

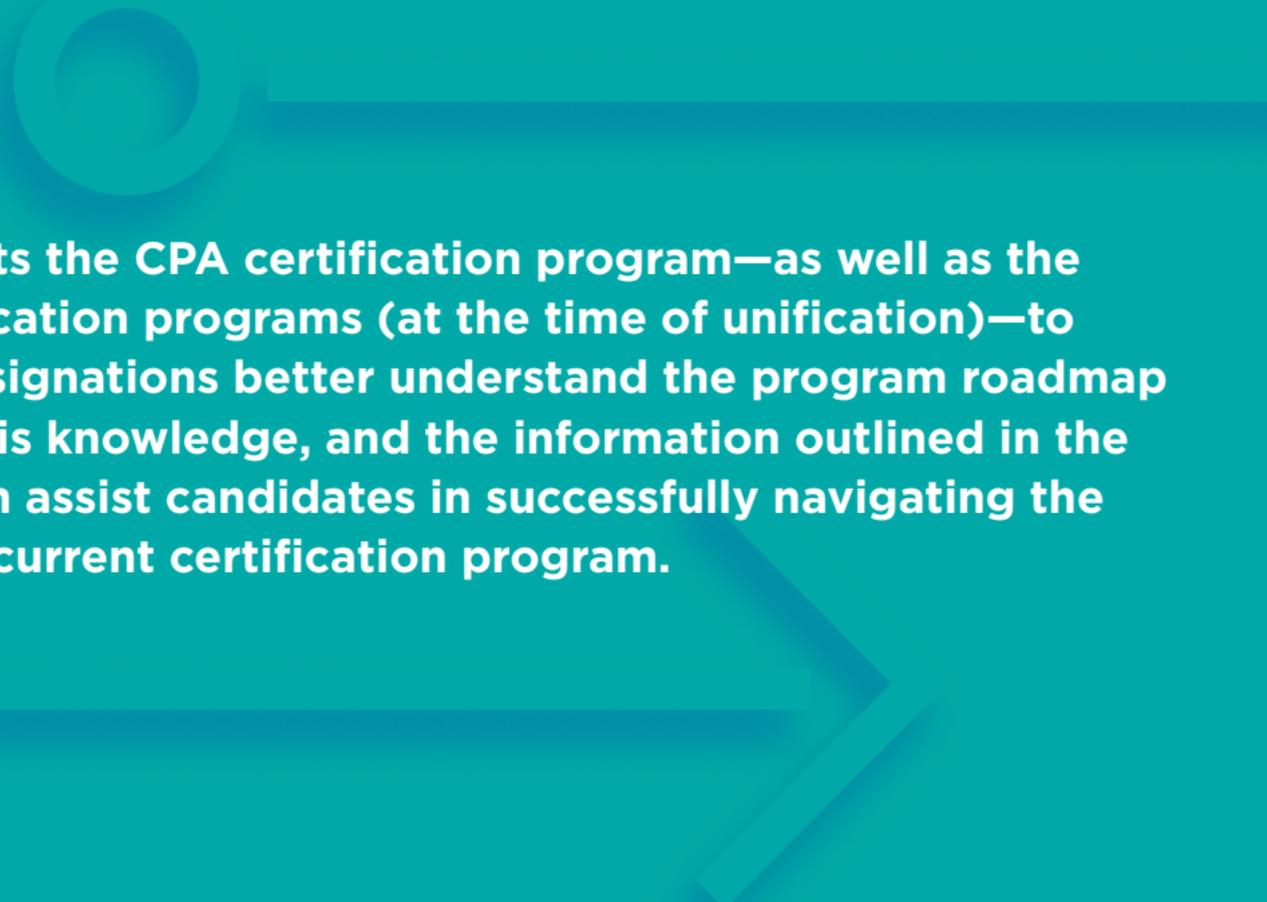


**CPA**

CHARTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOUNTANTS  
ALBERTA

# CPA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ROAD MAP

A RESOURCE TO  
HELP LEGACY  
CPAs BETTER  
SUPPORT THE NEXT  
GENERATION OF  
BUSINESS LEADERS



**This document briefly highlights the CPA certification program—as well as the legacy CMA, CGA, and CA education programs (at the time of unification)—to help CPAs who hold legacy designations better understand the program roadmap for today’s candidates. With this knowledge, and the information outlined in the Employer Guide, CPAs can then assist candidates in successfully navigating the rigorous requirements of the current certification program.**

# CPA

## Chartered Professional Accountant

### Education

To enter the CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP), future CPAs must have an undergraduate degree with specific subject area coverage. If they have not taken all the prerequisite courses through their degree, they can complete the missing prerequisites by taking **CPA preparatory courses**. Once they have completed the prerequisites, they can start CPA PEP.

