



## Ohio Revised Code

### Section 4701.06 Requirements for CPA certificate.

Effective: January 1, 2026

Legislation: House Bill 238 - 135th General Assembly

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(A) The accountancy board shall grant the certificate of "certified public accountant" to any person who satisfies the following requirements:

(1) The person has attained the age of eighteen years.

(2) The person meets the following requirements of education and experience:

(a) Graduation with a baccalaureate, master's, or higher degree. The board by rule shall require any subjects that it considers appropriate. The total educational program shall include an accounting concentration with related courses in other areas of business administration, as defined by board rule.

(b) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, acquisition of one year of experience satisfactory to the board in any of the following:

(i) A public accounting firm;

(ii) Government;

(iii) Business;

(iv) Academia.

(3) The person has passed an examination that is administered in the manner and that covers the subjects that the board prescribes by rule. In adopting the relevant rules, the board shall ensure to the extent possible that the examination, the examination process, and the examination's passing standard are uniform with the examinations, examination processes, and examination passing standards of all other states and may provide for the use of all or parts of the uniform certified public



accountant examination and advisory grading service of the American institute of certified public accountants. The board may contract with third parties to perform administrative services that relate to the examination and that the board determines are appropriate in order to assist the board in performing its duties in relation to the examination.

(B) The experience requirement for a candidate who satisfies the educational requirements under division (A)(2)(a) of this section by obtaining a baccalaureate degree is two years of the experience described in division (A)(2)(b) of this section.

(C) A candidate enrolled in an educational program that satisfies division (A)(2)(a) of this section who is one hundred eighty days or fewer from completing the program on the date the candidate applies to take the examination referred to in division (A)(3) of this section is eligible to take the examination without waiting until the candidate meets the education or experience requirements.

(D) A candidate for the certificate of certified public accountant who has successfully completed the examination under division (A)(3) of this section has no status as a certified public accountant, unless and until the candidate has the requisite education and experience and has received a certificate as a certified public accountant. The board shall determine and charge a fee for issuing the certificate that is adequate to cover the expense.

(E) The board by rule may prescribe the terms and conditions under which a candidate who passes part but not all of the examination may retake the examination. It also may provide by rule for a reasonable waiting period for a candidate's reexamination.

The applicable educational and experience requirements under divisions (A)(2), (B), and (C) of this section shall be those in effect on the date on which the candidate first sits for the examination.

(F) The board shall charge a candidate a reasonable fee, to be determined by the board, that is adequate to cover all rentals, compensation for proctors, and other administrative expenses of the board related to examination or reexamination, including the expenses of procuring and grading the examination provided for in division (A)(3) of this section. Fees for reexamination under division (E) of this section shall be charged by the board in amounts determined by it. The applicable fees shall be paid by the candidate at the time the candidate applies for examination or reexamination.



(G) Any person who has received from the board a certificate as a certified public accountant and who holds an Ohio permit shall be styled and known as a "certified public accountant" and also may use the abbreviation "CPA." The board shall maintain a list of certified public accountants. Any certified public accountant also may be known as a "public accountant."

(H) Persons who, on the effective date of an amendment of this section, held certified public accountant certificates previously issued under the laws of this state shall not be required to obtain additional certificates under this section but shall otherwise be subject to all provisions of this section, and those previously issued certificates, for all purposes, shall be considered certificates issued under this section and subject to its provisions.

(I) The board may waive the examination under division (A)(3) of this section and, upon payment of a fee determined by it, may issue a certificate as a "certified public accountant" to any person who possesses the qualification specified in division (A)(1) of this section and what the board determines to be substantially the equivalent of the applicable qualifications under division (A)(2) of this section and who is the holder of a certificate, license, or degree in a foreign country that constitutes a recognized qualification for the practice of public accounting in that country, that is comparable to that of a certified public accountant of this state, and that is then in full force and effect.

(J) The board shall issue a certificate as a "certified public accountant" in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised Code to a person if either of the following applies:

(1) The person holds a certificate as a certified public accountant in another state.

(2) The person has satisfactory work experience, a government certification, or a private certification as described in that chapter as a certified public accountant in a state that does not issue that certificate.