

ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION

Accounting is the language of business. All Gabelli School students need to understand the basics of accounting, both for their courses at Fordham and for their business careers. Students receive rigorous exposure to financial accounting in the integrated business core, and those who choose can continue with a program of study that prepares them to succeed on the CPA exam and obtain other highly regarded certifications.

The study of accounting does not end in the classroom. Fordham fields teams regularly for regional and national competitions in accounting and taxation. These competitions are run by major accounting firms, such as Deloitte, KPMG, PwC, and EY. Guest speakers from accounting firms, Fortune 500 corporations, and regulatory and standard-setting agencies, such as the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, frequently appear on campus and provide networking opportunities for students.

Accounting students may join the on-campus student chapters of several prominent professional and academic groups. Active involvement in these groups often paves the way for internships and subsequent job offers. These organizations include:

- ALPFA, the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting
- Ascend, the premier nonprofit professional association for Pan-Asians
- Beta Alpha Psi, the honor society for finance and accounting students and professionals

Program Requirements

Gabelli School students may integrate accounting into their academic program in several ways: As a major (through one of four options), as a minor, or as a concentration within the Business Administration major.

One of the four majors is the Public Accountancy program, which is a five-year program that leads students to complete the 150 credits that New York State requires for individuals who want to take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam and earn licensure. With the other three majors, students may elect to pursue licensure, or not.

The Road To Licensure: Various Paths

By the time a student sits for the CPA exam, if licensure is his or her goal, he or she must have logged the 150 course hours mandated by New York State. Fordham has developed a variety of paths that students can pursue to reach that total.

As noted above, the five-year undergraduate Public Accountancy major is one of them. But there are other paths, too. Dual-degree programs merge a bachelor's with a master's degree at the Gabelli School. By the time a student completes both his or her undergraduate and graduate degree in five years, he or she will have reached the 150-hour level and be qualified to sit for the CPA exam.

The table below offers an overview of how the various licensure paths are structured. Students who wish to pursue one of these paths should apply during their senior year; please review the Dual-Degree Programs information on the Gabelli School website and contact the dual-degree programs adviser for more information.

Undergraduate Major	Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Licensure Determination	Supplemental Graduate Concentration Leading to Licensure
Single Degree		
150-credit B.S. in Public Accountancy (CPA-track)	Meets the educational requirements for licensure, either directly or through reciprocity, in all 50 States as a stand-alone degree, without supplemental graduate coursework as of March 24, 2021.	N/A
Dual Degree		

B.S. in Public Accounting	Does not meet the educational requirements for licensure as a stand-alone degree in any State as all States required 150 credits minimum for CPA licensure among other requirements. However, the program does meet the educational requirements for licensure, either directly or through reciprocity, in all 50 States when combined with qualifying supplemental graduate coursework identified in this table as of March 24, 2021.	combined with:	<p>(a) M.B.A. Public Accounting</p> <p>(b) M.B.A. Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: With this option, completion of 6 Accounting credits within the M.B.A. degree program is required to meet CPA educational requirements. <p>(c) M.B.A. Information Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: With this option, completion of 6 Accounting credits within the M.B.A. degree program is required to meet CPA educational requirements. <p>(d) M.B.A. Communication and Media Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: With this option, completion of 6 Accounting credits within the M.B.A. degree program is required to meet CPA educational requirements. <p>(e) M.B.A. Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: With this option, completion of 6 Accounting credits within the 	<p>M.B.A. degree program is required to meet CPA educational requirements.</p> <p>(f) M.B.A. Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: With this option, completion of 6 Accounting credits within the M.B.A. degree program is required to meet CPA educational requirements. <p>(g) M.S. in Professional Accounting</p> <p>(h) M.S. in Professional Taxation</p>
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B.S. in Applied Accounting and Finance	Does not meet the educational requirements for licensure as a stand-alone degree in any State as all States required 150 credits minimum for CPA licensure among other requirements. However, the program does meet the educational requirements for licensure, either directly or through reciprocity, in all 50 States when combined with qualifying supplemental graduate coursework identified in this table as of March 24, 2021.	combined with:	(a) M.B.A. Public Accounting (b) M.S. in Professional Accounting	B.S. in Accounting Information Systems	Does not meet the educational requirements for licensure as a stand-alone degree in any State as all States required 150 credits minimum for CPA licensure among other requirements. However, the program does meet the educational requirements for licensure, either directly or through reciprocity, in all 50 States when combined with qualifying supplemental graduate coursework identified in this table as of March 24, 2021.	combined with:	M.S. in Professional Accounting
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**Undergraduate
Minor or
Concentration**

Accounting Minor	Completing the Accounting Minor is not equivalent to an accounting degree, nor does it meet the educational requirements for licensure as a stand-alone credential, either directly or through reciprocity, in any State.	N/A
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Concentration in Accounting	Completing the Concentration in Accounting is not equivalent to an accounting degree, nor does it meet the educational requirements for licensure as a stand-alone credential, either directly or through reciprocity, in any State.	N/A
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Requirements for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license are subject to State-specific requirements and typically require more than successful completion of educational requirements. CPA licensure candidates must satisfy pertinent additional requirements, contingent on State specificities, including but not limited to completing the CPA application process, submitting payment for all relative fees, passing licensure examinations, and professional experience.

Students are encouraged to regularly visit the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy website and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants website to stay apprised of any additional relevant licensure requirement updates. Please refer to the table above to review in which States your program meets the educational requirements for professional CPA licensure as of March 24, 2021.

For further information, please refer to the respective pages for each program. Students are encouraged to meet with their class dean and/or the accounting adviser for additional information regarding the programs.

How courses are counted

Students must note the following policy for how courses are counted. A student may count a maximum of one class in fulfilling more than one purpose—that is, toward any combination of major, minor, and primary or secondary concentration. For example, only one economics class could count toward both a finance major and an economics minor; any additional economics class would count toward the finance major OR the economics minor, but not both. Similarly, one management class could count toward both a primary concentration in management and a minor in sustainable business, but any subsequent management class would not count toward both. Any exceptions to these rules will be posted within the specific area major, minor, or concentration requirements.

For more information

Visit the Accounting Area web page.