

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
CONCERNING THE
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE
CPA LICENSE

Pursuant to revisions to Hawaii Administrative Rules §16-71-17, an applicant subject to the one-hundred fifty (150) semester educational requirement provided in Hawaii Revised Statutes §466-5.5 shall have:

1. 150 semester (225 quarter) hours of college education from an educational institution ¹ of higher learning, within which the applicant shall have:
 - a. A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by an educational institution, or evidence that the baccalaureate or comparable degree qualifies the applicant for acceptance to an advanced degree program at an educational institution;
 - b. 24 semester (36 quarter) hours in accounting courses, including, without limitation, courses in financial accounting, auditing, taxation, and managerial accounting, of which 18 semester (27 quarter) hours are upper division ² or graduate level accounting courses;
 - c. 24 semester (36 quarter) hours in upper division or graduate level accounting or non-accounting business-related ³ courses.

¹ “Educational institution” means a four-year degree-granting college, school, or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency or association approved by the Board.

- “National accrediting agency or association” includes, without limitation, the American Association of Schools and Colleges, and other similar agencies and associations approved by the Board.
- “Regional accrediting agency or association” includes, without limitation, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and other similar agencies and associations approved by the Board.
- To be acceptable, the educational institution shall be accredited at the time the applicant is granted the degree.

² “Upper division courses” means courses usually taken at the junior or senior undergraduate level, and typically do not include introductory courses.

³ “Business-related courses” include: accounting and auditing; taxation; management services; computer science; economics; business law; legal and social environment of business; functional fields of business (finance, production, marketing, personnel relations, and business management); organization, group, and individual behavior; quantitative applications in business; communication skills; business ethics; globalization; total-quality management; and other business-related courses as approved by the Board.