



RULE-MAKING ORDER

(RCW 34.05.360)

CR-103 (10/1/89)

Agency: Board of Accountancy

- Permanent Rule
- Emergency Rule

(1) Date of adoption: November 21, 1991

(2) Purpose:
Amend education rule to liberalize college and university accreditation standard

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

- Repealed:
- Amended: WAC 4-25-140
- Suspended:

(4) Authority for adoption:

- Statute: RCW 18.04.055(9)
- Other Authority:

(5.1) PERMANENT RULE ONLY

Pursuant to notice filed as WSR 91-20-080 on September 27, 1991 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version:

(5.2) EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

Pursuant to 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:

(5.3) Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or 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

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TIME: 2:06 PM
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NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Carey L. Rader

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Chief Executive Officer

DATE

11/25/91

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order ACB-126, filed 2/4/87)

WAC 4-25-140 CPA CERTIFICATE--EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS. 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. The board may, in its discretion, waive the educational requirements for any person if it is satisfied through review of documentation of successful completion of equivalency examination that the person's educational qualifications are an acceptable substitute for the requirements of this rule.

(1) 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.

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

(a) An accredited college or university is a four year degree-granting college or university accredited at the time applicant's degree was received by virtue of membership in one of the following ~~((regional))~~ 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; ~~((and))~~
- (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))~~ ~~((A-listing-of-accredited-colleges-and-universities-as-recognized-by-the-board-is-contained-in-Accredited-Institutions-of-Postsecondary-Education-published-by--the--U--S--Department--of--Education; National-Center-for-Education-Statistics.~~

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

(i) Certifies that the applicant's total educational program would qualify him 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.

~~((d))~~ (c) If an applicant's degree was received at an accredited college or university as defined by (a) or ~~((e))~~ (b) of this subsection, but the educational program which was used to qualify him 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.

(3) Alternative to accreditation. A graduate of a four-year-granting institution not accredited at the time the applicant's degree was received or at the time his 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 (2) of this section.

(4) Accounting concentration. 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, economics, and data processing.

(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, economics, and data processing. Undergraduate business courses may be substituted at two-thirds of the stated undergraduate credit.

(5) Transition rules for accounting concentration. Applicants for the certified public accountant examination whose original application is approved prior to September 1, 1986, shall not be required to comply with subsection (4) (a) and (b) of this section. Instead, they shall be required to meet the following requirements:

(a) Applicants who sat for an examination given before August 8, 1969, and received conditional credits from such examination, may continue to sit for the examination. They must pass all parts of the examination on or before the November 1992 sitting. Failure to pass said examination by November 1992 will cause the candidate to be subject to the accounting concentration requirements of subsection (4) (a) and (b) of this section for sitting after that date.

(b) Applicants who first sat for an examination given after August 8, 1969, but before November 15, 1986, may continue to sit for the examination. They must pass all parts of the examination on or before the November 1992 sitting. Failure to pass said examination by November 1992 will cause the candidate to be subject to the accounting concentration requirements of subsection (4) (a) and (b) of this section for sitting after that date. Candidates sitting under the provisions of this subsection must pass the examination within six additional consecutive sittings after receiving conditional credits.