

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT GROUP ADVISING

SPRING 2026

Dr. Siqi Li
Department Chair
Professor of Accounting



Santa Clara
Leavey School of Business

Group Advising Agenda

- General Announcements
- Accounting Curriculum
- Class Schedule for 2026-2027
- CPA Exam and Licensure
- Student Recruitment by CPA firms
- SCU Accounting Association
- Q&A



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Spring mandatory advising
 - May 4, 2026, Monday, 1:00-2:00 PM, Locatelli Center
 - May 7, 2026, Thursday, 1:30-2:30 PM, Daly Science 207
- If you attend* either of the sessions, you will have fulfilled the requirement to meet with your faculty advisor and the department will remove the advising hold on your student record.
- A&IS majors must have BOTH their Accounting and ISA holds removed.

* To confirm attendance, students should sign in with the QR code at the registration table.



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REQUIRED LOWER DIVISION ACCOUNTING COURSES

- ACTG 11 – Intro to Financial Accounting
- ACTG 12 – Intro to Managerial Accounting



REQUIRED UPPER DIVISION ACCOUNTING COURSES

- ACTG 120 – Accounting Data Analysis and Visualization (Soph/Junior)
- ACTG 130 – Intermediate Accounting I (Junior)
- ACTG 131 – Intermediate Accounting II (Junior)
- ACTG 132 – Advanced Accounting (Junior/Senior)
- ACTG 134 – Accounting Info Systems (Soph/Junior/Senior) *
- ACTG 135 – Auditing (Junior/Senior)
- ACTG 136 – Cost Accounting (Senior)
- ACTG 138 – Tax (Soph/Junior/Senior)

* Not required for A&IS majors



ELECTIVE COURSES

- Upper division electives
 - ACTG 140 – Not for Profit Accounting (3 units)
 - ACTG 144 – Accounting Ethics (5 units)
 - ACTG 148 – Taxation of Business Entities (5 units)
 - ACTG 150 – Financial Fraud - Detection and Investigation (5 units)
 - ACTG 151 – Financial Statement Analysis (5 units)
 - ACTG 197A – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)(5 units)
- Seminar series (2 units each, P/NP)
 - ACTG 161/171 – Fall Junior / Senior Seminar series (2 units)
 - ACTG 162/172 – Winter Junior / Senior Seminar series (2 units)
- Independent studies (P/NP)
 - ACTG 191 – Peer Educator (1 or 2 units per quarter)
 - ACTG 198 – Internship (1 to 10 units)
- Others
 - ACTG 5 – Personal Financial Planning (4 units)



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

- If you want summer internship academic credit, please book a [Workday advising appointment - Drahmman Center](#) with [Accounting Professor Wendy Donohoe](#).
 - Must enroll in ACTG 198 during quarter that you serve as an intern
 - Can take between 1-10 units
 - Summer school tuition applies. Contact onestop@scu.edu for tuition.
- Make the appointment before Memorial Day - May 25, 2026.



STEM DESIGNATION FOR A&IS MAJORS

A&IS major has STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) designation.

- A STEM designation formally recognizes how our A&IS program educates students in information technological aspects of the accounting field and further enhances our reputation in the workplace that increasingly places an emphasis on greater analytical and information technology skills.
- With this designation, eligible A&IS students holding a student visa may apply to extend their 12 months of optional practical training (OPT) for an additional 24 months after graduation.



