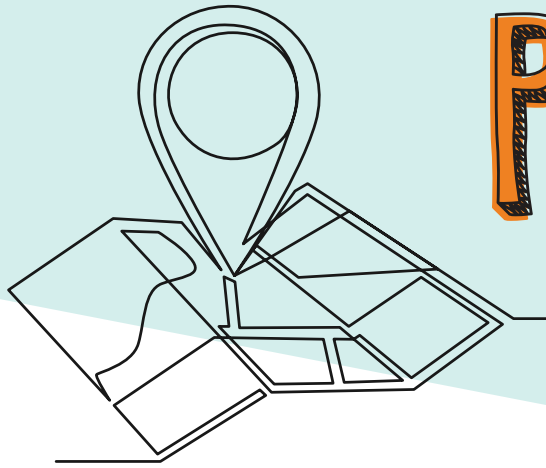




PATHWAYS TO CPA in Illinois

You've got what it takes—earning your CPA is time well spent. It expands your career options and pays you back for decades by opening doors and setting you apart no matter where your path leads.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

Starting Jan. 1, 2027, a new law allows for more flexibility and reduces barriers to becoming a licensed CPA in Illinois, while still preserving the value and integrity of the credential. The pathway options include:

- **Current: 150 credit hours** (including a bachelor's degree); pass all four sections of the CPA exam; pass an Ethics exam; and complete **one year** of relevant work experience.
- **New: Bachelor's degree** with the required concentration in accounting; pass all four sections of the CPA exam; pass an Ethics exam; and complete **two years** of relevant work experience.
- **New: Master's degree** with the required concentration in accounting; pass all four sections of the CPA exam; pass an Ethics exam; and complete **one year** of relevant work experience.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

The Illinois Board of Examiners and Illinois Department of Financial Professional Regulation will set the final rules outlining how the new law works, such as what counts for coursework, what qualifies as relevant work experience, and whether the new pathway options are retroactive.

Watch for updates.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Choose the pathway that best fits your goals, learning style, and timeline.



Find guidance tailored to your journey,
plus more CPA exam resources at:
www.icpas.org/cpa-exam-resources



ILLINOIS CPA SOCIETY®