

# CPA Paths to Public Accounting and Other Regulated Services Licensure - Guidance

The table below provides guidance for:

- CPA Professional Education Program (PEP) students/candidates intending to apply for a public accounting (i.e. Audit, Review, or Compilation) or Other Regulated Services licence after certification. Students/candidates should follow specific pathways within the certification model that will meet the licensing requirements.
- Members in good standing who would like to apply for a public accounting (i.e. Audit, Review, or Compilation) or Other Regulated Services licence.

Please note that members in good standing who certified as a CPA through the CPA qualification process through a non-assurance pathway and subsequently want to pursue a public accounting licence should contact CPABC at [publicpractice@bccpa.ca](mailto:publicpractice@bccpa.ca) to discuss appropriate bridging requirements.

|                            | <b>Audit Path</b>   | <b>Review Path</b>   | <b>Compilation Path</b>  | <b>Other Regulated Services – Reviewable licence</b>   | <b>Other Regulated Services – Non-Reviewable licence</b>   |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Qualifying Services</b> | Qualifies candidates for registration to provide audit, review, compilation and other regulated services. | Qualifies candidates for registration to provide review, compilation and other regulated services. | Qualifies candidates for registration to provide compilation and other regulated services. | Qualifies candidates to provide other regulated services, subject to any applicable standards, limits or conditions established by the CPABC Board for providing such services. Members holding a licence in this category are authorized to provide income tax compliance services. | Qualifies candidates to provide other regulated services except tax services (“Other Services”).                                   |
|                            |   |  |  | T1 or T2; Other Services   | Other Services include: Statutory fillings, forensic accounting, financial investigation or financial litigation support services. |

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## Licensure - Guidance

|  | <b>Audit Path</b>  | <b>Review Path</b>   | <b>Compilation Path</b>   | <b>Other Regulated Services – Reviewable licence</b>   | <b>Other Regulated Services – Non-Reviewable licence</b>   |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Education Electives</b><br><br>(For post-designation bridging, Post-Designation Public Accounting (PDPA) module and examination may be required.) | Candidates must choose Assurance and Tax Electives.  | Candidates must choose Assurance and Tax Electives.  | Candidates must choose Tax as one of two electives; the second elective is at the choice of candidates.   | Candidates are strongly advised to choose Tax as one of two electives; the second elective is at the choice of candidates.   | The electives are at the choice of candidates.   |
| <b>Common Final Examination</b><br><br>(For post-designation bridging, PDPA module and examination may be required.)                                 | Candidates must demonstrate depth in financial reporting and assurance.  | Candidates must demonstrate depth in financial reporting and assurance.  | Candidates must demonstrate depth in financial reporting plus one other depth area at the choice of candidates, ideally tax.  | Candidates are strongly advised to demonstrate depth in financial reporting plus depth in tax.   | Candidates are strongly advised to demonstrate depth in financial reporting.   |
| <b>Practical Experience Route</b>  | Qualifying practical experience must be gained through a pre-approved program (PPR) in an office registered to provide audit services. | Qualifying practical experience must be gained through a pre-approved program (PPR) in an office registered to provide review (and/or audit) services. | Qualifying practical experience must be gained in a CPA office registered to offer public accounting services, and can be gained through a pre-approved program (PPR) or through experience verification route (EVR). | Qualifying practical experience can be gained through a pre-approved program (PPR) or through experience verification route (EVR) gained in a CPA office registered to offer public accounting services. | Qualifying practical experience can be gained through a pre-approved program (PPR) or through experience verification route (EVR) gained in a CPA office registered to offer public accounting services. |

