

## Local news

### ▼ POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

# Okanagan College can start you on path to CGA

Since Okanagan College was established well over 40 years ago it has been offering accounting courses.

All these courses can lead to the College's Business Administration degree as well as prepare students to qualify for entry into a number of accounting designation programs.

Okanagan College is the only college within B.C. that offers all the courses you need to qualify for entry into the Chartered Accountant (CA), Certified General Accountant (CGA) and Certified Management Accountant (CMA) programs.  
To qualify for entry into



School's In

these national designation programs, you require a degree including the completion of a number of account-

ing courses.

Most often students complete Okanagan College's Business Administration degree and make sure they complete accounting courses within their degree.

But if you already have a degree you can also qualify for entry into these designation programs as long as you complete the required accounting courses.

You would need to get your university transcript evaluated by the appropriate accounting designation body to determine which courses you would need to take.

To decide which accounting designation to pursue depends on the courses you need to complete for the designation, your interests and the type of work you want to do.

To become a CA, you apply to the CA School of Business and complete all of your courses online with periodic weekend classes.

During this time you would also be expected to article at an accounting firm

or other suitable employer.

Upon completion of your courses you would be required to write a uniform exam.

CA's tends to work in public practice, industry and government.

For the CGA program you must complete five online courses while articling at the same time.

This designation allows you to article in a number of industries such as public accounting, institutions such as the school district or Okanagan College, public practice, and financial institutions to name a few.

The CA designation is a little stricter on where you must complete your articling.

For a CMA designation you must complete their Strategic Leadership Program which includes some online study plus six modules in which you attend classes with other students.

These are usually held on the weekends in Vancouver. To qualify for this designation you must complete and

present a board report based on a case study.

The interesting thing about this designation is that it is the one that requires the least amount of accounting course work.

A lot of what you study includes business management which takes into account marketing and human resources.

A colleague of mine who received her designation as a CMA about two years ago told me that a CMA learns a lot about strategic planning and how accounting impacts on so many areas especially if you are working for a large organization.

Currently at Okanagan College, more students opt for the CA designation than the other two.

Canada is the only country in the world that has three different accounting designations.

In the United States they only have Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). If you like accounting, it would probably be a good

idea to interview someone in the field to find out how varied the accounting profession really is.

Find someone who has been in the field for a while and ask them where they started and how they got where they are today.

From what I can gather, the training that accountants receive can provide a whole host of job opportunities.

Today in Kelowna, as well as the rest of the country, there is a shortage of accountants and it would probably not be very difficult to find a job once you complete your designation.

If you are interested in these designations, I suggest you visit their respective websites as they provide the best information you will need to get there.

Jane Muskens is the manager of student recruitment at Okanagan College. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Enrolment Management. Comments can be forwarded to [jmuskens@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:jmuskens@okanagan.bc.ca)