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Schedule of Upper Division Accounting Classes 2026-2027

Course #	Units	Course Title	Prerequisites	Notes	Fall	Winter	Spring
Required Financial Accounting Classes							
120	5	Accounting Data Analysis and Visualization	11, OMIS 15, 70 units	For juniors planning to study abroad during fall, they should take ACTG 120 in spring of their sophomore year.	2		2
130	5	Intermediate I	11, 12, 120*, 96 units	Taken Junior year. Best to take in the fall. Abroad students have priority for winter quarter.	3	2	
131	5	Intermediate II	130	Taken Junior year.		3	2
132	5	Advanced Financial Accounting	131	Taken Junior or Senior year.	2		2
Other Required Accounting Classes							
134	5	Accounting Information Systems	11, 12*	ACTG 134 is for Accounting majors only. Satisfies OMIS 34 requirement for LSB core. Taken any year. Encouraged for Accounting sophomores. A&IS majors do not need		2	1
135	5	Audit	131*	Taken Junior or Senior year.	2		2
136	5	Cost	130	Taken Senior Year. Recommended to have taken FNCE 121.	2	2	
138	5	Tax	11, 12*	Taken any year. Encouraged for sophomores.	2	2	
Other Required A&IS Courses							
155	5	Financial Information Systems	OMIS 30 or CSCI 10, and OMIS 105	ACTG 155 is for Accounting & Information Systems majors only. Cross-listed with OMIS 150. A&IS majors should register for ACTG 155 to fulfill major requirements for CPA licensing.	1	1	1
Electives							
5	4	Personal Financial Planning					1
140	3	Not for Profit Accounting	11			1	
144	5	Accounting Ethics	11, 12, MGMT 136 (or MGMT 6) or PHIL 26		1		1
148	5	Taxation of Business Entities	131, 138				1
150	5	Financial Fraud	131*				1
151	5	Financial Statement Analysis	ACTG 11 and FNCE 121 or 121S.			1	
Other Electives							
162/172	2	Junior/Senior Seminar Series	Junior/Senior ACTG or A&IS major	Recommended as overloading units. Pass or no pass.		1	
197A	5	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)	138*	Included in Experiential Learning for Social Justice (ELSJ).		1	
198	1-10	Internship (also summer)			1	1	1

1. * courses may be taken concurrently

2. A&IS majors may use OMIS 30 to satisfy the information systems requirement of the LSB core.

SCHEDULE OF UPPER DIVISION ACTG CLASSES 2026-27



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COURSE PLANNING FOR RISING JUNIORS

- Two key courses to complete in your junior year
 - ACTG 130 Intermediate Accounting I
 - ACTG 131 Intermediate Accounting II
- Why so important?
 - CPA firms often consider your grades in these two classes when making or finalizing job offers.
 - These courses are prerequisites for many other classes.

COURSE PLANNING FOR STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO STUDY ABROAD

- If you study abroad in the Fall Quarter of your junior year:
 - Take ACTG 120 before you study abroad
 - Take ACTG 130 in Winter Quarter of Junior Year
 - Take ACTG 131 in Spring Quarter of Junior Year

- When would you take ACTG 132 (if you study abroad in junior yr)?
 - Take ACTG 132 in Fall or Spring of senior year.
 - Most seniors take 132 Spring of junior year or Fall of senior year.
 - But if you end up taking 132 in Spring of senior year, you will also study the same material if you take a CPA review course on the FAR/BAR sections during the Spring - a nice bonus!



WORKDAY, WAITLIST, AND REASON FORM

- In addition to the electronic waitlist, the Accounting Department will use a Reason Form as an additional source of information to properly and fairly add students to a class.
 - Our goal: Each Accounting or A&IS student has an opportunity to enroll in at least one accounting class every quarter.
- In order to be considered for a class, you must meet the following criteria:
 - Declared Accounting or A&IS Major
 - On the Workday waitlist for the course(s) you wish to enroll in



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CPA Exam

Current version of Exam (began January 1, 2024) consists of four separate sections

- Core sections of the exam (must take each section)
 - Auditing and Attestation (AUD)
 - Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)
 - Taxation and Regulation (REG)
- Discipline Sections of the exam (take only one of the three options)
 - Business Analysis and Reporting (BAR)
 - Information Systems and Controls (ISC)
 - Tax Compliance and Planning (TCP)
- The Discipline Section is not listed on your license, and is not intended to restrict to the area that you actually practice in.



