

CPA Exam and Information:

Education is only one of the requirements for CPA licensure, and graduation from the MSA program is not the same as becoming a CPA. Although the requirements vary from state to state, you should remember the "three Es" of becoming a CPA:

- Education
- Examination
- Experience

In *Massachusetts*, the education requirement for CPA licensure is 150 credit hours, including certain requirements for accounting and business credit hours, depending on the level of degrees obtained. There are several ways to fulfill this requirement, but the simplest and most common is earning your MSA degree. In fact, if you have your MSA from UMass Amherst, you have satisfied the *Massachusetts* educational requirements and will not need to meet specific course requirements.

Candidates for CPA licensure in Massachusetts are allowed to sit for the CPA Examination after having completed only 120 of the total 150 required credit hours, and conferral of a bachelor's degree. Candidates will need to have 21 credits in accounting and 9 in business.

To apply to take the CPA exam in Massachusetts, please go to <https://cpacentral.nasba.org/>. When you apply for the exam online you will be asked to specify what section(s) of the exam you wish to take. You need to complete any section(s) you apply for within a 6 month window of receiving your Notice to Schedule (NTS), so don't apply for more than you think you can handle within that timeframe.

For details on Massachusetts's CPA licensure requirements, see the **National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA)** or the **Massachusetts Society of CPAs**. Becker Professional Education also has a useful **State by State Reference Guide** to CPA requirements.

This Way to CPA is an invaluable resource that provides detailed information on how to prepare for and complete the CPA Examination, the benefits of licensure, other certification requirements, how to plan for your career, etc.