Frequently Asked Questions
Webinar – CGA Transitioning to the CPA Program

1. Will my CGA legacy program time limit change

Yes, a student’s program time limit is reset once you enter the CPA Program. Students will have six years to complete the CPA Prerequisite Education Program (PREP) and then another six years to complete the CPA Professional Education Program (PEP) with an additional bonus year to complete your practical experience.

2. Where will I be placed in the CPA Program if I do not have a degree?

Students will be transitioned into the appropriate area of the CPA Program depending on their standing in the CGA Program. Please refer to the CGA to CPA Course Mapping Chart.

3. What is the degree requirement?

If you are a current CGA student who will be transitioning to the CPA Program, CPA Ontario will recognize your degree requirement if it has already been accepted by the CGA program. For CGA transitioning students, CPA Ontario will continue to recognize 90-credit degrees until June 1, 2020. This rule applies only to transitioning CGA students.

If you are transitioning without a university degree, please note that you will not be able to register for the PEP capstones or the Common Final Examination (CFE) until the degree has been satisfied.

4. When can I apply for the CPA Program?

In mid-August 2015, students can start enrolling for the fall semester PREP courses if they have the prerequisites.

Communication will be sent out in early July with an introductory package including your new CPA Ontario ID number.

5. How much are course fees and the Annual Student Fee for the new CPA program?

The Annual Student Fee (ASF) is $600 plus HST. This must be paid in January 2016 in order to continue to enjoy the benefits of a CGA transitioning student. CPA Ontario bills the ASF each January, since payment is required for students to continue their “good standing” status with CPA Ontario. The ASF covers a calendar year, from January 1 to December 31.

For more information on PEP course fees, please refer to this link. For more information on PREP course fees, please visit this link.
6. **Do I require a degree before entering CPA PEP?**

   No, but CGA transitioning students must complete a minimum 90-credit-hour degree prior to entering PEP Capstone 1 of CPA PEP.

7. **Where are the schedules/important dates for the CPA Program for the Fall Session?**

   For PREP, see – [PREP Module Schedule and Fees](#).
   For PEP, see – [PEP Schedule](#).
   Please see Appendix C in the PEP Study Guide for a listing of [Module Fees](#).

8. **Will CPA Ontario continue to offer legacy challenge or supplemental exams?**

   No, the last offering of challenge or supplemental exams will be in the 2015 summer exam session.

   If the course is offered in the summer session, you will be able to register for a supplemental exam for the summer session.

   Exam results from the spring session are available July 30 and the deadline to register for a summer session supplemental exam is August 7.

   *Please note that the spring session is the last remaining session during which a CGA student can receive a supplemental result in their exam release, while the summer session is the last session to write a supplemental exam.*

9. **Are there going to be any more course offerings after the summer session?**

   If you have completed/attempted both PA courses, you will have the option to enrol in a final session, which offers FN2, TX2, and AU2. If not, you will then be transitioned into the CPA Program in the appropriate standing.

10. **If I enrol in a fall course, will I have to pay the Basic Tuition Fee (BTF) and the ASF?**

    Yes, students that continue their studies in the fall electives offering will pay a pro-rated BTF for September to December ($250 + tax). You will then be billed the ASF with the rest of the students in the CPA Program in January 2016. From that point forward, you will pay the ASF in January annually to keep your status in the program.

    The legacy CGA Program BTF will be discontinued after the fall 2015 elective.
11. What does the ASF fee include? Should I expect to pay additional fees? If I’m not planning to take any additional courses, do I still have to pay the fee?

The ASF is a fee students must pay to maintain your status as a student with CPA Ontario. This is extremely important as it ensures that CGA transitioning students continue to experience the benefits of grandfathering.

There will be no additional fees, unless your student status expires, in which case you would have to pay a reinstatement fee and then the ASF. You must pay the ASF to maintain your status as a student in the CPA Program to ensure that course credits and professional experience that you have earned to date continues to count towards your certification requirements, and to ensure that the privileges extended to transitioning students do not expire.

12. How many pass attempts do I get for fall CGA exams?

One, as there will be no deferral or supplemental options for the fall exam offerings.

13. What is the PERC deadline under CGA legacy requirements?

Your goal should be to complete your Professional Experience Required for Certification (PERC) requirements by September 1, 2018. If you are unable to do so, you will then use CPA Ontario’s Practical Experiences Reporting Tool (PERT). For more information, please email p7@cpaontario.ca.

14. What will happen if I do not complete the degree requirement by June 1, 2020?

This has not been determined at this time. Students are strongly encouraged to meet that deadline and to work hard to earn the degree earlier. This is because you cannot enter the Capstones without the degree, and there is a seven-year time limit to complete PEP and the experience requirement.

15. If an international degree has been accepted by the CGA Program, does that mean it will be accepted by CPA Ontario?

Yes, if you are an active student at the time of transition and the CGA Program has recognized your degree, it will be accepted by CPA Ontario. If you have not yet submitted the necessary documentation to the CGA Program to confirm your degree requirement as complete, please do so as soon as possible so your file is up-to-date.

16. What is last date to transfers credits from a post-secondary institution (PSI)? Will the procedures be the same if I apply to CPA Ontario directly?

