

FAQs on Post-2015 Transition to the CPA Program for Our Students*

Certified General Accountants of Ontario, Certified Management Accountants of Ontario and Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario (The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario) are working towards unifying the accounting profession in Ontario.

If unification occurs as expected, the CGA program of professional studies (courses and exams) will continue to be offered until September 2015 (session 4 of the 2014-15 academic year). At that time, students who have not completed the CGA program will have the opportunity to transition into the CPA prerequisite program (CPA PREP) and the CPA professional education program (CPA PEP).

Terms Defined

Please review the terms below, so you will have a clear understanding of the FAQs that follow.

Term:	Definition:
Bridging	The process of moving from the CGA program to the CPA program.
CPA PREP	The CPA Prerequisite Education Program. This program contains the prerequisite courses required for entry into CPA PEP. The courses are similar to the foundation and advanced courses in the CGA program.
CPA PEP	The CPA Professional Education Program. This is the CPA certification program.
CPA PEP Capstone 1 Module	The integrative module that follows the two electives in the CPA PEP program. Follow this link for a diagram of the CPA PEP program.
Dual Designation	Students who complete the requirements to become a CGA (academic requirements on or before September, 2015; and degree and experience requirements on or before September, 2018) will receive both the CGA and CPA designations.
Grandfather Clause	<p>The CPA Program requires candidates to hold a recognized post-secondary degree prior to entry. The grandfather clause allows Students in the CGA program to bridge to the CPA program prior to earning a degree. However, a degree will be required before those students start Capstone 1 of the PEP, or by September 2018, whichever comes first for the individual student.</p> <p>Furthermore, students in the CGA program will have the courses they transferred into the CGA program or completed through the CGA program exempted from the CPA PREP and PEP courses based on the CGA to CPA Program Mapping Chart at the following link: http://www.cga-ontario.org/assets/file/CGAtoCPAProgram.pdf</p>
Legacy Body	An existing CGA, CA, or CMA accounting body.
Transitioning students in the CGA program	Students in the CGA program currently enrolled in the CGA program who will not complete all of the education requirements of the CGA program, by September 2015. These students will transition to either the CPA Prerequisite Education Program (CPA PREP) or CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP), based on their individual status. Upon completion of the CPA program requirements, these students will receive the CPA designation.

*assuming unification of the profession proceeds

Frequently Asked Questions:

Category:	Question:	Response:
Bridging	How will candidates in the CGA program transfer (i.e. transition) to the CPA program?	An important principle of unification is that the education achieved in the CGA program will be recognized in the CPA program. The specifics vary for each student based on where he or she is in the CGA program. Please refer to the CGA to CPA Course Mapping Chart for details.
Bridging	If I transfer (transition) to the CPA program, will I need to start my courses from the beginning?	Students in the CGA program transitioning to the CPA program after September 2015 will fall under a grandfather clause. This grandfather clause was developed to ensure that the transition to the CPA Program would be as seamless as possible for students in the CGA program. Transfer credits or successfully completed CGA courses will be recognized except for courses that are not required in the CPA program (BC1, BC2, CM1, AT1, PF1, MS2.) Please refer to the CGA to CPA Course Mapping Chart for details.
Bridging	How do I determine which CGA courses will transfer to the CPA program?	The CGA to CPA Course Mapping Chart is an essential resource for students expecting to transition to the CPA program after September 2015, It outlines the CPA modules they will need to complete. Please refer to the CGA to CPA Program Course Mapping Chart for details. If after reviewing this course mapping chart, you need additional information, please contact a student adviser for assistance at 416-322-6520, or 1-800-668-1454.
Bridging	Are there courses in the CGA program that are not transferrable to the CPA Program?	Yes. AT1, BC1, BC2, CM1, PF1, MS2 and PF1 do not have CPA program equivalents. If you have not yet taken these courses, focus on taking the courses in the CGA program that bridge to the CPA Program.
Bridging	Do the CGA program's foundation and advanced courses meet all the prerequisite knowledge requirements for admission to CPA PEP?	The content of the foundation and advanced course of the CGA program covers the requirements of CPA PREP with some exceptions. The following CGA courses have no CPA program equivalents: AT1, BC1, BC2, CM1, PF1, MS2 and PF1. Please refer to the CGA to CPA Program Course Mapping Chart for

