

CPA Alberta Convocation Dinner and Dance – Frequently Asked Questions

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Welcome to the profession! This document will answer your questions about the upcoming CPA Alberta Convocation Ceremony. Note that the CPA Alberta Convocation event consists of two distinct parts: the Convocation Ceremony, where we formally welcome graduates to the profession, and the Dinner and Dance, a chance to celebrate your success on the CFE while sharing a delectable meal with friends, colleagues, and family. Reading the below FAQs will ensure you have the best possible experience at the Dinner and Dance!

1) Must I have completed my practical experience hours to attend the CPA Alberta Convocation Dinner and Dance?

No. To be part of the Convocation Ceremony and Dinner and Dance (that is, to be a graduate), you must be a successful writer of one of the Common Final Exams (CFE) written in 2023. You are not required to complete practical experience hours to attend these events; however, these hours are required to apply for your membership and, once admitted, be granted the right to use the CPA designation.

2) When are tickets for the Dinner and Dance provided?

You will receive an electronic ticket after your online registration purchase is completed. An electronic ticket will be required for entry at the event. The electronic ticket will also detail any preferred dietary requirements, which should be presented to the server at the table to confirm the meal requested.

For those who purchase ten tickets or more, a reminder email with table assignments will be sent to the registrant approximately a week prior to the event. If the tickets were ordered through a representative of the graduate's organization, that contact will provide the table assignments to their guests before the event. Otherwise, there will be table assignment charts at the event to guide guests.

3) Where do graduates register for Convocation Dinner and Dance tickets?

Graduates will receive an email regarding Convocation activities. We encourage graduates to register using the link within the email. Each guest ticket is \$225 (without GST), and provides a plated three-course meal, a glass of wine with dinner, late night snack, entertainment, and dancing afterwards.

If a graduate is with a large organization with many graduates, a representative of the organization may be registering the graduate and other graduates and guests as a group on behalf of the organization. Graduates should check with their organization first before registering for the Dinner and Dance individually. Otherwise, the student may be registered twice, which complicates table assignments. **Graduates may be inadvertently excluded from sitting with their colleagues if they register separately.**

If a graduate wants to sit at a different table than their organization, or the graduate is not with an organization that is registering graduates as a group, the graduate can register for their two complimentary tickets and any additional guests using the link within the email invitation.

4) What does a graduate do if they want to sit with a specific organization or table (who may not be their employer) at the Dinner and Dance?

If a graduate wants to sit at a specific organization or individual's table, they will need to contact the organization or individual directly and speak to the person organizing the tickets and seating for that party.

Please note: If a graduate makes a seating request during registration, we can only endeavor to try to assign seats or a table close to the requested organization or person. **We cannot guarantee seating requests.**

5) What is the cost to attend the CPA Alberta Convocation Dinner and Dance?

Each graduate receives two complimentary (free) tickets to the dinner and dance: a ticket for themselves and a guest. Each ticket provides a plated three-course meal, a glass of wine with dinner, a late-night snack, entertainment, and dancing afterwards.

Registration is done either by the graduates themselves (typically if they are with an organization that has few graduates) or by a representative from their organization (typically if they are employed with an organization that has multiple graduates). Graduates must register to receive their two free tickets.

Additional tickets are available at \$225 each + GST, which goes towards the costs of food, beverage, catering service, venue rental, AV and production, the band, DJ and other items. Other costs (photo booth and décor), as well as the two complimentary tickets for each graduate are subsidized by CPA Alberta and sponsors.

6) Why are tickets for the Dinner and Dance priced at that level?

CPA Alberta wants graduates to have the best possible graduation experience and make the Convocation event as memorable as possible while organizing an event that benefits the professionalism of the CPA profession. To do so, particularly holding the event in a venue that can accommodate all graduates and their guests, results in certain costs.

To ensure all graduates can attend their graduation event without worrying about the costs, CPA Alberta provides each graduate with two complimentary tickets.

CPA Alberta takes considerable pride in planning, organizing, and hosting these extraordinary events for everyone. We want to provide an opportunity for graduates to celebrate with their friends and family in a well-established and respected venue, while enjoying a plated dinner service and quality entertainment.

7) Are there any discounts available?

Although each successful graduate can register for up to two complimentary tickets for the event, there are no individual, child, or group discounts available.

8) Are there any other costs at the event?

