



# YOUR PATH TO THE CPA

## What students need to know



In many states, there are now **three** ways to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). All lead to the same respected license. Choose the one that fits your goals, learning style and timeline.

### ALL CPA PATHS REQUIRE:

**A college degree**  
with an accounting  
concentration.



**Supervised  
work experience**



**Passing the  
Uniform CPA Exam.**



## THE THREE LICENSURE PATHWAYS

### 1 Master's Degree +1 Path

- ▶ Post-baccalaureate degree with an accounting concentration
- ▶ One year of supervised experience
- ▶ Passing the CPA Exam

### 2 Bachelor's +30 credit hours +1 Path

- ▶ Baccalaureate degree with an accounting concentration
- ▶ Up to 30 additional credit hours (can be grad or undergrad)
- ▶ One year of supervised experience.
- ▶ Passing the CPA Exam

### 3 Bachelor's +2 Path (new)

- ▶ Baccalaureate degree with an accounting concentration
- ▶ Two years of supervised experience
- ▶ Passing the CPA Exam

**Important!** States are in varying stages of adopting the new pathway.

To determine what options are available where you want to be licensed, check with your **State Board**.

# WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?



## Talk to your state CPA society, mentor, educator or academic advisor—

They'll help you:

- ▶ Understand which options are available in your state or the state in which you want to work after college. This information should be verified with that state's board of accountancy — the body that issues the license.
- ▶ Plan your coursework and timeline.



## Evaluate your top priorities.

- ▶ Scan this code for a decision guide that can help you make informed decisions based on your career goals.



Review this [decision guide](#) to get you started!



## Stay informed.

- ▶ Visit [thiswaytocpa.com/educationpathways](https://thiswaytocpa.com/educationpathways) for the latest updates and resources.
- ▶ To understand where your state is in adopting the new licensure path, visit [NASBA's website](#) or check with your state board.
- ▶ Connect with your [state society](#) for timely, relevant information relating to your state.



## Conversation starters: Consider asking these questions in your research.

- ▶ “Does the state I want to get licensed in offer the new bachelor’s degree and two-year experience path yet?”
- ▶ “Can we review how my current plan aligns with licensure requirements?”
- ▶ “What’s the best path for my timeline and career priorities?”



## Do you have employer contacts from an internship or recruitment efforts?

Ask them about their hiring preferences, including what they look for in candidates for the type of role you want now and the role that you might want in a few years.