraduate must take **both** Auditing (MA309) and Information Systems (AIS - MA618 or Information Systems Security Management MA641). In addition, the student must take at least five three-credit classes every semester including their senior year. Ignoring Advance Placement (AP) credits, withdrawals and overloads, the student should graduate with the minimum 120 credit-hours (5 classes/semester x 3 credits/class x 8 semesters) and satisfy the 21 Accounting and 9 general business credit requirements to sit for the exam.

In NY, a BC undergraduate needs only to take the six required classes plus Auditing (MA309) and graduate with 120 semester-credits to qualify to sit for the CPA exam.

2. Qualifying for CPA licensure. The two key education constraints in meeting the requirements for CPA licensure are the 150 credit hour requirement and the minimum credit hours in Accounting. A BC undergraduate will be unable to meet

the requirements for CPA licensure without a graduate degree unless the student obtains 30 additional credit hours from a combination of AP credits, overloads, and summer or on-line courses.

(i) The first step in determining how close a student is to meeting the 150 credit hour requirement is to obtain a copy of the transcript or degree audit and count the number of AP credits and courses taken. Projecting a regular five three-credit course load throughout the four years, a BC student will graduate with a total 120 credit hours. The number of AP credits recognized (“flipped”) on the transcript plus the total projected credit hours at graduation will determine the number of remaining classes to be taken after graduation to meet the 150 hour requirement.

Note that while AP credits may be recognized without limit for purposes of waiving out of core classes, Boston College imposes a minimum number that it will recognize on the transcript for advanced standing purposes. Starting with the class of 2011, Boston College requires students to have 24 or more AP credits to be recognized for advance standing (and therefore reflected on the transcript). *For students intending to take the CPA exam, however, the registrar has agreed to lower the minimum number of AP credits it will recognize on the transcript.* The recognition of this lower threshold of AP credits can only be done after you graduate (which means it can not be used for advance standing but can be used for purposes of applying for the CPA exam). ***To effect this, during the spring semester of your senior year, you must notify the accounting department chair of your wish to have your AP credits recognized for purposes of the CPA exam. The list will then be forwarded to the Office of Student Services. In general, the request to recognize the AP credits on the transcript will be approved the week following graduation.***

(ii) A student with 30 or more AP credits should be able to satisfy the 150 hour requirement easily without overloads. *However, the student should consult with an accounting faculty advisor to ensure that the minimum 30 (33 in NY) accounting credits and required course coverage are also satisfied within the four-year program.*

For those with 15-29 AP credits (or a combination of at least 15 AP and college credits totaling 135-149), students will be able to meet the 150 hour requirement by taking no more than five classes in the summer term after their senior year.

For those with less than 15 AP credits, students will need at least two terms (e.g., summer and fall) to meet the 150 hour requirement.

It is important to remember that meeting the 150-hour rule is not the goal --- obtaining the skills that would lead to a successful career is. Meeting the 150-hour requirement but failing the CPA exam results only in wasted time and costs. Hence, the student should avoid overloading and/or taking useless or less rigorous courses just to meet the 150 hour requirement at the expense of

taking courses that are relevant to their careers and that would help them pass the CPA exam.

iii) In addition to having at least 150 total credit hours, a CPA candidate must also take a minimum number of credits in business and accounting with specific coverage of certain topics. In MA, CPA candidates must have ***at least 24 semester hours of non-accounting business courses***. This requirement is met by the management core.

NY state requires at least 36 non-accounting business credits. The management core requires only 30 credits (plus 3 credits with Portico or one credit with Ethics). Hence, in addition to meeting the management core, NY candidates will need to take one or two additional non-accounting business classes. The department recommends that a student take Business Law II (MJ022) as one of the additional business courses given its coverage in the CPA exam.

Students who major or minor in Arts & Sciences and elect to skip any of the management core classes should note that business law, economics, finance, information systems, operations management and strategy have topics covered in the Regulation and Business Environment and Concepts sections of the CPA exam. One should avoid electing to drop these management core classes.

iv) In MA, the minimum number of accounting credits is 30 with specific coverage of financial accounting, audit, taxation and management accounting. Because accounting majors are required to take only seven accounting classes to receive the concentration, they must take at least three additional accounting courses in order to meet this requirement.

NY state requires 33 credits in “professional accounting” content areas, with at least topical coverage of accounting research, ethics/professionalism and business or accounting communication. Ethics and professionalism and business or accounting communication can be satisfied by accounting or general business courses. Because an accounting concentration requires only seven accounting classes, a student intending to practice in NY must take four additional accounting classes.

