



RULE-MAKING ORDER
(RCW 34.05.360)

CR-103 (7/23/95)

Agency: Board of Accountancy

- Permanent Rule**
- Emergency Rule**
- Expedited Repeal**

(1) Date of adoption: September 29, 1995

(2) Purpose: Amend education requirement to obtain certification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

(3) Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed:

Amended: WAC 4-25-710 CPA certificate--Education requirements.

Suspended:

(4) Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.04.055(5)

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE ONLY

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 9509-066 on April 18, 1995 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: No changes

EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- (a) That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- (b) That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding:

EXPEDITED REPEAL ONLY

Under Preproposal Statement of Inquiry filed as WSR _____ on _____ (date).

(5.3) Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption of effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

(6) Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

Emergency Rules

- 31 days after filing
- Other (specify) _____ *
- Immediately
- Later (specify) _____

*(If less than 31 days after filing, specific finding in 5.3 under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

OCT 03 1995

TIME: 1:24

WSR 95-20-005

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Carey L. Radar

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Executive Director

DATE

10/3/95

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Federal rules or standards:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Recently enacted* state statutes:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____

*(current calendar year)

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New _____ Amended 1 Repealed _____

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New _____ Amended _____ Repealed _____

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New _____ Amended _____ Repealed _____

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Pilot rule making:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Other alternative rule making:	New _____	Amended <u>1</u>	Repealed _____

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 93-12-071, filed 5/27/93, effective 7/1/93)

WAC 4-25-710 CPA certificate--Education requirements. Until June 30, 2000, applicants for a CPA certificate shall have a baccalaureate degree conferred by a college or university recognized by the board. The degree program shall include an accounting concentration or its equivalent and related subjects the board deems appropriate. Effective July 1, 2000, an applicant for a CPA certificate shall have completed at least one hundred fifty semester hours of college education, including:

• A baccalaureate or higher degree; and
• An accounting concentration or its equivalent as defined by the board.

(1) Equivalent education. Until June 30, 2000, the board may, in its discretion, waive the educational requirements for any person if the board is satisfied that the applicant has successfully completed such equivalency examinations as may be offered by bona fide educational testing organizations. The board will not prepare or offer equivalent education examinations. The board will designate, by resolution, acceptable educational testing organizations and equivalency examinations when and if acceptable organizations and examinations exist. Effective July 1, 2000, the board will discontinue this provision for equivalent education.

(2) Education obtained outside the United States. In the case of education obtained outside the United States, the board may, at its discretion, rely on bona fide foreign education credential evaluation services. The board will not provide such services, but will designate acceptable foreign education evaluation services, by board resolution, upon application from service providers.

(3) As used in these rules, a "semester hour" means the conventional college semester hour. Quarter hours may be converted to semester hours by multiplying them by two-thirds.

(4) Accreditation standards. For purposes of this rule, the board will recognize colleges and universities which are accredited in accordance with (a) through (c) of this subsection.

(a) An accredited college or university is a four-year degree-granting college or university accredited at the time the applicant's degree was received by virtue of membership in one of the following accrediting agencies:

(i) Middle States Association of College and Secondary Schools;

(ii) New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

(iii) North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools;

(iv) Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges;

(v) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

(vi) Western Association of Schools and Colleges; and

(vii) Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools, or its predecessor, the Accrediting Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools.

(b) If an institution was not accredited at the time an applicant's degree was received but is so accredited at the time the application is filed with the board, the institution will be deemed to be accredited for the purpose of (a) of this subsection provided that it:

(i) Certifies that the applicant's total educational program would qualify the applicant for graduation with a baccalaureate degree during the time the institution has been accredited; and

(ii) Furnishes the board satisfactory proof, including college catalogue course numbers and descriptions, that the preaccrediting courses used to qualify the applicant for a concentration in accounting are substantially equivalent to postaccrediting courses.

(c) If an applicant's degree was received at an accredited college or university as defined by (a) or (b) of this subsection, but the educational program which was used to qualify the applicant for a concentration in accounting included courses taken at nonaccredited institutions, either before or after graduation, such courses will be deemed to have been taken at the accredited institution from which applicant's degree was received, provided the accredited institution either:

(i) Has accepted such courses by including them in its official transcript; or

(ii) Certifies to the board that it will accept such courses for credit toward graduation.

(5) Alternative to accreditation. A graduate of a four-year degree-granting institution not accredited at the time the applicant's degree was received or at the time the application was filed will be deemed to be a graduate of a four-year accredited college or university if a credentials evaluation service approved by the board certifies that the applicant's degree is equivalent to a degree from an accredited college or university as defined in subsection (4) of this section.

(6) Accounting concentration. Until June 30, 2000, a concentration in accounting for holders of baccalaureate degrees, for purposes of this rule, shall consist of at least:

(a) Twenty-four semester hours or the equivalent, in accounting subjects including no more than ten semester hours of lower division elementary accounting courses; and

(b) Twenty-four semester hours or the equivalent, in business administration subjects which shall include business law, finance, and economics.

(c) A concentration in accounting for holders of graduate degrees for purposes of this rule shall consist of at least:

(i) Sixteen semester hours or the equivalent in graduate level accounting subjects. Undergraduate accounting courses may be substituted at two-thirds of the stated undergraduate credit; and

(ii) Sixteen semester hours or the equivalent in graduate level business administration subjects which shall include business law, finance, and economics. Undergraduate business courses may be substituted at two-thirds of the stated undergraduate credit.

(7) Accounting concentration. After June 30, 2000, a concentration in accounting, for purposes of this rule, shall consist of at least:

(a) Twenty-four semester hours or the equivalent in accounting subjects of which at least fifteen semester hours must be at the upper division or graduate level (an upper division course is defined as a course only available to students who have standing as

a junior, senior or graduate; frequently carries completion of an elementary course(s) as a prerequisite for admission; and is usually designated as "upper division" by the school offering the course); and

(b) Twenty-four semester hours or the equivalent in business administration subjects at the undergraduate or graduate level.

The board will not recognize accounting concentration credits awarded for "life experience" or similar activities retroactively evaluated and recognized by colleges or universities. This restriction is not intended to apply to internships prospectively approved by colleges or universities.