When can you begin taking the exam?

- In California, you may apply for and take any or all parts of the exam starting within 180 days of your planned graduation date.
 - A bachelor's degree
 - 36 quarter units of accounting
 - 36 quarter units of general business and accounting-related courses
 - 4 quarter unit accounting ethics class
- Examples
 - June 2027 graduates can begin the exam application process in Jan 2027
 - March 2027 graduates can begin the exam application process in Oct 2026
 - Dec 2026 graduates can begin the exam application process in June 2026
- Applying for the CPA Exam
 - The process begins with an application to the CA State Board of Accountancy
 - Complete the online application, provide transcript, pay the application fee
 - Schedule your first exam (see next slides)



State of California website for CPA Exam



CALIFORNIA APPLICATION FOR THE UNIFORM CPA EXAMINATION

welcome

overview

information

establish account

log in establish an account

April 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Welcome to the California Board of Accountancy's CPA Exam Application

Welcome to the California Board of Accountancy (CBA) Uniform CPA Examination (CPA Exam) application process. In addition to the helpful resources below, should you have questions at anytime during the application process, please contact the Exam Unit by email at examinfo@cba.ca.gov.

The CBA offers expedited application processing and direct assistance for past and present military personnel and their spouses/domestic partners, and to refugees, asylees, and special immigrant visa holders. To reach the military liaison, please contact by phone Toll-free at (833) 992-0577 or by email at militaryinfo@cba.ca.gov. To reach the refugee liaison, please contact by phone Toll-free at (833) 656-2318 or by email at refugeeinfo@cba.ca.gov.

If you are applying for the CPA Exam and require a reasonable accommodation, we encourage you to review the information on the [Reasonable Accommodation webpage](#) to avoid unnecessary delays in the processing of your request.

https://www.cba.ca.gov/cbt_public/portal_url



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CPA EXAM QUICK TIPS

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE CPA EXAM



Create a Client Account (First-Time Applicants)

Visit the CBA website at www.cba.ca.gov/cbt_public
Click on "My Exam Application and Account"
Click on the "Establish an Account" link
Complete the form and submit
Receive an email with the link to the Client Login and temporary password
Create a personal password and complete all required account information

How to Complete the CPA Exam Application



Establish a Client Account



Complete the Application



Print and Sign the Remittance Form



Mail the Remittance Form, Sealed Transcripts and/or Evaluation, and the Fee

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CPA EXAM



CBA approves application



Select your CPA Exam sections



Receive payment coupon from NASBA



Submit payment coupon and fee to NASBA



Receive Notice to Schedule (NTS)



Schedule CPA Exam at www.prometric.com

1 YEAR

To make CPA Exam section selections once application is approved

90 DAYS

To make payment for all sections selected once payment coupon is received

9 MONTHS

To schedule testing dates and sit for all sections listed on the NTS

30 MONTHS

To earn credit for the remaining three sections from the first passed section

California Application for CPA Exam

Tab 2: Overview (Quick Tips)

https://www.dca.ca.gov/cba/applicants/cpa_exam_quick_tips.pdf





CPA EXAM QUALIFICATIONS

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE CPA EXAM

Option A	Option B	Option C
Candidate with a bachelor's or master's degree conferral and has completed 24 semester units each in accounting and business-related subjects.	Candidate currently enrolled in dual degree program that results in conferral of master's and bachelor's at the same time and has completed 24 semester units each in accounting and business-related subjects.	Candidate currently enrolled in college and within 180 days of completing all educational requirements, with bachelor's degree and completion of 24 semester units each in accounting and business-related subjects.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Can be completed at community colleges, universities, or other institutions of learning



Bachelor's degree or higher

+



24 semester units in accounting subjects

+



24 semester units in business-related subjects

Accounting Subjects

Accounting
Auditing
External or Internal Reporting
Financial Reporting
Financial Statement Analysis
Fraud
Taxation

Business-Related Subjects

Accounting Subjects (in excess of the 24 semester units required)	Computer Science and Information Services
Business Administration	Economics
Business Communications	Finance
Business Law	Marketing
Business Management	Mathematics
Business-Related Law Courses (offered by an accredited law school)	Statistics

National Candidates

Education must be documented on official transcripts. Official transcripts can be submitted with your application, mailed directly to the CBA, or sent electronically by a CBA-approved provider. If received by mail, official transcripts must be submitted in the original envelope sealed by the school.