Students must submit their transcripts for a CGA transfer credit evaluation prior to August 31, 2015 in order to have their transfer credits recognized and transferred to the CPA Program. Those who apply to CPA Ontario directly will be subject to the CPA Program policies for course and degree recognition.
17. If I am going to a PSI to complete transfer credits for the CPA PREP Program, do I need to take them all at one school and do they all have to count towards a degree for CPA Ontario to accept them? Or can I take them at multiple schools to earn the credits?

As long as the course is recognized by CPA Ontario, you do not have to earn all of the prerequisites from the same school. CPA Ontario-approved courses will continue to be added to the course charts posted on the CPA Ontario website once they have been submitted by the schools and approved by CPA Ontario.

18. Will my CGA student ID number be recognized as a CPA Ontario website login? Will I get a new ID number?

If students have already transitioned to the CPA database, they will have been provided a new CPA Ontario number and their CGA information will be read only. For all other students, until you have completed your CGA studies, and your records are transitioned, you will continue to use your CGA number and you will be told when you should use your new CPA Ontario ID.

19. What is the structure of the CPA Program: fees, schedule, course work, etc.?

Detailed information can be found here.

20. Will my number of attempts be transferred over to the CPA Program?

Your failed attempts in the CGA Program will not transfer over to the CPA Program.

A student is prohibited from attempting the examination for a PREP module more than three times. They are also prohibited from enrolling in a module after the third unsuccessful examination attempt for that module. This policy also applies to PEP.

21. What are the Licensed Public Accountant (LPA) requirements?

The public accounting license (PAL) requirements for the CPA PREP Program are currently under review by the Public Accountants Council for the Province of Ontario (PAC), and students who enroll in the CPA PREP program are currently not eligible for the public accounting licence. More information on the public accounting licence requirements will be available in the upcoming months.

22. How do I register for the Advanced Certificate in Accounting and Finance (ACAF) Program?

Information is available here.
23. I have not completed either PA1 or PA2; however I have completed two transitional electives, where will I place?

Students in that situation will be in PEP, starting off with Core 1, but they will not have to complete the electives that have been recognized by CPA per the CGA to CPA Course Mapping Chart.

24. Which CGA electives will be recognized by the CPA Program?

Only FN2, TX2, and AU2 will transition directly to the CPA Program. MU1 will only be transitioned if PA2 is also completed.

25. If I have not completed the academic requirement for the CGA Program, what will happen?

You will be transitioned into the CPA Program in the appropriate standing, please refer to the CGA to CPA Course Mapping Chart.

26. What is the last date for last CGA legacy convocation?

The last CGA legacy convocation is on Saturday, November 7, 2015.

27. What is the difference between PREP and PEP?

PREP is the Prerequisite Education Program and equivalent to undergraduate education in accounting.

PEP is the Professional Education Program and at the post-graduate level.

28. How much are CPA Member fees?

The annual membership dues will vary per year and, next year, will be $600 plus HST.

29. What is the difference between PERC and PERT?

One major difference is mentorship, which is offered in the Practical Experience Reporting Tool (PERT) stream. PERT will provide you with a mentor to work towards achieving the appropriate level of experience to qualify as an accountant.

Under PERC, only 24 months of verifiable accounting or finance experience at a professional level is required. Click here for more information on PERC.

Under PERT, 30 months of qualifying practical experience is required.
30. How will students access their PERC tool after they bridge into the CPA Program?

You will continue to access the PERC tool in exactly the same way you do now. The PERC tool will be supported until September 2018. CPA staff on the Practical Experience team within Learning will continue to verify PERC submissions even after you have transitioned into the CPA education program.

CPA Ontario will make all tools available to students when they need them. Students will continue to submit PERC in the same manner as they have submitted it while enrolled in the CGA program.

31. Does international work experience or Canadian work experience count towards my CPA work experience?

Yes, international experience does count. However, you can go back in your career no more than five years for prior experience. You are also limited to claiming one year of prior experience during that five-year period. The balance of your experience must be earned concurrently. If you move to an international position before you have completed all of your practical experience that experience will also count, as long as you are following the experience verification path.

*TIP for CPA PERT: The knowledge earned through their CPA studies will contribute to their skills in the workplace, which is why the student cannot go back in their career more than five years.

32. Are the exams hand written like the ones in the legacy CGA Program?

You will be given a paper-based exam but the answers will need to be keyed in on your laptop using Secure Exam, software designed to allow students to type responses and use functionality similar to tools used in the workplace (Word). It is also in a controlled environment to ensure academic integrity.

33. What is the CFE?

The Common Final Examination (CFE) is the final certification examination. Over the course of this three-day examination, candidates are required to demonstrate depth and breadth of competency development in accordance with the CPA Competency Map.

34. Will college transfer credits be accepted as transfer credits into PREP?

CPA Ontario is now able to review non-degree-credit courses offered by an academic unit of a Post-Secondary Institution (PSI), typically a school of continuing education, and deem them to be equivalent to degree-credit courses. Also, CPA Ontario is currently in the process of reviewing transfer-credit policies for continuing education programs in Ontario and will work with schools directly to support this mapping process.
35. How long will the CGA website be live for?

CPA Ontario will communicate any plans to take down the CGA website. For the immediate future, it will continue to stay live.

36. Where can I access the webinar if I missed it?

It is available on Blackboard.