To meet the 33 credits and specific topic requirements in accounting for New York, a student should also take the Business Writing and Communications course (MA588) and the Ethics & Professional Responsibility class (MA634). The accounting research requirement is satisfied by the Federal Taxation class (MA405). Note that Accounting Information Systems (MA 618) and FAST III (MA601) are no longer required by NY state but are highly recommended because of their coverage in the CPA exam. Because some of these classes may not be offered every semester, it is also important that the student plans his/her courses carefully to ensure he/she takes the required courses when they are available.

- B. Graduate Accounting Courses at Boston College** – To enable students to meet the 150 hour requirement, the Accounting department offers a large number of graduate courses over the summer (in addition to the fall and spring semesters). At BC, the maximum number of classes a student can take over the summer is five. Most other institutions do not offer schedules that would allow you to take these many classes in the summer, so plan accordingly if you intend to take the classes elsewhere. A student who needs less than 15 credits (five classes) to reach 150 can meet this threshold by taking classes in the summer after their senior year. Students who need more than 15 credits (six or more classes) will need at least two terms to reach 150.

Boston College offers a Masters of Science in Accounting program for qualified applicants (see www.bc.edu/msa for more details). For as few as eight courses taken over two terms, students can satisfy the 150 hour requirement *and* receive an MSA degree from Boston College. Students can complete their MSA degree over summer-fall, fall-spring-summer or summer-summer. At least one summer term is required because certain required courses are offered only in the summer. Consult the MSA co-directors (Prof. Ron Pawliczek and Jeff Cohen) and the Graduate Programs Admissions Office if you would like more information on the MSA program.

A student who completes the MSA degree at Boston College will automatically satisfy all the education requirements of the MA CPA. Candidates for NY state will also be able to satisfy their requirements but must select the right combination of courses.

BC undergraduates who need less than eight courses and do not wish to pursue an MSA degree to reach the 150 hours can take classes at Boston College as special students. ***However, they will need to apply to the Graduate Programs Office as a special non-degree student before they will be allowed to register for the classes.*** Application forms will be available in the Graduate Programs and department offices starting early spring semester (expected due date of March 1).

- C. Planning your Courses** - A checklist is provided in Appendix A to help determine whether all education requirements are satisfied by students intending to take the CPA exam in MA or NY. For other states, please consult the respective state boards of accountancy (or NASBA web site: www.nasba.org) for specific course requirements. If necessary, consult an accounting professor if you are uncertain.

Appendix B provides a list of all accounting courses offered at Boston College and the term(s) when they are normally offered to help you plan your schedule. Note that certain classes are offered only once or twice a year. Students intending to go abroad or planning to complete the 150 in only one summer should therefore plan accordingly.

III. INTRODUCTION TO THE CPA EXAM

- A. Elements of the CPA Exam.** The CPA exam is a common exam recognized by all 55 U.S. jurisdictions (50 states plus District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands). While individual states or jurisdictions may impose different education and/or experience requirements, the CPA exam is recognized in all states regardless of where you take and pass it. Keep in mind however that some states may require CPA candidates to complete the education and/or experience requirements within a limited time period after passing the exam.

There are four parts to the CPA Exam. A minimum grade of 75 is required to pass each part. A description of each part from the AICPA is provided as well as the corresponding BC courses that cover the material follows:

1. Auditing and Attestation (AUD – 4 hours long). This section covers knowledge of auditing procedures, generally accepted auditing standards and other standards related to attest engagements, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge. *Covered by MA309 (Audit and Assurance) and MA618 (Accounting Information Systems). In the MSA: MA815 (Financial Auditing), MA618 (Accounting Information Systems) and MA825 (Assurance & Consulting Services).*
2. Business Environment and Concepts (BEC – 3 hours long). This section covers knowledge of general business environment and business concepts that candidates need to know in order to understand the underlying business reasons for and accounting implications of business transactions, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge. *Covered by CSOM core, MA022 (Managerial Accounting) and MA307 (Managerial Cost Analysis). In the MSA: MA817 (Internal Cost Management), MA827 (Strategic Cost), MD700 (Economics), MF704 (Financial Management), MD723 (Operations Management).*
3. Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR – 4 hours long). This section covers knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles for business enterprises under US GAAP and IFRS, not-for-profit organizations, and governmental entities, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge. *Covered by MA301 (FAST 1), MA302 (FAST 2), MA601 (FAST 3), MA351 (FSA), MA602 (Accounting Theory) and MA610 (IFRS). In the MSA: MA813 (FAP1) MA814 (FAP2), MA601, MA602, MA610 and MA824 (FSA).*
4. Regulation (REG – 3 hours long). This section covers knowledge of federal taxation, ethics, professional and legal responsibilities, and business law, and the skills needed to apply that knowledge. *Covered by MJ021 (Business Law I), MJ022 (Business Law II), MA405 (Federal Taxation), MA615 (Advanced Federal Taxation), MA634 (Ethics and Professionalism). In the MSA: MJ803 (Law for*

CPAs), MA816 (Federal Taxation), MA826 (Taxes and Management Decisions), MA615 and MA634.

