

MINUTES
CPA EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 28, 2025
Hybrid Meeting Anchor Location Room 475

CONVENED: 9:03 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 10:24 a.m.

Bureau Manager:

Tracy Taylor

Board Secretary:

Katie Corak

Committee Members Present:

Paul Campbell, Chairperson

Troy Lewis

Kevin Smith

Brooke Linton

Lisa Hopkins

Shannon Charles

F. Ross Johnston

Jeffrey Orton

DOPL Staff Present:

Kirsten Shumway, Legal Analyst

Guests:

Susan Speirs, UACPA

Jovana Sisovic, Westminster College

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the November 01, 2024, minutes. Mr. Orton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome New Committee Members:

New Committee Members Kevin Smith (UVU) and Brooke Linton (Ensign College) introduced themselves to the Committee. Item noted with no action taken.

DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS:

Finance Major with Minor in Accounting:

Ms. Hopkins reviewed a scenario involving a student who is a Finance major with a minor in accounting with the Committee as reminder that as they go through the process of rewriting the education requirements in R156-26a, they need to be mindful of students with a variety of majors; such finance economics majors choosing to become CPAs, and structure education requirements that are broad enough to accommodate students with those majors and not just accounting majors.

SB 15:

The Committee began discussing the content SB15 and how they would like to restructure the education requirements in R156-26a-302a based on the content of SB15 specifically, how to define concentration of business and accounting. Mr. Orton presented a spreadsheet listing the states that passed similar laws within the few years, and the required number of hours of accounting specific coursework for each state. Mr. Orton shared the spreadsheet in order to help the Committee understand how the other states are changing their education requirements so the Committee can stay in line with how these states are rewriting their education requirements. Mr. Smith asked whether the Committee should rely on national accreditation for defining concentration of accounting and business or if the Committee should explicitly define it. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Campbell agreed accreditation is important. Mr. Lewis explained his vision for the education requirements as having three pathways; an accredited master of accounting degree, accredited bachelor of accounting degree, and a third pathway for candidates with any other degree. Ms. Shumway, DOPL Legal Analyst, asked why the master's degree pathway is an option if a bachelor's degree would suffice for the education requirements for licensure. Mr. Lewis and Ms. Taylor explained there is an institution in Utah that does not have a stand-alone bachelor's degree in accounting program; their program is a concurrent enrollment program in which students obtain both the bachelor's and master's in accounting degrees. As a good faith gesture, the Utah State Legislature allowed the language for the master's degree option to be included in the statute to accommodate this concurrent program. Mr. Lewis explained that the benefit to obtaining a master's degree in accounting is adding value to students' professional careers in the long term. It is not just about being able to pass the exam, it leads to a longer more successful career and opens more doors to them in their careers. The Committee then discussed whether to combine the master's and accredited bachelor's degree in accounting into one pathway and then have a second pathway for all other candidates who do not have either of those degrees and need to demonstrate a concentration in business and accounting. Some Committee members thought it would be easier to have them separated into two different pathways to make it clearer to candidates and easier for the Division to administer. Ms. Taylor pointed out that the master's and bachelor's degrees in accounting could be combined into one pathway (listed as master's or bachelor's degree in accounting from a nationally

or regionally accredited institution) because the experience requirement is not defined in the rule, just the statute. The Committee then returned to their original discussion of how they would like to begin the process of rewriting R156-26a. Ms. Hopkins felt strongly that SB 15 should be their starting point because it directs the Committee on what changes they need to make to R156-26a. Ms. Taylor pointed out that most of the changes outside of the education requirements were general clean up the Division will handle. The Committee needs to focus on the education and experience requirements for equivalency. Mr. Lewis added that the Committee will also need to determine the requirements to take the exam and also the definition of concentration of accounting and business. This will be critical for candidates without an accredited master's or bachelor's degree in accounting. The Committee determined the next step would be to review both SB 15 and the current version of R156-26a and map out how SB15 impacts sections in R156-26a and reconvene in two weeks. Ms. Shumway also asked that the Committee spend some time thinking about what would a concentration in business and accounting look like; specifically, what classes they think would define that concentration.

ADJOURN:

Adjourned 10:24 a.m.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

Date: 07/02/2025

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X 

CPA Education Advisory Committee Chairperson

X 

Bureau Manager, Division of
Professional Licensing