

Put Your Business and Finances with Someone You Trust

While most people use the terms accountant and CPA interchangeably, there are several big differences. The **CPA credential** carries enormous weight in business and financial circles. **CPAs are considered some of business' most trusted advisers**, according to a recent survey conducted by the American Institute of CPAs. Specifically, small business owners rely on their **CPA** for business counsel ranking just slightly behind one's spouse or family member. **CPAs are tested, continually educated and regulated** by the federal government. Achieving CPA status takes intelligence, ethics, integrity and lifelong commitment.

Tested

Candidates must complete some of the toughest business courses at their college or university and pass the Uniform CPA Exam. This test of business, auditing and general accounting skills was developed to ensure the competence of CPAs entering the field, much as the bar exam evaluates lawyers and the medical boards test doctors. The exam is continually revised to meet the changing demands of the profession.

Educated

Accounting graduates must complete 150 educational credits in order to qualify for a CPA certificate. CPAs are required to follow a strict code of ethics as well as perform within the highest standards of the profession. Every two years they must complete 80 hours of continuing professional education to keep up with the new rules and regulations in the financial and accounting world.

Regulated

The Board of Registration in Public Accountancy grants certificates and licenses to practice public accountancy to qualified individuals who comply with the requirements of the statute. The Board monitors licensees' practice of public accountancy to insure that the services provided to the public are in accordance with the ethical standards of Massachusetts General Laws and Board regulations. The Board also insures that licensees have complied with all continuing education requirements necessary to renew their licenses.

Find a CPA Directory

Interested in finding a CPA to best meet your needs? Don't know where to start? Visit the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants' online Find a CPA Directory.

Using the Directory, you can search by service, industry, city, region, language, women-owned or minority-owned firms.

Visit the Directory online at www.MSCPAonline.org/public/find_cpa.php.