The Details: CPA Licensure

All current students planning to pursue their CPA license will need to meet the following requirements. Google “CPA Licensing Handbook” to find the California Board of Accountancy’s full rulebook for first-time applicants.

Requirements for CPA Licensure

- **Education required to take CPA Exam:**
  - 36 Quarter Units – Accounting Subjects
  - 36 Quarter Units – Business-related Subjects
  - Bachelor’s degree

- **Education required to attain CPA License:**
  - 30 Quarter Units – Accounting Study
  - 15 Quarter Units – Ethics Study
  - Overall total of 225 quarter units of college education

- **1 Year Work Experience**

- **Pass CPA Exam**

Find information about what specific classes are required by Googling “CPA Board Tip Sheet”. While reviewing the tip sheet, note that semester and quarter units are weighed differently \((\text{semester units} \times 1.5 = \text{quarter units})\).

- UCSD has a maximum unit limitation of 200 units for most students and does not offer enough accounting classes at UCSD to satisfy all of the CPA educational requirements. Students will need to take some classes outside of UCSD by obtaining a Master’s Degree in Accounting, or by taking additional courses at a community college, another university, or a continuing education program such as UCSD Extension.