

To: Nebraska Accounting Educators

## New Educational Requirements Approved for the Uniform CPA Examination

Contact: Dan Sweetwood (402) 471-3595/ dan.sweetwood@Nebraska.gov

(September 25, 2019) The Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy (Board) has been notified from the Governor's Policy Research Office that Governor Pete Ricketts has approved proposed regulations as previously adopted by the Board in regards to the requirements to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination (Exam). The proposed regulations were part of a 2019 Rule Package whereas the Board held a public hearing on July 12, 2019 to receive testimony.

### **Background**

A change to Title 288 Chapter 9 is largely based on recommendations from the Subject Area Review Task Force (SART) and the Board's Education Advisory Committee (EAC). The SART was made up of three long time educators and a current practicing CPA who are also current members of the EAC. In October 2017, the SART initially met to discuss educational prerequisites to meet the 150-hour educational requirement as outlined within the Public Accountancy Act (PAA) under section 1-116. The requirements had not been reviewed for many years. Later, the EAC approved the recommendations along with the Board.

Chapter 9 outlines the requirements for a candidate to sit for the CPA Exam, including business and accounting subject areas to be met. Chapter 9 was initially drafted by the EAC, made up of Nebraska educators and CPAs, in the attempt to assist candidates in passage of the CPA Exam. Additionally, as much flexibility for course development within Nebraska educational institutions with an accounting curriculum was taken into consideration along with recommended national requirements. It should be noted it is not the intent in any way to prescribe specific curricula to Nebraska educational institutions as outlined within Chapter 9.004 and PAA 1-116.

The SART's charge by the EAC was to evaluate the current subject area requirements within Chapter 9 to ensure the necessity of the requirements and to modernize them, if necessary, based on the current CPA Exam Blue Prints. The Blue Prints provide general content of the CPA Exam and are published by the Board of Examiners (BOE), a senior committee of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), that develops and scores the CPA Exam.

The recommended changes included:

- Reducing the number of required semester hours in general business from 36 to 30.
- Consolidated the Micro and Macro Economic requirement into one subject area.
- Removed the Business Communication requirement and placed it as a recommended subject area.
- Removed the Quantitative Applications in Business requirement and placed it as a recommended subject area.
- Included Data Analytics as a recommended subject area.
- Consolidated regulations to allow the remaining 90 semester hours to be completed within general education and electives.

Students completing the education requirements to sit for the CPA exam are positively impacted by the proposed changes to Chapter 9. The goal of these changes is to provide more flexibility for the student to choose an additional two courses (business or non-business) while still receiving an accounting education that assists in passage of the CPA Exam.

It also positively impacts non-traditional accounting students who choose to make accounting a career after receiving a Bachelor's degree in another field of study by not requiring two additional business courses to meet the requirement.

The changes could also impact Nebraska educational institutions by allowing more flexibility in creating their accounting curriculums tied to the 150-hour requirement.

***As an accounting educator, what do you need to do based on the changes?***

Nothing, if you choose. Current and future students will not be impacted by these changes and will qualify to sit for the exam under your current 150- hour curriculum. However, if you and/or your institution would like to review your current curriculum under the new changes, our office will offer assistance. Please contact the Board Administrator Kristen VanWinkle at (402) 471-3595 or at [Kristen.VanWinkle@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Kristen.VanWinkle@Nebraska.gov) for assistance.

As indicated above, the goal of the changes is to modernize the subject area requirements under Chapter 9 regulations to assist students in the passage of the exam. For additional information, including the changes within Chapter 9, go to:

<https://nbpa.nebraska.gov/sites/nbpa.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Rule%20Changes.pdf>