All attendees should consider the cost of parking and, if desired, the cost to check their coats.

Although your ticket will include a glass of wine at dinner, the cost for drinks at the cash bar will range from about \$10 and up. **Drink prices are set by the venue, CPA Alberta has no control over the cost.**

There will also be an opportunity to get a photo or 360 video done at the CPA Education Foundation sponsored booths. All graduates will receive the first photograph or video free. Afterwards, there will be a charge of \$5 per picture or video. All proceeds from the booths go towards the CPA Education Foundation, a non-profit foundation that supports accounting and business education across the province.

9) What if I cannot attend the CPA Alberta Convocation Dinner and Dance?

The CPA Alberta Convocation Dinner and Dance is a celebratory event that is optional attendance. We do not provide any official documents or certificates at the event; these are part of the CPA Alberta membership process, which is a distinct process from Convocation.

10) What is the dress code for the event?

This is a formal event. Cocktail dresses, ball gowns, dark suits, or tuxedos would be appropriate.

11) Are babies, infants, or children allowed at the Dinner and Dance?

Although the Dinner and Dance is an adult-oriented event (with no planned children's activities or meals), the whole family is invited to enjoy the celebration with graduates. If you are bringing a baby or infant **you will need to bring your own booster chair, which will require an extra seat at the table; we will need to be advised via the online registration. Please remember that tickets must be purchased for children 24 months or older.**

12) What is the program for the evening?

- 6:00 pm Registration and mingling
- 6:50 pm Graduate March and formal program
- 7:15 pm- 8:45 pm Dinner

The dance will commence shortly after dinner and the CPA Education Foundation (CPAEF) Photo Booth will also open.

13) What is the Graduate March at the Dinner and Dance?

Prior to the start of the program at 6:50 pm, graduates are encouraged to line up for the Graduate March where the entire group of graduates will be piped-in to the Dinner and Dance by a professional bagpiper. The Graduate March heralds each graduate's achievement in a traditional way. The piping-in ceremony will be led by Scottish-style bagpipes which represent the accounting profession's origins.

To participate in the march, graduates should ensure they arrive on time. Graduates may need to check their coats, find their table (all tables will be numbered), have a drink, and go to the bathroom before lining up for the march. Please keep in mind that this is one of CPA Alberta's biggest events of the year; expected attendance ranges from 1,200 to 1,700 attendees. Please be patient as standing in line will be normal at the event.

14) What is expected of the graduate participating in the Graduate March?

Graduates should arrive no later than 6:15 pm. They will be prompted to line up by 6:40 p.m. and will be directed where to assemble for the Graduate March. **Graduates must be assembled by 6:40 pm to participate in the march.**

At approximately 6:40 pm, graduates will be directed into two single-file lineups. Then, graduates will wait in line until the cue to start the march is given. At that time, a CPA Alberta staff member in front of each row will start the march. Graduates need to simply follow the person in front of them as the line of graduates works its way into and through the ballroom to the front of the room.

CPA Alberta staff in the ballroom will guide the procession. The two lineups will start from the back of the room before marching through the middle aisle heading towards the dance floor.

Once there, staff will direct graduates to stage left or right. Graduates will be asked to stand facing the audience with their backs towards the stage. Graduates will remain standing for acknowledgment and will be told when to go to their tables by the emcee.

15) What is expected from the graduates, Graduate Sponsors, and other guests?

Only graduates have a formal role in the Dinner & Dance: they are encouraged to be part of the Graduate March.

The reception starts at 6:00 p.m. and graduates should arrive no later than 6:15 p.m. to participate in the Graduate March (please see question #12 for more details on the Graduate March).

All other guests should bring their electronic tickets for entry. **All tables will be numbered. Table assignments will be sent via email to those individual/registrant who have purchased 10 tickets or more. Otherwise, there will be table assignment charts at the event to guide guests.**

The program will begin promptly at 6:50 p.m. and run to approximately 7:15 p.m. At that time, a plated dinner service will start. Dinner will finish at approximately 8:45 p.m. Shortly after, the dance will start.

There will also be an opportunity to get a photo or 360 video done at the CPA Education Foundation sponsored booths. All graduates will receive the first photograph or video free. Afterwards, there will be a charge of \$5 per picture or video. All proceeds from the photo booth go towards the CPA Education Foundation, a non-profit foundation that supports accounting and business education across the province.