

## CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (CPA)

The oldest and best-known professional accounting examination is the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) exam. This computer-based examination consists of four sections: auditing and attestation, financial accounting and reporting, regulation, and business environment and concepts. Candidates may take the four parts in any order, but must pass all four parts within eighteen month after passing the first part. Exam sections may be taken during any of the four 2-month "testing windows" annually.

USF students may satisfy the accounting requirement by taking at least one course in each of the first 5 groups below and a minimum of 36 hours from the six groups:

### Financial Accounting

Intermediate Financial Accounting I  
Intermediate Financial Accounting II  
Intermediate Financial Accounting III  
Advanced Financial Accounting  
Development of Accounting Thought\*\*

### Auditing

Auditing I  
Auditing II  
Internal & Operational Auditing  
Contemporary Issues in Auditing\*\*

### Cost Accounting

Cost Accounting & Control I  
Cost Accounting & Control II  
Cost Accounting Theory\*\*

### Taxation

Concepts of Federal Income Taxes  
Federal Taxation of Business Entities  
Tax Research & Planning\*\*  
Estate Planning\*\*

### Information Systems

Accounting Information Systems  
Accounting Systems Theory\*\*  
AIS Audit, Control and Security\*\*

### Other

Government/Not-For-Profit Accounting  
Integrative Accounting Seminar\*\*

\*\*These are graduate-level courses, and may be taken ONLY by students admitted to the Master of Accountancy program.

### **Minimum Educational Requirements to Sit for the CPA Exam as a Florida Candidate:**

**Applicants sitting for the exam** must have completed **120 semester hours** from an appropriately accredited college or university. Special rules apply for non-accredited institutions. The minimum accounting coursework required is **24 semester hours of upper level accounting** which must include coverage of taxation, auditing, cost/managerial, financial, and accounting information systems. The **non-accounting business coursework** must be at least **24 hours of upper division** general business courses. One microeconomics, one macroeconomics, one statistics, one business law, and one introduction to computers course may be lower division. As part of the general business hours, applicants are required to have a total of **six semester hours of business law** courses, which must cover contracts, torts, and the Uniform Commercial Code. Excess upper division accounting courses may be used to meet the general business requirement. However, elementary accounting classes are never acceptable for credit for either the accounting or business course requirement, nor are courses for non-accounting majors and any MBA courses that are equivalent to elementary accounting. **In terms of the knowledge required to pass the CPA exam**, the SOA recommends completion of the following USF courses: three semesters of intermediate financial accounting, cost accounting, accounting information systems, advanced financial accounting, governmental/nonprofit accounting, two tax courses, two auditing courses, and Law and the Accountant.

### **Requirements to Become a Licensed CPA in Florida:**

- Submit a CPA Original Licensure application and a \$50.00 nonrefundable fee.
- Score 80% on a Florida Laws and Rules Examination (after passing the CPA exam).
- Provide evidence of one year of acceptable work experience (supervisor must be a CPA).
- Submit official transcripts evidencing completion of a baccalaureate degree, plus an **additional 30 semester hours** of education in excess of the baccalaureate **degree to include 12 semester hours of upper division accounting and 15 semester hours of upper division general business courses.**

**For more specific information and an application to take the CPA exam and a Florida candidate, go to [www.myflorida.com/dbpr/cpa](http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr/cpa).**

**Additional useful information about the CPA exam itself is available at [www.cpa-exam.org](http://www.cpa-exam.org).**

**Information about sitting as a candidate of another state can be found at [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org). Click on "CPA Review Brochure" on the SOA homepage for information about the USF CPA.**

If you have questions about the CPA exam, please contact the Undergraduate Advising Office at (813) 974-4290. For more information about the USF CPA Review Program, please contact Donna Pontonero, the SOA Office Manager ([dpontone@coba.usf.edu](mailto:dpontone@coba.usf.edu) or (813) 974-6389).