International Candidates

Education must be evaluated by a CBA-approved foreign credentials evaluation service. Evaluations can be submitted with your application or mailed directly to the CBA. Evaluations must be submitted in the original envelope sealed by the evaluation service.

California Application for CPA Exam

Tab 2: Overview (Qualifications)

https://www.dca.ca.gov/cba/applications/cpa_exam_quick_tips.pdf



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Early Application (in CA) for CPA Exam

Early Application Website

[California Board of Accountancy - Early Entry to CPA Exam](#)

You can apply for early admission to the CPA Exam up to 180 days before graduation. To do this, you must submit all of the following to the CBA:

- CPA Exam Application
- CPA Exam Application Fee
- Evidence of all finished coursework towards completing the educational requirements.
- Certificate of Enrollment Form (COE-1). Contact registrar@scu.edu for completing the form.

After receiving approval for early admission:

- Candidates must submit official transcripts showing all education requirements have been met within 240 days of application submission



Early Application (in Other States)

Be careful: Many states do not have an early exam option

- If you plan to get your CPA license in another state:
 - Check the exam requirements for that other state
 - Some states require additional courses
 - Some states still have the 150 semester (225 qtr) unit requirement
- If the other state does not allow you to take the exam before graduation ...
 - It would be very beneficial to graduate a quarter early
- Candidates can supposedly take the exam in any state, regardless of where they intend to be licensed, and transfer their scores
 - Except - some states may have restrictions on taking exams before graduation



How long does it take to pass the exam?

General rules

- Passing score for each section of CPA exam: **75 or better**
- After passing one section of the exam, you must pass the remaining three parts within **30 months**

How much time do you need to pass the exam?

- Average study time: **45 days (80-120 hrs)** for each section
- The average CPA candidate needs **6-12** months to pass all four sections of the CPA Exam.
- The time period varies depends on:
 - (1) your familiarity with the material;
 - (2) how many classes you are taking while you study for the exam;
 - (3) whether you are working while you study for the exam;
 - (4) your ability to manage your time wisely.



CPA Exam Pass Rates (2025)

		2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	Cumulative
Core	AUD	44.30%	49.05%	50.03%	48.78%	48.21%
	FAR	41.67%	43.52%	43.07%	40.20%	42.12%
	REG	62.03%	63.58%	66.05%	60.73%	63.12%
Discipline	BAR	37.64%	47.26%	39.46%	39.71%	41.94%
	ISC	61.23%	71.96%	66.91%	66.75%	67.79%
	TCP	74.94%	80.63%	76.68%	76.72%	77.65%

<https://www.aicpa-cima.com/resources/article/learn-more-about-cpa-exam-scoring-and-pass-rates>



Advice on Taking CPA Exam (Slide 1 of 3)

- Attend a presentation on how to take and pass the CPA exam in either your junior or senior year.
 - The presentation will describe alternative strategies for studying (and passing) the exam.
- Take a CPA review course before taking each section of the exam.
 - A CPA review course is typically a self-study computer-based course.
 - Most CPA firms provide CPA Review Course materials to their employees.
 - After you accept a job offer, ask your CPA Firm / Employer for study materials so you can begin studying for the exam (and passing the exam) before you graduate.



