



# Guidance Counsellor Guide to CPA Ontario

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## Table of Contents

CPA Ontario and Community Impact .....	3
CPA Designation and Pathway .....	4
Career Opportunities .....	5
High School Recruitment Team .....	6
Resources for Guidance Counsellors.....	7
Resources for Students.....	8
Upcoming Events.....	9
Additional Resources and Helpful Links.....	10
Social Media.....	11

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## CPA Ontario

**We protect the public interest, advance, and uphold the standards of our profession, and guide exceptional people along their journey with us.**

We provide ongoing support, resources, encouragement, and networking for our more than 21,000 students and 100,000 members throughout their education and careers. By preparing them to take on the countless challenges they will face, we play a vital role in developing a new generation of decision-makers. Confident with integrity and courage to do the right thing. Chartered Professional Accountants (CPAs) represent a globally recognized designation and are trusted financial experts and ethical thought leaders who proactively navigate ongoing change aligned with the needs of business and society.

## Community Impact

Given their broad skillset CPAs can be valuable assets as volunteers on boards or committees, including not-for-profit organizations, and can support causes they are passionate about. With their knowledge and skills, many CPAs make a positive impact. Visit [cpaontario.ca/insights/spotlights/cpa-encourages-aboriginal-business-success](https://cpaontario.ca/insights/spotlights/cpa-encourages-aboriginal-business-success) to read our spotlight on **Helen Bobiwash, FCPA, CAFM**, who helps her community by providing financial leadership tailored to Indigenous cultures and communities.

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# CPA Designation and Pathway

A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) is a trusted advisor on financial and business matters. Being a CPA isn't only about taxes and numbers. You can build on any of your strengths - like strategic or analytical thinking, leadership and technical ability - to pursue a career in any sector that interests you with the foundation and expertise the CPA designation provides.

The CPA certification program is designed to ensure that students going through it build a strong foundation of ethics, knowledge, and skill. The CPA designation is earned through completing the graduate-level CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP) in addition to relevant practical experience.

**The nationally developed and provincially delivered CPA certification program consists of:**

- Academic prerequisites with specific area coverage
- The CPA PEP, which culminates in the Common Final Examination (CFE)
- Recognized, relevant practical experience totaling 30 months



## CPA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (CPA PEP)

The CPA PEP is the graduate-level program that makes up the educational portion of the CPA certification program. It consists of modules that are delivered using a blended learning model that combines online learning, self-study, classroom learning and teamwork. The program is designed to enhance future CPAs' ability to apply professional knowledge and values in a professional context.

A CPA designation can still be an option for students who are planning on pursuing a degree in a subject outside of business or planning to keep their options open. To get started on the CPA designation, they will need to complete 120 credit-hours or equivalent degree from a college or university.

**What this means for you:** If students are unsure of their future, want to keep their options open or have already decided on a program not in business, finance, or accounting, they may still pursue a CPA designation upon graduation.

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# Career Opportunities

What does a CPA do? What can you do with an accounting degree or CPA designation? Is becoming a CPA a good career path? And is accounting boring? These are just a few of the questions that might be top of mind for many students.

There are plenty of benefits of pursuing a CPA designation, including advancement and growth opportunities, holding a globally recognized credential and increased job stability. The CPA designation is versatile and CPAs work in many different industries. Below are just a few.

- Gaming
- Technology
- Entrepreneurship
- Manufacturing
- Professional services
- Accounting and finance
- Consulting
- Public service and not-for-profit

TAKE THE LEAD  
IN A CHANGING WORLD

The CPA designation, to me, means freedom. I can confidently explore all of my artistic pursuits (comedy, acting, writing), while using my designation to support myself. It's allowed me to live the best of both worlds - accounting and art.



