

CPA Alberta Convocation dinner and dance

Frequently asked questions

Welcome to the profession! This document will answer some questions about the upcoming CPA Alberta Convocation Dinner and Dance.

CPA Alberta Convocation consists of two distinct parts: the ceremonies, where graduates are formally welcomed to the profession, and the dinner and dance, which is a chance to celebrate with friends, colleagues, and family.

Do I need to complete my practical experience requirements to be part of Convocation?

No. To be part of the 2025 CPA Alberta Convocation events—both the ceremony and dinner and dance— you must have successfully passed the Common Final Exam (CFE) in 2024. Completion of practical experience hours is not required to attend these events; however, these hours are required to apply for membership and, once admitted, be granted the right to use the CPA designation.

How do I register?

You will receive an email regarding all Convocation events, including a link to register for the dinner and dance.

If you are with a large organization with many graduates, a representative of the organization may be registering you, other graduates, and your guests on behalf of the organization. You should check with your organization before registering for the dinner and dance individually. You may inadvertently be excluded from sitting with your colleagues if you register separately.

What happens?

6 p.m.: Reception

6:50 p.m.: Graduate March and formal program

7:00 p.m. and onward: Dinner and dance to follow

The dance will commence shortly after dinner, and the CPA Education Foundation Photo Booth will also open at that time.

When will I receive my tickets?

You will receive a confirmation email after registering. This is your ticket.

Each graduate is offered two complimentary tickets to the dinner and dance, but it is not assumed you will attend, so registration is still required.

Where can I park?

In Calgary, parking is available in the TELUS Convention Centre parkade. In Edmonton, parking is available at Canada Place, which is across the street from the Edmonton Convention Centre. For more information on parking, please visit the venues' websites.

What are the seating arrangements?

If you purchase 10 or more tickets, you will receive an additional email with your table assignment(s) approximately one week prior to the event. If your tickets were registered through your organization, your organization's contact will be expected to share the table assignment(s). Otherwise, the event will have seating charts to guide guests to their assigned seats.

What if I want to sit with a specific organization that isn't my employer?

If you want to sit at a specific organization's table, you will need to have approval from that organization's designated administrator. Your ticket can be booked with the organization's tickets or you can book separately and ask the administrator to email events@cpaalberta.ca to approve your request.

We will try to assign seats or tables close together if you include a seating request in your registration, but we cannot guarantee seating requests.

How much is a ticket?

To ensure all graduates can attend this celebration, every graduate is offered two complimentary tickets to the dinner and dance: a ticket for you and a ticket for a guest. Each additional ticket is \$249 plus GST. Every ticket includes a plated three-course meal, a glass of wine with dinner, a late-night snack, entertainment, and dancing.

Children under two are free, but they will not receive a meal. See [below](#) for more information on bringing babies, infants, and children.

Please note, there are no individual, child, or group discounts.

Are there any other costs?

All attendees should consider the cost of parking and, if desired, the cost to check their coats, both of which are set by the venues.

Your ticket will include a glass of wine at dinner, but there is also a cash bar at the event with prices set by the venue.

There will also be a photo booth sponsored by the CPA Education Foundation. Every graduate registered for the dinner and dance will receive a ticket for one free photo. Each additional photo is \$5 with all proceeds going to the CPA Education Foundation, a non-profit foundation that supports accounting and business education across the province.

What if I cannot attend?

This celebratory event is optional. CPA Alberta does not provide any official documents or certificates at the event, nor does this impact your admission to the profession; these are determined as part of your application for membership process.

What is the dress code?

This is a formal event. Cocktail dresses, ball gowns, dark suits, and/or tuxedos are appropriate.

Are babies, infants, and children allowed?

Although the dinner and dance is an adult-oriented event with no baby, infant, or children activities or meals, the whole family is more than welcome to enjoy the celebration with the purchase of additional tickets.

The venue will not provide high chairs, booster seats, children's cutlery or plates, or different children's meals (barring dietary restrictions). Every attendee two and older must have a ticket. Lap infants (under two years older) will not receive a meal.

What is the Graduate March?

The Graduate March is a traditional way of celebrating the graduates' achievements. Graduates are led into the dinner and dance by a professional bagpiper, representing the accounting profession's origins.

To participate in the march, you should ensure you arrive with enough time to check your coat, find your table, and otherwise be ready before it is time to line up for the march. You should arrive no later than 6:15 p.m. to line up by 6:40 p.m. You may need to stand in line for a few minutes as we organize all the graduates for the march, and your patience is appreciated.

CPA Alberta staff will organize all graduates into two single-file lines. When cued for the march to begin, a CPA Alberta staff member at the front of each line will start the march, and graduates need to simply follow the person in front of them.

CPA Alberta staff in the ballroom will guide the procession and direct the lines from the back of the room through the middle aisle and toward the stage.

CPA Alberta staff will direct graduates to stage left or right, where graduates will stand facing the audience for acknowledgment. The MC will announce when you can take your seat.

What if I need mobility assistance or cannot stand for long periods of time?

Please be sure to note this in your registration in the appropriate space, and CPA Alberta staff will be in touch to discuss accommodations.