

Build a strong foundation for a solid career in Accounting.

Take control of your professional and financial future by becoming a CPA. At Simmons, you'll master the theoretical and practical aspects of accounting — and you'll also prepare to take on leadership roles in whichever financial field you choose.

Accounting is a versatile major that can be applied to any industry. Our interdisciplinary curriculum means you will develop well-rounded skills in areas such as finance, business and communication. **Massachusetts is one of the top paying states for accountants, as the average salary here is \$76,430 per year, and with a projected job growth of over 19% in the next 4 years, job opportunities today are better than ever in accounting¹. Boston has a wide variety of industries and companies in need of accountants, so there are multiple options.** Whether your goal is to establish a private practice, run a large firm, or something in between, our AACSB-accredited program will help you get there.

How to Become a CPA in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy oversees the process for becoming a Certified Public Accountant in the state. There are four main steps to complete in order to earn a Massachusetts CPA license.

1. Complete a 150 semester hour or 225 quarter hour educational program of acceptable coursework in accounting.
2. Pass the Uniform CPA Examination.
3. Accumulate the required hours of experience.
4. Apply for a license.

1. Complete a 150 semester hour or 225 quarter hour educational program of acceptable coursework in accounting.

Candidates for a CPA license in Massachusetts must earn 150 semester hours of college credit, typically including 30 semester hours of accounting at the undergraduate level or 18 semester hours of accounting at the graduate level, to qualify for a CPA license. Candidates may sit for the Uniform CPA Exam after the completion of 120 semester hours (which must include 21 semester hours of accounting and 9 semester hours of business) and a bachelor's degree. If candidates choose to sit for the exam after meeting the 120 semester hour requirement, the remaining 30 semester hours must be completed within three years of passing all parts of the Uniform CPA Exam. ***Simmon's School of Management undergraduate accounting degree majors will graduate qualified to sit for the CPA***

exam. Candidates should review the qualifying education requirements from the [Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation](#).

2. Pass the Uniform CPA Examination.

Applications to the Uniform CPA Exam in Massachusetts should be completed through the [NASBA](#) website. Transcript pre-evaluation is also available through NASBA as an optional service. Once candidates are approved, they will receive a Notice to Schedule to schedule and sit for the exam. All four parts of the exam must be passed within an 18 month rolling period.

3. Accumulate the required hours of experience.

To achieve full privileges as a Massachusetts CPA, including issuing reports on financial statements, candidates for licensure must complete at least 1,000 hours and at least one full year of employment in public accounting. Not more than 300 experience hours may consist of full disclosure compilations. Experience must be verified by the public accounting firm(s) at which the experience was obtained.

4. Apply for a license.

Once a candidate has received notification of a passing score on all four sections of the Uniform CPA Exam and has completed the education and experience requirements, he or she may apply for a CPA license. Candidates can visit the Massachusetts Board of Accountancy website for the [Full Reporting CPA license application](#). The instructions should be read carefully to note all supporting documentation required.

Once licensed, CPAs in Massachusetts must complete 80 hours of continuing education during each two year renewal period to maintain good standing. The continuing education hours must include at least four hours in ethics. You can find additional information at the [Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy](#) website.

(Source: [Massachusetts Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation](#), [Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy](#) and <http://www.mastersinaccounting.info/massachusetts/>)

You'll work with your advisor to tailor a program to your interests and career goals. Simmons offers many options for customizing your studies, including dual majors, accelerated programs and a wide variety of complementary minors.

You can add a minor in Accounting to any of Simmons' degrees. In particular demand in today's job market is knowledge of data analytics combined with accounting (see Simmons College's BS in Data Science and Analytics). The minor requires MGMT 110, MGMT 200, MGMT 201, MGMT 205 and one elective selected from MGMT 260, MGMT 207, MGMT 301, or MGMT 308. *Note that a minor in accounting does not qualify you to sit for the CPA exam in Massachusetts. See more information under "Becoming a CPA" above.*

For specific questions regarding the Accounting program at Simmons, please contact Professor Charlene Spiceland at charlene.spiceland@simmons.edu.

¹ <http://www.mastersinaccounting.info/massachusetts/>