NEHA KOHLI, CPA, CA  
COMEDIAN, EDUCATOR, AND CEO AT NK CONSULTING

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[cpaontario.ca/HAP](http://cpaontario.ca/HAP)

TAKE THE LEAD  
IN A CHANGING WORLD

Integrity is built into the profession and having those letters behind your name opens up so many doors for you. People associate you with trust, accountability, and someone who knows what they are doing



FAHAD TARIQ, CPA, CA  
VICE PRESIDENT, CREDIT SUISSE | FOUNDER, SHIFT

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[cpaontario.ca/HAP](http://cpaontario.ca/HAP)

TAKE THE LEAD  
IN A CHANGING WORLD

The CPA has played a significant part in my journey. Going through the program and solving business cases has really helped me think holistically about solutions to business problems, which I now apply to My African Corner and my consulting business.



CHIOMA IFEANYI-OKORO, CPA, CMA  
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER AT MY AFRICAN CORNER  
FOUNDER OF THE WINNING CIRCLE

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[cpaontario.ca/HAP](http://cpaontario.ca/HAP)

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# High School Recruitment Team

The High School Recruitment Team at CPA Ontario provides awareness of the CPA designation as the leading path to success for students interested in business careers.

We collaborate with faculty and staff to advance the CPA designation with sponsorship, digital resources, an annual calendar of engaging events and information sessions. Faculty and staff can also encourage students to take part in our skill development, networking, and leadership opportunities, including our High School Ambassador Program (HAP).



**Meghan Hachey**  
STUDENT RECRUITER

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Have questions for the High School Recruitment Team? Contact [getinvolved@cpaontario.ca](mailto:getinvolved@cpaontario.ca)

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# Resources for High School Guidance Counsellors

Do you teach classes in addition to being a guidance counsellor? As an Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) member, guidance counsellors may register free of charge for our **Teacher Colleague Program (TCP)** and get access to additional teaching resources. Join today at [cpaontario.ca/TCP](http://cpaontario.ca/TCP).

- **Guidance Counsellor Handout** – Keep this handout nearby to assist students during advising sessions. It includes information regarding the CPA designation, how to contact the CPA Ontario High School Student Recruitment Team and resource links.
- **CPA Pathway Poster** – This poster outlines the steps required to pursue a CPA designation. Print and post this in your guidance office to inform students, parents and teacher colleagues.
- **CPA Profile Posters** – Print and decorate your guidance office with a CPA profile to showcase some career options available with the designation.
- **8 Quotes to Inspire You Poster** – Inspire your students throughout the year by having this poster in your office or in the school hallways.
- **HAP Poster** – To be printed and put in your classroom, guidance office or on your hallway bulletin board to inform students on how to register for the High School Ambassador Program (HAP) and get access to exclusive events, networking opportunities, competitions and resources.
- **TCP Poster** – Spread the word to other teachers of our TCP where they can get access to resources, cases and activities for their class, in addition to being able to attend our workshops and events. TCP members also have the opportunity to attend our highly anticipated and exclusive conference – [No Limits](#).

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# Resources for High School Students

By joining the **High School Ambassador Program (HAP)**, your students will have an opportunity to network with CPAs at our exclusive events, win prizes through our contests and get access to career planning resources. Students can register free of charge at [cpaontario.ca/HAP](https://www.cpaontario.ca/HAP).