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		details.
Bridging	<p>If I have to transition to the CPA program, will I have to redo any courses or repeat any practical experience?</p>	<p>No. You will not have to re-do any courses although you may have completed courses (AT1, BC1, BC2, CM1, PF1, MS2 and PF1) that are not required and have no equivalents in the CPA program. Also, transfer credits that were accepted by CGA Ontario will be accepted when you transition to the CPA program.</p> <p>You will not be required to repeat education or practical experience that was successfully completed or recognized in the CGA program.</p> <p>All practical experience that meets the criteria for the CGA program will count toward the CPA program.</p> <p>Students in the CGA program who transition to the CPA program will complete remaining requirements of the CPA program to qualify for the CPA designation.</p>

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CGA program	What are you going to do to assist students to complete the CGA program of professional studies by September 2015?	<p>1) Additional course offerings have been added to the CGA program's course schedule to help students finish courses by September 2015.</p> <p><u>2013-2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FN2: additional offering in session 4 • TX2: additional offering in session 4 <p><u>2014-2015</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FN2: additional offering in session 1 • TX2: additional offering in session 4 • PA1: additional offerings in session 4 • PA2: additional offerings in session 4 <p>2) Courses that are not recognized in the CPA program will be removed from the CGA program effective the 2014-15 academic year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC1 • BC2 • AT1 <p>3) There are changes to some prerequisites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM1 is no longer a prerequisite for any course. • FN1 is no longer a pre-requisite for MA2. • CM1 is a prerequisite for only PA1 & PA2 (unless it has been waived.) <p>4) CGA Ontario will offer a PA exam preparation course to help students succeed in session 3 of the 2013-14 academic year. More details to follow.</p>
CPA Program	What is the CPA Prerequisite Education Program (PREP)?	<p>The CPA PREP is similar to foundation and advanced courses in the CGA program. The CPA PREP is designed for those who have an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than accounting and need some or all of the prerequisite courses required for admission to the CPA professional education program (CPA PEP). Please refer to the CGA to CPA Program Course Mapping Chart for details.</p>
CPA Program	What is the CPA Professional Education Program (PEP)?	<p>The CPA PEP is comprised of six modules that focus primarily on enhancing CPA candidates' ability to apply knowledge, values, ethics and attitudes in a</p>

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		<p>professional context. The modules include some knowledge acquisition beyond the prerequisite level of CPA PREP or its equivalent. The CPA PEP begins with core modules that provide professional level knowledge of financial accounting and management accounting, similar to the CGA program's PA1 and PA2. Also similar to the CGA program's certification courses, the CPA PEP includes electives within its module requirements, but they are taken after the core modules. The CPA PEP electives include assurance (equivalent to AU2), taxation (equivalent to TX2), finance (equivalent to FN2) and performance management (no CGA program equivalent exists but students who passed both MU1 and PA2 are granted equivalency). The program takes two years to complete on a part-time basis as students gain relevant practical experience. Please refer to the CGA to CPA Program Course Mapping Chart for details.</p>
CPA Program	<p>Where can I find more information about the CPA program?</p>	<p>More information about the CPA program can be found here.</p>
Credentials	<p>If I am awarded both designations, how will it appear in my credentials?</p>	<p>If you receive both designations, you will use them as follows: [Your Name], CPA, CGA.</p>
Degree Requirement	<p>Must the undergraduate degree be completed by September 2015?</p>	<p>Students in the CGA program who transition into the CPA program will have until September 1, 2018 to complete an undergraduate degree.</p> <p>Per the grandfather clause (see above definition), students in the CGA program may enter the CPA PREP or CPA PEP programs and will have until September 1, 2018 to complete their degrees. They must, however, complete their degrees before beginning the CPA PEP Capstone 1 Module. These students can work on CPA PREP or CPA PEP courses and their degree requirements concurrently.</p>

