

## CEO ROADSHOW

The questions below were raised during the CEO roadshow for members residing in the Americas region, which took place on 31 August 2022.

The relevant SAICA executives provided the answers.

## MEMBER VALUE

### 1. Has a decision been made regarding providing soft copies of our CA(SA) certificates (e-certificates)?

The e-certificates are part of SAICA's Ushintsho digital transformation journey. However, some members still prefer to get hard copies to frame, so there will be an option to request either or both from the [Member Portal](#).

At this stage, there are no fixed timelines as yet for when this functionality will be available.

Members will be informed when it the functionality is available.

### 2. In the USA context, is our CA(SA) equivalent to their Master's degree, or does it exceed their Master's degree?

The answer to this question is not a simple yes or no. It is difficult to compare whether the CA(SA) is equivalent to a Masters' Degree in the USA.

It is important to note that the CA(SA) is a designation, and not necessarily a qualification like a Master's degree. The difference between a designation and a qualification can be summed up as follows:

Qualification	Designation
Offered by a higher education institute	Offered by accredited professional bodies
Is registered and assigned a level on the NQF	Is not assigned a level on the NQF
Can never be taken away	Can be taken away for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-payment of fees</li> <li>• Non-compliance with the Code of Conduct (misconduct)</li> <li>• Non-compliance with the CPD policy</li> </ul>

The table below indicates the differences between various countries' national qualifications frameworks:

	South Africa	UK	EU	USA
<b>Level 7</b>	Bachelor's degree, advanced diplomas, post-graduate certificates and B-tech	Integrated degree, Masters degree	Only has 8 levels which are described in respect of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Knowledge</li> <li>2. Skills</li> <li>3. Social competence</li> </ol>	Does not have a national qualifications framework.
<b>Level 8</b>	Honours degree, post-graduate diploma, and professional qualifications	PhD		
<b>Level 9</b>	Masters			
<b>Level 10</b>	PhD			

The graph below shows a direct comparison between the CA(SA) and US CPA:

	CA(SA)	US CPA
Degree/post-graduate degree	4 years: 3 years undergrad (level 7) + 1-year PGDA (level 8)	5 years (Masters) "150 hours credit"

Professional exams	ITC and APC	CPA exams – 4 papers
Other courses	Professional programme	Not applicable
Training	3 – 5 years	Varies from state to state – minimum 1 year
<b>CA to CPA or CPA to CA</b>		
Additional requirements if converting	+24 months experience	IQEX exams This is a 4-hour exam which is one section of the CPA exam covering ethics, professional and legal responsibilities, business law and taxation specifically related to US accounting practice. Have completed an additional 12 months of relevant work experience after obtaining the CA(SA) designation before becoming eligible to write the IQEX exam.

Given the information above and that we have been evaluated by the relevant body in the US, SAICA can confidently say that the CA(SA) is equivalent to the CPA (Master's degree). In addition, activities are taking place in the US to promote the CA(SA) designation through our connections with Chartered Accountants Worldwide Network USA. We work specifically with the CAW Network USA to ensure that we market the CA(SA) designation effectively. We will continue to create networking events for our members in the USA directly from time to time, as well as through CAW Network USA on an ongoing basis.