B. Administrative Details of the CPA Exam.

1. The exam is administered only in electronic format. To apply for the exam, go to NASBA (www.nasba.org) and download the Candidate Bulletin for the Uniform CPA Exam. You will also need to download all the necessary application forms or apply electronically (in some states only). Each state has its own application process.

In MA, you can apply for the exam even prior to graduation provided you submit your completed transcript within 90 days of taking it (but you cannot take the exam before graduation). If you choose to apply prior to graduation, you need to complete a notarized Certificate of Enrollment from NASBA that specifies the courses you are currently taking and when you expect to graduate. The dean, registrar or department chair must sign this form. For a list of notary publics on campus, go to www.bc.bcinfo and type “Notary Public” in the search section.

New York also allows you to apply for the exam before you graduate if you have completed 120 credit hours at the time of your application.

2. Most applications will require you to submit an application form, sealed transcript (some states such as NY require you to have the transcript mailed directly to NASBA) and all the necessary fees. There is a separate fee for every application and every part of the exam you wish to take. If the application is approved, NASBA will send you a “Notice to Schedule” (NTS) that allows you to schedule your exam at any Prometric Office in the country (<http://www.prometric.com/CPA/default.htm>). You need not take the exam in the state you intend to practice. The NTS is valid for at least six months from the date of issue except for Texas where it is valid for only 90 days. Check the candidate bulletin for the list of states that have a valid period longer than 6 months.

3. The exam can be taken during the first two months of any calendar quarter, defined as a “testing window”. The “testing windows” are from January 1 to February 28 (or 29), April 1 to May 31, July 1 to August 31, and October 1 to November 30. The exam is not administered during the third month of the calendar quarter (March, June, September and December). It takes 4-6 weeks to process your exam application and sometimes longer during peak periods after graduation, so make sure to allow enough time.

4. A candidate can schedule one, all or any combination of the four parts of the exam at a time. However, credit for any part of the exam passed is valid for only 18 months, and the candidate must pass all the remaining parts within that period. Otherwise, credit for that part is voided and the candidate will have to retake that

portion of the exam. In addition, there is a separate re-application fee every time you apply to take any part of the exam.

5. Upon passing all parts of the exam, a candidate typically has up to 3 years to meet the 150 hour requirement. Failure to do so will necessitate retaking the exam.

C. General Tips for Taking the Exam.

- Plan your schedule in taking the exam. It takes NASBA about 4-6 weeks to process your first-time application to take the exam (longer during the post-graduation period at the beginning of summer), but the reapplication period is often much shorter. If you intend to take all four parts of the exam within a six month period, it would be more cost-effective to apply to take all four parts of the exam in one application but remember that the Notice to Schedule the exam will usually expire after six months and you lose the testing fee if you don't take the exam within that period.
- There are a limited number of slots available to take the exam. It is a good idea to schedule your exam as soon as possible in order to guarantee you a seat in the testing site closest to you. Peak examination times are during the summer or early fall.
- Alumni overwhelmingly tell us how difficult it is to study for the exam while working. If possible, take some or all parts of the exam soon after graduation or while still taking graduate studies (to complete the 150 hours). One's test-taking skills diminish once you leave school. It is easier to take tests while your brain is still in study-mode. As an added incentive, most accounting firms reward employees who pass the CPA exam within one or two years of starting with a significant cash bonus. Promotion within the firm is also often contingent on passing the CPA exam.
- It is a good idea to take a review course. Going through a review program helps to consolidate and refresh your knowledge of material you may have studied as far back as three years ago. Most accounting firms will pay for your first review course. BC now hosts a Becker CPA review course on campus during the summer.
- The CPA exam covers a wide range of topics. The minimum number of courses required for an accounting concentration will cover **most, but not all**, of the areas that will appear on the exam. Given a choice, it will only help you in the exam if you take advantage of the many electives and graduate-level classes in accounting that the department offers.