CPA PEP begins with two mandatory **core modules** in which candidates build the enabling and technical competencies required of a professional accountant. The modules are integrative, drawing on law, economics, finance, strategy, statistics, and information technology, as well as the technical competency areas.

Following the core modules, candidates enroll in the **elective modules**, which provide the opportunity to explore two fields of interest in greater depth. Candidates choose two modules from a list of four options: Assurance, Performance Management, Taxation, and Finance.

The first four modules each culminate in a four-hour exam. The exams are a combination of multiple-choice questions and case writing.

After completing the core and elective modules, candidates enroll in **Capstone 1**, where they are placed in groups and given a business case to analyze issues and opportunities. Each team also presents its analysis and recommendations to a simulated board of directors.

**Capstone 2** is a review module that prepares candidates to write the Common Final Exam (CFE). Candidates generally write at least two practice cases per week to prepare.

Once the entire CPA Professional Education Program is completed, candidates write the **CFE**, a three-day, 13-hour, multi-part exam that covers everything they've learned. The exam is made up of five to six business cases for which candidates need to write responses.

The education program is self-paced; but, generally it takes around **two to three years** to complete.

### Experience requirements

Minimum of 30 months in duration along with development of technical and enabling competencies. More information on the specific requirements can be found at [cpaalberta.ca/PracticalExperienceCompetencies](http://cpaalberta.ca/PracticalExperienceCompetencies).

30  
months



Information on the legacy designations is reflective of the programs at the time of unification. Programs to obtain the CGA, CMA, and CA designations are no longer offered.

# CGA

## Certified General Accountant

### Education

A degree and foundational courses could be completed before enrolling or during the program. However, a degree was an exit requirement of the program and had to be completed before finishing the program.

In addition to meeting the degree and foundational course requirements, candidates completed four modules. Candidates chose two out of the six options for Pace Electives, which included Advanced External Auditing, Advanced Corporate Finance, Information Systems Strategy, Internal Auditing & Controls, Public Sector Financial Management, and Advanced Personal and Corporate Taxation.

Once done their two Pace Electives, candidates enrolled in the Professional Applications Electives: Issues in Professional Practice and Strategic Financial Management.

Courses were delivered online and included lessons, assignments, group projects, and presentations. The Professional Applications Electives included in-person seminars. A four-hour final exam followed each of the four electives.

The education program was self-paced and generally took around two to three years to complete (if actively pursued).

### Experience requirements

Minimum of 24 months in duration along with development of leadership, professionalism, and professional knowledge competency areas.



Information on the legacy designations is reflective of the programs at the time of unification. Programs to obtain the CGA, CMA, and CA designations are no longer offered.

# CMA

## Certified Management Accountant

### Education

A degree and foundational courses were prerequisites to entering the CMA Preparation Program. Students started with the program, which included some in-class sessions and prepared them for the technical components of the Entrance Exam: a four-hour, multiple-choice exam that tested their technical competency.

Students then entered into CMA's Strategic Leadership Program (SLP), where they completed six modules over two years. The program focused on developing the six foundational competencies at the core of the CMA knowledge set: Strategic Management, Performance Measurement, Performance Management, Financial Resource Management, Risk Management and Governance, and Financial Reporting.

At the end of the first year, SLP candidates wrote the CMA Case Exam, a four-hour business case.

At the end of the second year of the SLP, candidates completed a team-based, written evaluation and presentation of a business situation as outlined in a case. Each team also presented its analysis and recommendations to a simulated board of directors.

While students worked full-time, the education program took 24 months of part-time studies to complete.

### Experience requirements

Minimum of 24 months in duration along with development of foundational and enabling competencies.

\* Information on the legacy designations is reflective of the programs at the time of unification. Programs to obtain the CGA, CMA, and CA designations are no longer offered.

# CA

## Chartered Accountant

### Education

To enter the program to become a CA, students were required to have a degree and prerequisite courses. Candidates completed six modules through the CA School of Business. The first five modules focused on Financial Reporting, Taxation, Assurance, Strategy & Governance, and Finance. The modules included self-study, regular assignments, and one in-person seminar per module. At the end of each module, candidates wrote a five-hour exam that consisted of multiple-choice questions as well as a case response.

The final module (Module 6) was a two-week review module in a classroom. There was then a mock Uniform Final Exam (UFE) at the end of Module 6, which candidates were required to pass.

Once candidates were done the modules, they wrote the UFE, a three-day, 13-hour exam that covered everything they learned in the six modules. The exam was structured as business cases for which candidates needed to write responses.

The education program was self-paced and generally took two to three years to complete.

### Experience requirements

Minimum of 36 months in duration along with development of both pervasive qualities and skills and specific technical competencies.