Advice on Taking CPA Exam (Slide 2 of 3)

- Complete the CPA exam as soon as feasible (ideally, before you start working).
 - It is difficult to study for the CPA exam while working.
 - 40% of those sitting for the exam never pass the exam - you don't belong in this group.
 - Pass rates typically decline with time after graduation.
 - Many CPA firms give bonuses to employees who pass before the end of their first year.
- Apply to take the exam before graduation
 - Ideal: Take (and pass) at least two sections of the exam before graduation and the remaining sections during the summer before you begin working.



Advice on Taking CPA Exam (Slide 3 of 3)

- Develop a study plan for taking the exam.
 - When studying for an exam, it is important to create a study schedule and stick to it.
 - Talk to people who recently passed the exam and ask them how they studied for the exam.
 - Once you schedule exam dates, many CPA Review Courses will create a schedule that lists your study goals for each day.
 - The schedule will also include days off from studying for weekly breaks or important events
 - Your goal is to be ready at the scheduled exam date



CPA Licensing in CA (Slide 1 of 2)

- Starting Jan. 1, 2027 (we will discuss the legacy pathway later), students who apply for a California CPA license must meet the following requirements:
- Education
 - A bachelor's degree
 - **36** quarter units in accounting units
 - **36** quarter units in business-related subjects
 - **4** quarter units in accounting ethics (Note: These units in accounting ethics do not count towards the 36-quarter units in accounting subjects)
- **Two** years relevant work experience
- Pass the CPA exam



CPA Licensing in CA (Slide 2 of 2)

- Your University Core, Business Core, and Accounting and A&IS major classes will satisfy these content requirements.
- ACTG 155 and OMIS 150 (Financial Information Systems) are cross-listed.
 - A&IS majors should register for ACTG 155 (not OMIS 150)



Legacy Pathway: 225 Units

- Current (and soon to be legacy; and eventually abolished) requirement is 225 quarter units, equivalent to 5 years of education. SCU students can do this in 4 years.
 - Everything on a college transcript counts, including AP classes as long as they make it to a college transcript.
 - Includes any college units taken for pass/no pass, including ACTG 191 (Peer Educator), ACTG 161/171/162/172 (Seminar Series); ACTG 198 (Internship)
- You will need to take the ACTG 144 Accounting Ethics class.
- One year of work experience.
- Check with the people at your firm if they have a preference, however...

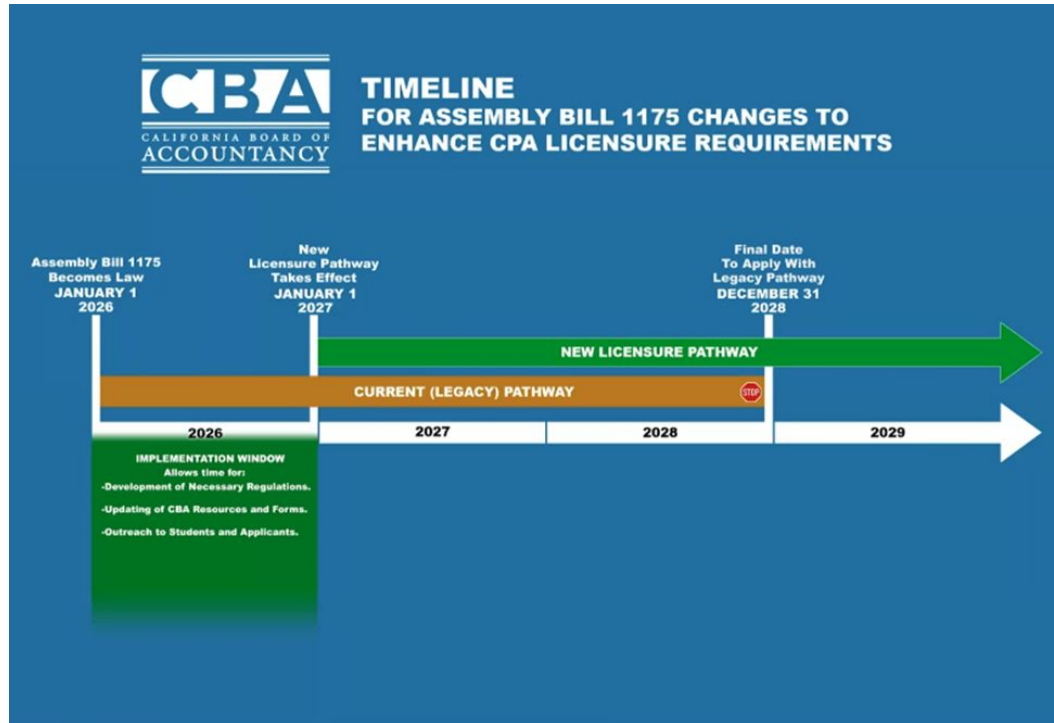
THIS PATHWAY WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED STARTING JAN. 1, 2027, AND IT WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STARTING JAN. 1, 2029. UNLESS YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT YOUR CPA LICENSE AFTER JUST ONE YEAR OF WORK, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS PATHWAY.