Appendix A

Checklist for determining CPA Certification as an Undergraduate

Step 1: Count the total number of credits expected at graduation.

Total number of AP credit _____

Total number of credits earned to date _____

Total number of credits expected to earn in remaining semesters _____

Total expected credits at graduation _____

REQUIRED IN MOST STATES: 150 total credit hours satisfied?

Step 2: Count the total number of credits in non-accounting business classes.

Management core (3 credits each)	Semester taken	# of credits
1) Principles of Economics I (EC131)		
2) Principles of Economics II (EC132)		
3) Statistics (EC151)		
4) Computers in Management (MI021)		
5) Organization Behavior (MB021 or 022)		
6) Basic Finance (MF021)		
7) Principles of Marketing (MK021)		
8) Introduction to Law (MJ021)		
9) Management and Operations (MD021)		
10) Strategy and Policy (MD099)		
11) Portico (MH100) - Class of 2013 onwards only or Ethics (MH001 - one credit only)		
Others:		
12) Business Law II (MJ022)		
TOTAL		

MA requirement is 24 credits (8 classes) satisfied with the management core.

**NY requirement is 36 credits (12 classes), satisfied with the management core plus:
Business Law II**

Step 3: Count the total number of credits in Accounting courses.

Accounting (3 credits each)	Semester taken	# of credits
1) MA021 – Financial Accounting		
2) MA022 – Managerial Accounting		
3) MA301 – Financial Accounting Standards & Theory (FAST) I		
4) MA302 – Financial Accounting Standards & Theory (FAST) II		
5) MA307 – Managerial Cost & Analysis		
6) MA309 – Auditing		
7) MA405 – Federal Taxation		
8) MA618 – Accounting Information Systems or MA641 – Information Systems Security Management & Forensics		
Others:		
9) MA601 – FAST III		
10)		
11)		
<i>TOTAL</i>		

MA requires 30 Accounting credits (equivalent to 10 Accounting classes)

NY requires 33 Accounting credits (equivalent to 11 Accounting classes) but also requires coverage of the following courses outside the Accounting concentration:

Ethics and Professionalism (MA634)

Business Writing & Communications (MA588)
 (if not satisfied by business course requirement)

Appendix B

Accounting & Other CPA Required Course Offerings By Term

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Undergraduate:			
MA021 – Financial Accounting	√	√	
MA022 – Managerial Accounting	√	√	
MA301 – Financial Accounting Standards & Theory (FAST) I	√	√	
MA302 – Financial Accounting Standards & Theory (FAST) II	√	√	
MA307 – Managerial Cost & Analysis	√	√	
MA309 – Auditing	√	√	
MA351 – Financial Statement Analysis	√	√	
MA405 – Federal Taxation	√	√	
MA588 – Business Writing & Communication	√	√	
Upper-level (can be taken by Undergraduate or Graduate):			
MA601 – Financial Accounting Standards & Theory (FAST) III	√	√	√
MA602 – Theory and Contemporary Issues in Accounting	√ (sometimes)	√ (sometimes)	√ (sometimes)
MA610 – International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)		√	√
MA615 – Advanced Federal Taxation	√ (sometimes)	√ (sometimes)	√
MA616 – Personal Wealth Planning			√
MA618 – Accounting Information Systems	√	√	√
MA634 – Ethics & Professionalism in Accounting	√ (sometimes)	√	√ (usually)
MA641 - Information Systems Security Management and Forensics		√	
Graduate:			
MA810 – Communication Skills for Managers			√
MA813 – Financial Accounting Practice I	√ (sometimes)		√ (sometimes)
MA814 – Financial Accounting Practice II		√ (sometimes)	√ (sometimes)

MA815 – Financial Auditing	√		
MA816 – Federal Taxation	√		
MA817 – Internal Cost Management and Control			√
MA824 – Financial Statement Analysis	√	√	√
MA825 – Assurance and Consulting Services		√ (sometimes)	√
MA826 – Taxes and Management Decisions	√ (sometimes)	√ (sometimes)	√
MA827 – Strategic Cost and Profitability Analysis	√ (sometimes)	√ (sometimes)	√
MA835 – Forensic Accounting		√ (sometimes)	√ (usually)
MA848 – Business Systems Consulting			√ (sometimes)
MA852 – Advanced Topics: Finance, Accounting and Controls in High-Tech Growth	√		
MA856 – Corporate Governance & Risk Management		√ (sometimes)	
Non-Accounting Courses:			
MJ022 – Business Law II	√	√	
MJ803 – Law for CPAs	√	√	√
MH588 - Business Communications & Writing	√	√	
MM810 – Communication Skills for Managers	√	√	

Appendix C

Useful CPA Websites

www.aicpa.org/Legislative+Activities+and+State+Licensing+Issues/State+News+and+Info/States/stmap.htm - American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) website on state licensing requirements

www.nasba.org – National State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) website for state-specific exam requirements and application forms.

www.msccaonline.org – Massachusetts State Society of CPAs website for information on Massachusetts CPA requirements. Also useful source of information for scholarships and CPA events.

www.op.nysed.gov/cpalic.htm#exam – New York state education department website for information on New York state CPA requirements.

