

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS v. 03/18/2016

MEETING THE COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS:

Question: If I want to study abroad while at UC Berkeley, can the courses I take while abroad be used to meet the CPA course requirements?

Answer: Yes. Courses that you take during a study abroad program that is run through UC Berkeley will show up on your official UC Berkeley transcript. As long as the course titles meet the CPA requirements, they will apply.

Question: Do classes taken on a Pass/No Pass basis count toward the CPA course requirements?

Answer: Yes, as long as you receive credited units for the pass/no pass class on an official transcript. We do advise that if you are pursuing the CPA track that you limit the number of accounting courses that you take on a Pass/No Pass basis to one or two.

Question: Do both upper division and lower division classes count toward the CPA course requirements?

Answer: Yes, both levels of coursework count. For the Accounting Ethics requirement, the course must be completed at an upper division level or higher, unless completing it at a community college.

Question: Do courses taken through the UC Berkeley Extension meet the CPA course requirements?

Answer: Yes and while you are a UC Berkeley student, the courses will show up on your UC Berkeley transcript. When you are no longer a UC Berkeley student or if you are not a UC Berkeley student, you will have to provide a separate UC Berkeley Extension transcript to the California Board of Accountancy to receive credit for those courses.

Question: If I am a transfer student and I took a class at community college and had to take a very similar course again at UC Berkeley, will all of the units count toward the requirements?

Answer: Yes, because your community college coursework will be documented on a separate transcript from the UC Berkeley transcript, you are allowed to count all of the units. If you repeat the same course at the same school, however, you cannot count those units twice.

Question: Do advanced placement credits that I took in high school count toward the 150 unit requirements?

Answer: Yes, they count towards the overall 150 unit requirement, however, they cannot be applied to the specific accounting, business, and ethics course requirements.

Question: Even with planning and taking a larger course load, I am going to fall short of the CPA course requirements by one or two courses. What should I do?

Answer: Many UC Berkeley students are in this situation. We recommend that students consider taking classes at local community colleges or UC Berkeley Extension in the summer and fall after graduation. Many of these classes are offered online and can be flexible to meet your post-graduation schedule. We advise that, as you are planning your coursework at UC Berkeley, you should be taking most, if not all, of your accounting-related courses here at UC Berkeley before you graduate.

Question: Can I apply for and take the CPA exam while I am a student?

Answer: No. In order to start taking the exam you must have completed 24 units of accounting coursework, 24 units of business-related coursework, and have a baccalaureate degree.

Question: Will the CBA allow me to start taking the CPA exam if I do not have an official transcript, but have a letter from my institution's registrar?

Answer: For students in a stand-alone bachelor's degree programs, an official transcript is required. In some instances, where a student is enrolled in a joint bachelors/masters program and the conferral of the bachelors degree does not take place until after the master's degree portion is completed, a letter from the registrar would be allowed. An official transcript would be required for most UC Berkeley students.

Question: Where can I obtain official information about the new educational requirements for CPA licensure beginning January 1, 2017?

Answer: http://www.dca.ca.gov/cba/applicants/tip_sheet2017.pdf

MAPPING YOUR COURSE PATHWAY

Question: Are there tools available to help me plan my coursework so that I can meet the requirements?

Answer: <http://accounting.haas.berkeley.edu/doc/CPA%20Requirement%20Checklist.xls>

Question: Who can I talk to or meet with to find out more about planning out my course load to meet the requirements?

Answer: Professor Jose Plehn-Dujowich is offering advising services to students. You may contact him at jplehn@haas.berkeley.edu.

ETHICS STUDY REQUIREMENTS

Question: Is there a list of ethics-related courses at Berkeley-Haas that I can take to satisfy the 10-unit Ethics Study requirement?

Answer: Yes. Please see the ethics column on this document:
<http://accounting.haas.berkeley.edu/doc/Haas%20Course%20List.pdf>

Question: Is there a limit on the number of units that I can use from an Auditing course (UGBA 126) to meet the 10-unit Ethics Study requirement?

Answer: There are only unit limits on auditing courses dedicated solely to financial statement auditing. All 4 units for UGBA 126 can be applied to the Ethics Study requirement.

Question: Can I apply 3 units from an introductory-level course taken in the Sociology or Psychology department to the 10-unit Ethics Study requirement?

Answer: No. Only introductory-level courses in the Philosophy or Religious Studies departments (with the correct wording) can be used. UC Berkeley doesn't have a Theology department, but if you took courses at another institution in their Theology department, they could apply.