

## WHAT IS U.S. CPA?

The Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is the highest accounting credential in the U.S. and is similar to the CA qualification in India.

The CPA title is awarded by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

U.S. CPA is an individual with thorough and complete knowledge of accounting principles of the U.S. So, if you want to work in or for U.S. firms, understanding its accounting laws is essential.

*U.S. CPA members and students play a vital role in both 'practice' and 'industry' in sectors such as financial services, banking, manufacturing, construction, education and consultancy.*

### **The services of a U.S. CPA are required in all the areas of the business world**

- Assurance and Attest Services
- Financial Accounting
- Management Consulting and Performance Management
- Information Technology, especially as applied to accounting and auditing
- Corporate Finance (Merger & Acquisition, Initial Public Offering, Share & Debt Issuing)
- Financial Planning
- Financial Analysis
- Venture Capital
- Forensic Accounting (preventing, detecting and investigating financial frauds)
- Tax preparation and Planning
- Estate Planning
- Corporate Governance
- Income Tax

While some U.S. CPAs are generalists and may offer a range of services (especially those in small practices) many U.S. CPAs specialize in one area and may provide only one of the services listed above.

# WHY U.S. CPA?

## Infinite Opportunities. Infinite Success Possibilities.

Globalisation is propelling the demand of U.S. CPA in the corporate world. U.S. businesses operating in various countries, are fueling and augmenting the growth of CPAs in the world market. A career in accounting has never offered more rewards than it does today. And these profit-producing opportunities are being reserved for a class of professionals whom we call "CPAs".

Becoming U.S. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) not only boosts salary but also opens new doors of opportunities that can significantly help a career in accounting. U.S. CPA course lets you gain the credibility that the certification carries. As compared with other advanced professional certifications, U.S. CPA is considered to be an "expert". Such credibility creates a remarkable difference between a U.S. CPA and a Non-U.S. CPA to a recruiter while recruiting.

### What CPAs earn in the U.S.

Factors such as geographic location, years of experience, level of education and the size/revenue of an employer, all play a role in determining the salary of a U.S. CPA. But in general, U.S. CPAs earn at least 10% more than Non-U.S. CPAs in similar positions.

2006 Projected Accountant Salaries (Large Firms*)	Non-U.S. CPA salaries Up to	U.S.CPA salaries Up to
Senior Manager/Director	\$130,000	\$143,000
Manager	\$95,000	\$104,500
Senior	\$75,000	\$82,500
1 to 3 Years	\$60,000	\$66,000
Up to 1 year	\$52,000	\$57,200

Derived from Robert Half International 2006 Salary Guide; Public Accounting, Audit, Tax and Management Services.

\*Large public accounting firms=\$250 million + in sales

Salary does not reflect overtime or bonuses which may be significant portions of compensation for these positions.

\*\* U.S. CPAs earn up to 10% over peers without professional designations.





## WHY DO International (Non-U.S.) Candidates take the U.S. CPA Exam ?

Consider a situation where an Indian business school graduate applies for an accounting position in an Indian firm doing business with a U.S. company. The management of the firm would need assurance that the applicant is acquainted with both U.S. and Indian accounting standards along with working knowledge of English. An effective way to meet all criteria and win through this competence is to pass the U.S. CPA exam.

Despite having interest in the U.S. CPA exam, accounting graduates in India and other foreign countries rarely wish to practice in the U.S. In fact, it is not significant for them to receive a permit or license. Although, it is vital for them to show employers a verifiable evidence that they have the accounting and English language skills, necessary to pass the U.S. CPA exam.

With a growing number of foreign candidates taking the U.S. CPA exam, U.S. companies operating in foreign countries are now able to hire residents that understand U.S. accounting standards. Furthermore, the globalization of the economies and uniform accounting standards are boosting the requirements of the services offered by U.S. CPAs in the worldwide market.

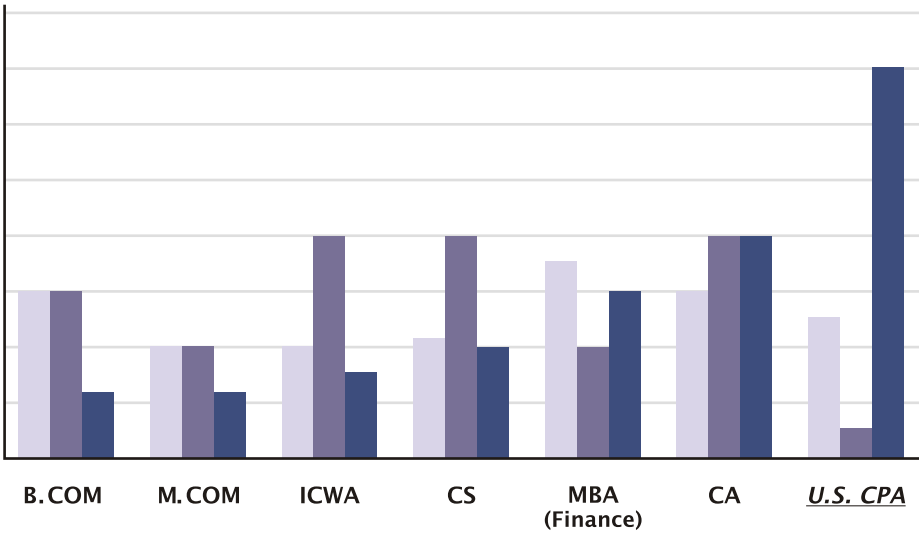
### Number of candidates appeared for U.S. CPA Exam in 2007

Total Candidates	77,717
International Candidates	22,733
U.S. domestic Candidates	54,984

Source: NASBA, CPAES Examination

# The U.S. CPA Edge

Course	B.COM	M.COM	ICWA	CS	MBA (Finance)	CA	U.S. CPA
Duration of Course	3 Years	2 Years	4 Years	4 Years	2 Years	4 Years	3-6 Months
Acceptability (Recognition)	India	India	India	India	India	India	Global



\*Derived from general Market Survey

Estimated Cost of the Course
  Duration of Course
  Yearly Expected Salary

\*\*In India, students holding B.Com degree and above may qualify to appear for CPA exam.