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Degree Requirement Completed CGA Program	What if I have not completed my degree requirement or my practical experience requirement by September 2015? Am I allowed more time? If so, what designation will I receive?	The opportunity to complete a degree under our agreement with Laurentian University will continue until 2018. Students in the CGA program will have up to three additional years to complete the degree and/or practical experience requirement. Once these are completed, you will receive both the CGA and CPA designations.
Degree Requirement	If I haven't completed the Laurentian University HB.Com program by September 2015, will I be allowed three more years to complete that degree?	Laurentian University will continue to offer courses and will recognize CGA courses to enable students to complete their degree requirement by September 2018.
Degree Requirement	Will three-year undergraduate degrees be accepted for admission to the CPA PREP and CPA PEP programs?	Yes. For transitioning students, three-year domestic and international undergraduate degrees will be accepted for admission to CPA PREP and CPA PEP. Degrees must be from post-secondary institutions approved by the appropriate provincial ministry and completed before admission to CPA PEP Capstone Module 1.
Guidance	What if I want to pursue a career in public accounting or become a licensed public accountant?	You should focus on audit/assurance and tax electives and obtain employment in an Approved Training Office.
Guidance	Are the public accounting requirements going to change in the new CPA model?	Yes, there will be a new path to obtain a public accounting license. For course (and career) planning purposes, if you are planning to go into public accounting, you should take the CGA program's AU2 and TX2 PACE electives or post-September, 2015, the CPA PEP assurance and taxation electives.
Guidance	What if I want to pursue a career as a management accountant?	You would be advised to take MU1 and PA2 in the CGA program for which you will receive a credit for the CPA PEP performance management elective. Finance is another beneficial elective beneficial (either through the CGA program or the CPA program).
Practical Experience	Will practical experience earned towards the CGA designation be accepted	Yes. Practical experience recognized for qualification for the CGA designation will be recognized for qualification for the CPA designation. For example, if a student completed 14 months of professional

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	towards the CPA designation?	<p>experience that is recognized by CGA Ontario, then the same 14 months would be accepted towards the CPA designation.</p> <p>Students in the CGA program should continue to have their experience evaluated using PERC online. Students who transition to the CPA program will have until September, 2018 to complete their professional experience requirement for certification as a CGA. PERC will remain available until September, 2018.</p> <p>Transitioning students will submit experience evaluation forms in accordance with CPA requirements. All experience, both time and competency, now recognized by the CGA program, will equally count toward the CPA program's experience evaluation.</p>
Practical Experience	How will I continue to report my practical experience during the transition period?	Students should continue to report their work experience using the online Professional Experience Required for Certification (PERC) reporting tool .
Practical Experience	Do I need to be employed in an accounting capacity to enter into the CPA PREP?	No. CPA PREP has no practical experience requirements for entry. However, to ensure that you have accumulated sufficient practical experience by the time you complete your studies, you are strongly encouraged to be employed in an accounting role throughout your studies.
Practical Experience	Do I need to be employed in an accounting capacity to enter into the CPA PEP?	No. While the CPA PEP will require a student to gain employment in an accounting capacity, employment on entry into the CPA PEP is not required. However, to ensure that you have accumulated sufficient practical experience at the time of completing your studies at a professional level, you are strongly encouraged to be employed in an accounting role throughout your studies.
Timing	How much time do I have to complete the CGA program?	The CGA program will be offered until September 2015. If you do not complete the CGA program's academic requirements by September 2015, you will transition to the CPA program. Please refer to the CGA to CPA Program Course Mapping Chart for details.

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Timing	When will the last examination session in the CGA program be held?	The last examination session will take place in September 2015 (session 4 of the 2014-2015 academic year). There will be no opportunity to re-write any CGA program examinations after this date.
Transfer Credits	What happens to the courses that I have completed at a post-secondary institution? Can I transfer them into the CPA program?	All courses recognized by CGA Ontario will receive transfer credit into the CGA program and many of the courses bridge into the CPA program. At this time, all existing transfer credit guides that CGA Ontario has with post-secondary institutions remain in place. However, there may be some additional requirements that students are expected to complete if they transition into the CPA program. Please refer to the CGA to CPA Program Course Mapping Chart for details. The following courses in the CGA program do not have equivalents in the CPA program: CM1, BC1, BC2, AT1, MS2 and PF1.

Additional Advisement

Supporting our students in achieving their professional accounting designation remains our number one priority.

Should you wish to schedule a telephone or in-person advisement session with one of our client service advisers at CGA Ontario, please contact 416-322-6520, or 1-800-668-1454 or email CGAprogram@cga-ontario.org.