

HOW can CPA STUDENTS gain practical experience IN THE CPA PROGRAM?



Most CPA members are aware that, in order to obtain the CPA designation, a student must complete 30 months of practical experience.

What members may not be as clear on is how or where this experience may be obtained.

Have you considered training a CPA student in your organization?

Students may obtain their practical experience in industry, government, not-for-profit and public accounting. It is the nature of the work being performed which determines whether it qualifies—not where the experience is obtained.

Why do we need members to assist in finding positions to train CPAs?

With aging demographics, we need to ensure we have enough CPAs to meet the market demand, and therefore need to continually expand training positions for future CPAs.

Have you considered training a CPA in your organization?

Our members are in the best position to know if they may have a position which could provide the practical experience required by a student.

If your organization can offer a position with progressive responsibility and skills development in finance and accounting, then that position may qualify as practical experience for a CPA student. Check out the Practical Experience Self-Assessment Tool [here](#).

For an example of what skills might look like for planning, budgeting and forecasting (just one area which a position may include but is not required to include if it provides other skills development):

Level 0	Level 1	Level 2
Verify mathematical accuracy of plans, budgets and/or forecasts.	Analyze/prepare information inputs for operational plans, budgets and forecasts, plus Explain/calculate operational plans, budgets, and forecasts, plus Explain/calculate variances	Evaluate/review information inputs (including assumptions) for operational plans, budgets and forecasts, plus Analyze/prepare operational plans, budgets, and forecasts, plus Analyze implications of variances

If you have questions about training a student, please contact CPA Prince Edward Island.

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