

481—1029.5(542) Qualifications for a CPA certificate.

1029.5(1) A person who holds in good standing a valid CPA certificate or license from another state is deemed qualified for an Iowa CPA certificate if the person satisfies one of the following three conditions:

a. Substantially equivalent state. The licensing standards on education, examination and experience of the state that issued the applicant's CPA certificate or license were, at the time of licensure, comparable or superior to the education, examination and experience obligations of Iowa Code chapter 542 in effect at the time the application is filed in Iowa. The board may accept the determination of substantial equivalency made by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy or may make an independent determination of substantial equivalency.

b. Individual substantial equivalency. The applicant's individual qualifications on education, examination and experience are comparable or superior to the education, examination and experience obligations of Iowa Code chapter 542 in effect at the time the application is filed in Iowa.

c. "Four-in-ten rule." The applicant satisfies all of the following:

(1) The applicant passed the examination necessary for issuance of the applicant's certificate or license with grades that would have been passing grades at the time in this state.

(2) The applicant has had at least four years of experience within the ten years immediately preceding the application that occurred after the applicant passed the examination upon which the CPA certificate or license was based and that in the board's opinion is substantially equivalent to the obligations set forth in Iowa Code section 542.5(12).

(3) If the applicant's CPA certificate or license was issued more than four years prior to the filing of the application in this state, the applicant has fulfilled the continuing professional education mandates as described in Iowa Code section 542.6(3) and 481—Chapter 1030.

1029.5(2) A person who holds in good standing a certificate, license or designation from a foreign authority that is substantially equivalent to an Iowa CPA certificate is deemed qualified for an Iowa CPA certificate if the person satisfies all of the provisions of Iowa Code section 542.19(3). The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate that such certificate, license or foreign designation is in full force and effect and that the prerequisites for that certificate, license or foreign designation are comparable or superior to those needed for a CPA certificate in this state. Original verification from the foreign authority that issued the certificate, license or designation is needed to demonstrate that such certificate, license or designation is valid and in good standing. If the applicant cannot establish comparable or superior qualifications, the applicant will need to pass the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination designed to test the applicant's knowledge of practice in this state and country. If the applicant is a Canadian Chartered Accountant, Australian Chartered Accountant, Ireland Chartered Accountant, Mexico Contador Público Certificado (CPC), New Zealand Chartered Accountant, Scottish Chartered Accountant, or South African Chartered Accountant, the applicant may be obligated to take the International Qualification Examination (IQEX) in lieu of the uniform certified public accountant examination.

1029.5(3) An applicant seeking an Iowa CPA certificate based on the provisions of paragraph 1029.5(1) "b," paragraph 1029.5(1) "c," or subrule 1029.5(2) will submit such supporting information on education, examination or experience as the board deems reasonable to determine whether the applicant qualifies for licensure in Iowa.

[ARC 7685C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/10/26]