- **Monthly HAP Newsletters** – Students can stay informed with our upcoming programming through our monthly newsletters. Registration links and important information are listed in these emails, along with contact information for our recruitment team if they need to get in touch.
- **Contests** – Get your students involved and build soft skills and their resumes by competing in our contests with a chance to win prizes:
  - **Write to Ignite** is a slideshow contest running from October 2, 2023, to February 20, 2024. Students are to create a slideshow regarding the theme “*Balancing Profit with Purpose: How can businesses meet Corporate Social Responsibility demands, while staying profitable?*” for a chance to win the top prize of \$750 CAD plus more. Visit [cpaontario.ca/write](https://www.cpaontario.ca/write) to learn more.
  - **Showcase** is a 60–90 second video contest running from January 8, 2024, to May 21, 2024, with a top prize of \$1000 CAD. This year’s theme is: *Designated for Greatness: Showcase how you will make an impact in the world as a future CPA*. More information can be found on [cpaontario.ca/showcase](https://www.cpaontario.ca/showcase).
- **Workshops** – Students can get inspired and learn important business and soft skills through our workshops including: our Financial Literacy series, Skill building workshop series and the CPA Designation workshops. Students can register for workshops here: <https://www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/high-school-student/events>.
- **Events** – Have your students attend our Money Sense and No Limits conferences and be part of CPA Ontario sponsored events, such as UTSC Hack Attack, DECA Build a Dream and many more. At these events, students have a chance to meet CPAs, network and learn about the various professions and industries that CPAs work in. Have your students register here: <https://www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/high-school-student/events>.

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# Upcoming Events\*

## 2023

September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Skill Building workshop – Time Management
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Write to Ignite competition opens
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Financial Literacy workshop – Don't get Scammed
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Skill Building workshop – Public Speaking
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Financial Literacy workshop – Credit Cards
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Money Sense Conference
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Supplementary Application workshop

## 2024

January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Showcase competition opens
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parent information night
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Skill Building workshop – Networking
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Write to Ignite competition closes
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Financial Literacy workshop – Goal Setting
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Skill Building workshop – Resume and Cover letter
April 3 <sup>d</sup>	Financial Literacy workshop – Stretching into Savings
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Skill Building workshop – Interview Preparation
May	No Limits Conference – Date TBD
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Showcase competition closes

*\*Dates are subject to change*

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# Additional Resources and Helpful Links

## CPA Ontario Customer Service

T: 1 (800) 387-0735

### Customer Service Website:

[www.cpaontario.ca/contact-us](http://www.cpaontario.ca/contact-us)

## CPA Ontario Helpful Links

### CPA Ontario Website:

[www.cpaontario.ca](http://www.cpaontario.ca)

### Why Become a CPA:

[www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/why-cpa](http://www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/why-cpa)

### CPA Program:

[www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/why-cpa/program-info](http://www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/why-cpa/program-info)

### Professional Education Program (PEP) & Common Final Examination (CFE):

[www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/complete-your-designation/cpa-pep-cfe](http://www.cpaontario.ca/become-a-cpa/complete-your-designation/cpa-pep-cfe)

### Post-Secondary CPA-Accredited Programs:

[www.cpacanada.ca/en/become-a-cpa/pathways-to-becoming-a-cpa/cpa-pep-admission-undergraduate-degree-holders/cpa-accredited-programs-at-psis/](http://www.cpacanada.ca/en/become-a-cpa/pathways-to-becoming-a-cpa/cpa-pep-admission-undergraduate-degree-holders/cpa-accredited-programs-at-psis/)

## CPA Canada Financial Literacy

### CPA Canada Financial Literacy Information:

[www.cpacanada.ca/searchresults#q=CPA%20Canada%20Financial%20Literacy%20Information&sort=relevancy](http://www.cpacanada.ca/searchresults#q=CPA%20Canada%20Financial%20Literacy%20Information&sort=relevancy)

### Request a CPA Canada Financial Literacy Session:

[www.cpacanada.ca/en/public-interest/financial-literacy/financial-literacy-education/request-a-session-in-your-community](http://www.cpacanada.ca/en/public-interest/financial-literacy/financial-literacy-education/request-a-session-in-your-community)

T: 1 (800) 268-3793 (toll free)

E: [financialliteracy@cpacanada.ca](mailto:financialliteracy@cpacanada.ca)

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# CPA Ontario Social Media:



[Instagram](#)  
@cpaontario



[Facebook](#)  
@CPAOntario



[YouTube](#)  
CPA Ontario



[LinkedIn](#)  
Linkedin.com/company/cpa-ontario

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