

CPA Alberta Convocation dinner and dance

Frequently asked questions

Welcome to the profession! This FAQ document will answer some questions about the upcoming CPA Alberta Convocation dinner and dance.

CPA Alberta Convocation consists of two distinct parts:

- The ceremonies, where successful CFE writers cross the stage and are formally welcomed to the profession
- The dinner and dance, where successful CFE writers are celebrated with dinner, entertainment, and the opportunity to network and mingle

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Do I need to complete my practical experience requirements to be part of Convocation?

No. To be part of the 2027 CPA Alberta Convocation events—both the ceremony and the dinner and dance—you must have successfully passed the Common Final Exam (CFE) in 2026. Completion of practical experience hours is not required to attend these events; however, these hours are required to apply for membership and once admitted, be granted the right to use the CPA designation.

How do I register?

You will receive an email regarding all Convocation events, including a link to register for the dinner and dance.

If you are with a large organization that has many graduates, a representative of the organization may be registering you, other graduates, and your guests on behalf of the organization. Check with your organization before registering for the dinner and dance individually; you may inadvertently be excluded from sitting with your colleagues if you register separately.

What happens at the dinner and dance?

6 p.m.: Reception

6:50 p.m.: Graduate March and formal program

7 p.m.: Dinner

The dance will begin shortly after dinner, and the CPA Education Foundation photo booth will also open at that time.

When will I receive my tickets?

You will receive a confirmation email after registering. This is your ticket.

Each graduate is offered two complimentary tickets to the dinner and dance, but attendance is not assumed, so registration is required.

Where can I park?

In Calgary, parking is available at the TELUS Convention Centre parkade.

In Edmonton, parking is available at Canada Place, which is across the street from the Edmonton Convention Centre.

For more information about parking, please visit the venues' websites.

What are the seating arrangements?

If you purchase 10 or more tickets, you will receive an additional email with your table assignment(s) approximately one week before the event.

If your tickets are registered through your organization, your organization's contact will be expected to share the table assignment(s).

Otherwise, seating charts will be available at the event to guide guests to their assigned seats.

What if I want to sit with a specific organization that isn't my employer?

If you want to sit at a specific organization's table, you will need approval from that organization's designated administrator. Your ticket can be booked with the organization's tickets, or you can book separately and ask the administrator to email events@cpaalberta.ca to approve your request.

We will try to assign seats or tables close together if you include a seating request in your registration; however, **we cannot guarantee seating requests.**

Can I request to be seated with certain other attendees?

Seating requests will be considered but cannot be guaranteed. **We suggest purchasing your tickets together to improve your chances of being seated together.**

How much is a ticket?

To ensure all graduates can attend this celebration, every graduate is offered two complimentary tickets to the dinner and dance: one for you and one for a guest. Each additional ticket is \$275 plus GST.

Every ticket includes a plated three-course meal, a glass of wine with dinner, a late-night snack, and entertainment.

Children under two are free, but they will not receive a meal. See [below](#) for more information about bringing babies, infants, and children.

Please note, there are no individual, child, or group discounts.

Are there any other costs?

All attendees should consider the cost of parking or other transportation and, if desired, the cost of coat check, both of which are set by the venues.

Your ticket includes a glass of wine at dinner, but there is also a cash bar at the event with prices set by the venue.

A photo booth, sponsored by the CPA Education Foundation, will also be available. Every graduate who is registered for the dinner and dance will receive a ticket for one free photo. Each additional photo is \$5 with all proceeds going to the CPA Education Foundation, a non-profit foundation that supports accounting and business education across the province.

What if I cannot attend?

This celebratory event is optional. CPA Alberta does not provide any official documents or certificates at the event, nor does attending this event impact your admission to the profession; these are determined separately as part of your membership application.

What is the dress code?

This is a formal event. Cocktail dresses, ball gowns, dark suits, and tuxedos are appropriate.

Are babies, infants, and children allowed?

Although the dinner and dance is an adult-oriented event with no baby, infant, or children's activities or meals, the whole family is welcome to enjoy the celebration with the purchase of additional tickets.

The venue will not provide high chairs, booster seats, children's cutlery or plates, or different children's meals (except in cases of dietary restrictions). Every attendee two years of age and older must have a ticket. Lap infants (under two years old) will not receive a meal.

What is the Graduate March?

The Graduate March is a traditional way of celebrating the graduates' achievements. Graduates are led into the dinner and dance by a professional bagpiper, representing the accounting profession's origins.

To participate in the march, ensure you arrive with enough time to check your coat, find your table, and otherwise be ready to line up for the march on time. You should arrive no later than 6:15 p.m. to line up by 6:40 p.m. You may need to stand in line for a few minutes as graduates are organized for the march, and your patience is appreciated.

CPA Alberta staff will organize all graduates into two single-file lines. When cued for the march to begin, a CPA Alberta staff member at the front of each line will start the march, and graduates need to simply follow the person in front of them.

CPA Alberta staff in the ballroom will guide the procession and direct the lines from the back of the room through the middle aisle and toward the stage.

CPA Alberta staff will then direct graduates to stage left or right, where graduates will stand facing the audience for acknowledgment. The MC will announce when you can take your seat.