Other state-specific websites on becoming a CPA:

CA: <http://www.calcpa.org/Content/licensure/requirements.aspx>

CT: <http://www.cscpa.org/Content/22974.aspx>

IL: <http://www.icpas.org/hc-students.aspx?id=2730>

MA: http://www.cpatrack.com/becoming_a_cpa/

MD: <http://www.macpa.org/Content/16157.aspx>

MN: http://www.mncpa.org/career/becoming_a_cpa/

NH: <http://www.nh.gov/accountancy/certification/index.htm>

NJ: <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/accountancy/index.htm>

NY: http://www.nysscpa.org/society/Future_CPAs/howtobecomeanaccountant.htm

PA: <http://www.picpa.org/Content/38481.aspx>

RI: <http://www.dbr.state.ri.us/divisions/accountancy/>

TX: <http://www.tsbpa.state.tx.us/>

FAQs

- **Can I still go abroad and will the credits taken overseas count?**

Yes, courses taken through an international program offered by the Office of International Programs at BC are recognized on the BC transcript and will count towards meeting the 150 hour rule. However, there are a limited number of accounting classes that are recognized by the department because of differences in accounting standards (this constraint may disappear in time). As such, careful planning of courses is critical in order to meet the minimum Accounting credits required, especially if the student intends to meet the CPA requirements within a four-year undergraduate program. In addition, students should make sure to take at least fifteen credits per semester abroad in order to stay on track with meeting the required 150 hours.

- **Can I still double- or triple-major if I want to meet the CPA requirements?**

The department encourages students to take courses other than Accounting to expand their understanding of how businesses operate. Having a second or third concentration can also make you more attractive to potential employers. However, double- or triple-majoring and meeting the 150-hour requirement within a four-year program will be extremely difficult in the absence of significant AP credits. On the other hand, completing a double-major with an MSA degree is very feasible. Make sure to consult with an accounting faculty advisor as soon as possible if you plan to double- or triple-concentrate.

- **Can I take on-line courses to satisfy the 150-hour requirement?**

Most states, including MA and NY, will accept on-line classes provided they are offered by a regionally or nationally accredited institution or are accepted for transfer to a regionally or nationally accredited institution. On-line credits are not recognized by BC and separate submission of their transcripts will be required in your CPA application.

- **Can I take summer classes elsewhere to satisfy the 150-hour requirement?**

Yes, summer classes are acceptable provided they are offered by a regionally or nationally accredited institution or an institution recognized by the state board of accountancy. However, unless the courses are taken at BC, they will not be recognized on the BC transcript and separate submission of the transcript will be required when you apply for the CPA exam.

- **Must I take all my classes at BC or can I take some of the classes elsewhere?**

You do not need to have all your credits come from the same institution. If the credits are earned at multiple institutions, you will need to submit transcripts from all institutions when you apply for the CPA exam. Only credits earned at institutions that are accredited or recognized by the state are acceptable.

- **What elective courses would you recommend to someone preparing for the CPA exam?**

There are certain topics in the exam that are not covered in the required classes to concentrate in accounting. For this reason, the department recommends that students intending to sit for the CPA exam should also take FAST III – Advanced Accounting (MA601), Understanding IFRS Financial Statements (MA610), Advanced Federal Taxation (MA615), Ethics and Professionalism (MA634) and Commercial Law (covered in Business Law II – MJ022 or Law for CPAs MJ803).

- **Should I skip any management core classes if I also major or minor in Arts & Sciences (class of 2016 onwards only)?**

You should be aware that certain parts of the CPA exam, such as BEC and REG, cover topics in non-accounting business classes such as business law, economics, finance, information systems, operations management and strategy. You should therefore avoid dropping these core classes. In addition, certain states require a minimum number of non-accounting business credits for CPA certification.

Still confused? Attend the department's "Preparing for the CPA Exam Panel" hosted every semester or consult your accounting professor, accounting department chair or the Accounting department secretary in Fulton 520.