Legacy Ethics Requirement

- If you intend to apply for California CPA licensure before January 1, 2029 under the legacy rules, you can satisfy the legacy ethics requirement (4 units of accounting ethics and 11 units of other ethics) via:
 - MGMT 136 (or MGMT 6) or PHIL 26 (Business Ethics) – 4 units
 - BUSN 85 (Business Law) – 4 units
 - MGMT 160 (Management of Organizations) – 5 units
 - ACTG 144 (Accounting Ethics) – 5 units
- We offer ACTG 144 [Accounting Ethics](#) (5 units) as an elective.
 - We will offer one section in Fall 2026, and one section in Spring 2027.



Two CPA Pathways



Peer Academic Advising

Seek guidance from your [Leavey Peer advisors](#), the Accounting and A&IS specialists.

- Peer advisors can help you with course selection, timing of classes, licensing issues, recruiting, etc.

Resources on our Dept Website

- Resources to help you with licensing planning and tracking your progress are on our Accounting Department website.

- Under “CPA Information”

<https://www.scu.edu/business/accounting/cpa-information/>

Requirements List & Checklist

- [CPA Licensure Requirements List](#)
- [CPA Licensure Requirements Checklist](#)



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Accounting Dept Recruiting Guidelines

To manage CPA firm recruitment of SCU students, the Accounting Department and the CPA firms on our advisory board developed the following guidelines so that students have time to consider their employment choices

- Firms can offer internships and full-time positions at any time.
- Offer deadlines must be held open for at least **10 days**.
- Firms must agree to students request to extend the offer deadline for a **reasonable** period of time.

NOTE: These guidelines only apply to firms on our Advisory Board

- Non-advisory board firms do not need to abide by these guidelines



Reasonable Reasons for Extending offer deadlines

Here are some examples of when firms should agree to a student's request to extend the offer deadline for a reasonable period of time:

- The student intends to interact with firms at an upcoming career fair.
- The student has interviewed with other firms and has not yet received a response from at least one of these firms.
- The student has scheduled other interviews and wants to complete those interviews before making a decision.
- The student intends to schedule an interview with a firm and is waiting to hear from that other firm.



Role of Accounting Faculty in CPA Firm Recruiting

We (SCU Accounting Faculty) are here to protect students from being forced to make decisions without adequate time and to prevent students from feeling undue pressure from recruiters.

- We are available in case you feel pressure from any firm or you feel that a firm is violating recruiting guidelines.
- We can intervene on your behalf to make sure you have enough time to make your decision. We are here to help you and protect you in this process.
- If accounting firms violate recruiting guidelines (e.g., refuse to offer extensions as outlined in the guidelines), please let us know so we can help you.