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|  | <b>Audit Path</b>   | <b>Review Path</b>   | <b>Compilation Path</b>  | <b>Other Regulated Services – Reviewable licence</b>  | <b>Other Regulated Services – Non-Reviewable licence</b>          |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Core Requirements for Practical Experience</b>    | Proficiency in at least three financial reporting sub-areas.  | Proficiency in at least three financial reporting sub-areas.   | Proficiency in at least three financial reporting sub-areas.   | Proficiency in at least three financial reporting sub-areas recommended.                      | No specific requirements.   |
| <b>Depth Requirements for Practical Experience</b>   | Depth in the audit and assurance competency area, with the development of competencies in all three audit and assurance competency sub-areas, two at Level 2. | Area of depth is at the choice of the candidate.<br><br>Depth in financial reporting is strongly recommended.  | Area of depth is at the choice of the candidate.<br><br>Depth in financial reporting or tax is strongly recommended. | Area of depth is at the choice of the candidate.<br><br>Depth in tax is strongly recommended. | Area of depth is at the choice of the candidate.                  |
| <b>Breadth Requirements for Practical Experience</b> | Any two competency sub-areas are at the choice of the candidate.<br><br>Proficiency in financial reporting is strongly recommended.                           | At least two competency sub-areas (both at Level 2) from the audit and assurance competency area. The remaining three competency sub-areas required to meet overall breadth are at the choice of the candidate.<br><br>Proficiency in financial reporting is strongly recommended. | Any five competency sub-areas are at the choice of the candidate.  | Any five competency sub-areas are at the choice of the candidate.                             | Any five competency sub-areas are at the choice of the candidate. |
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|  | <b>Audit Path</b>   | <b>Review Path</b>  | <b>Compilation Path</b>   | <b>Other Regulated Services – Reviewable licence</b>                             | <b>Other Regulated Services – Non-Reviewable licence</b>          |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Diversity of Experience for Practical Experience</b>  | Variety of audit clients and/or a variety of audit experiences.   | Variety of assurance clients and/or a variety of assurance experiences.   | Experience in tax and advisory services, in addition to compilation hours.  | Experience in tax is strongly recommended.                                       | No specific requirements.   |
| <b>Chargeable Hours Included Within the 30 Month Work Term</b><br><br><b>(24 months for post-designation bridging)</b> | At least 1,250 chargeable hours in assurance, of which a minimum of 625 hours must be obtained in the audit of historical financial statements. | At least 1,250 chargeable hours in assurance, of which a minimum of 625 hours must be obtained in audit or review of historical financial statements. | At least 625 chargeable hours in compilation. Hours spent in the audit or review of historical financial statements are accepted as compilation hours.<br><br><b>(Mentor option is available for post-designation bridging)</b> | Candidates are strongly advised to gain chargeable hours in tax and compilation. | No specific requirements.   |
| <b>Mentorship</b><br><br><b>(applicable for CPA candidates/ students only)</b>   | Your mentor must be working in public accounting within your firm.  | Your mentor must be working in public accounting within your firm.  | It is recommended that your mentor be working in public practice.   | It is recommended that your mentor be working in public practice.                | It is recommended that your mentor be working in public practice. |

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## **Notes:**

1. The licensing paths discussed above are structured as a hierarchy in the following order:
  - a. Audit Path
  - b. Review Path
  - c. Compilation Path
  - d. Other Regulated Services – Reviewable/Non-reviewable

This means that attaining the higher level licence provides the right to practice all the services for the licence levels below. For example, a review licence provides the right to perform all the qualifying services for the compilation licence as well as other regulated services (reviewable/non-reviewable).

2. The following table provides future licensing options available for students following some of the *public practice related pre-approved paths*:

| <b>PPR paths within PERT</b>      | <b>Details on possible CPABC public accounting licensing paths</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| External Audit Path (AP)          | This path is geared towards the Audit licence  |
| Review Path (RP)                  | This path is geared towards the Review licence. With bridging, there is a possibility to obtain the Audit licence.   |
| Assurance, Compilation, Tax (ACT) | This path is most closely geared towards the Compilation licence. With bridging, there is a possibility to obtain the Audit or Review licence.                     |
| Advisory, Tax, Compilation (AdTC) | This path is geared towards the Compilation licence. With bridging, there is a possibility to obtain the Audit or Review licence.                                  |
| Direct-to-Tax (DTT)               | This path is geared towards Other Regulated Services-Reviewable licence. With bridging, there may be a possibility to obtain the Audit/Review/Compilation licence. |