Guidelines for Accounting & A&IS Student interactions with firms (Slide 1 of 5)

Don't miss scheduled zoom calls, zoom appointments, scheduled interviews, resume critiques, mock interview appointments, etc.

- If you must miss or cancel an appointment, *contact the appropriate person at the firm ASAP.*
- Nothing makes a firm more upset than for a student to skip an appointment
 - Except - firms also get upset when you accept an offer and then fail to show up for work
- This could affect any future interactions with that firm (or any firm they contact about your actions)

Promptly return phone calls and communications from the firms.



Guidelines for Accounting & A&IS Student interactions with firms (Slide 2 of 5)

Student responsibilities after signing up to attend firm activities, events and interviews

- Students who register / sign up for firm activities / events / interviews *must attend* the interview or critique.
 - If you don't intend to attend, you *should notify the firm in writing* (by email) *ASAP* that you cannot attend (and give a reason)
 - If you who sign up for firm activities / events / interviews but *fail to show up*, you *should notify the firm in writing* (by email) *ASAP* explaining why you did not show up
- Failure to notify the firm reflects poorly both on you and on SCU



Guidelines for Accounting & A&IS Student interactions with firms (Slide 3 of 5)

Student responsibilities for declining offers.

- If a student decides that he/she will not accept an offer from a CPA firm, the student *should notify the firm in writing* (by email) *ASAP* that he/she is rejecting the offer *ASAP*
 - By delaying the decision to accept or reject an offer, the student may be reducing the likelihood that the firm can extend offers to other SCU students.
- Nothing upsets a firm more than *failing to notify* a firm that you are renegeing on your acceptance of their offer
 - Firms understand that students can change their minds during the long lag between accepting an offer and starting a new internship or job
 - But they get quite upset if the student does not notify the firm of their decision (or delays notifying the firm of their decision)



Guidelines for Accounting & A&IS Student interactions with firms (Slide 4 of 5)

Student responsibilities after accepting an offer.

Once a student accepts a job offer from a firm that follows the recruiting guidelines, the student *must immediately stop participating in the recruiting process* and notify all firms for which the student has either

- scheduled a future interview
- received an outstanding offer or
- interviewed but has not yet received an offer
- that he/she has accepted an offer and is no longer able to accept a position at that firm

Exception for students who accept an offer from a firm that did not follow the recruiting guidelines (see next slide)



Guidelines for Accounting & A&IS Student interactions with firms (Slide 5 of 5)

Student responsibilities after accepting an offer.

- Exception for students who accept an offer from a firm that did not follow the recruiting guidelines
 - If a student accepts a job offer from a firm that did not follow the recruiting guidelines, the student is allowed to continue participating in the recruiting process and can later rescind the offer on a timely basis.
 - We provide this exception because we believe that students should not be penalized for following these guidelines if a firm fails to follow our guidelines



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SCU Accounting Association

Purpose and Events

- Prepares students for transition between school and career (and have fun!)
 - Organizes events and activities
 - Brings students and professionals together
- Fall Quarter
 - Social events; career fairs; interview prep events; CPA review course
 - Meet the Firms, mock interviews, resume critique, recruiting tips
 - First years and sophomores are also welcome at many events
- Winter Quarter
 - Social events; winter career fair, interview prep events
- Spring Quarter
 - Social events, select new officers



SCU Accounting Association

Contact Information

How to contact SCUAA

- Email: scuaa@scu.edu
- Instagram: [scu_aa](#)
- SCUAA Website: <https://www.scu.edu/business/accounting/beyond-the-classroom/accounting-association/>
- Contact officers directly (see below)

Senior Officers (Class of 2027)

- Autumn Bella; Lily Eisenstein; Richard Tseng; Esmeralda Valencia; Conan Xie

Junior Officers (Class of 2028)

- Christian Stevens; Omar Servacio Trinidad; Ashley Mansour; Matthew Leung; Troy Damu



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THANK YOU FOR COMING!



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