

Elevate Your Insurance Career With a CPCU Designation

At Universal, we always want our employees to be at their best. Supporting members' personal and professional growth has helped our company thrive for years, which is why we want to encourage you to pursue a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation.

Generally considered one of the most prestigious titles in the insurance industry, a CPCU helps keep people at the forefront of knowledge and expertise in the property and casualty field.

What Is a CPCU?

A CPCU designation signifies that an individual has completed several high-level courses focusing on different aspects of the insurance industry. Professionals earn their CPCU through [The Institutes](#), a national leader in risk management and insurance education.

CPCU curriculum from the Institutes consists of lessons in leadership, operations management, legal principles, and financial analytics, tailored explicitly for insurance companies. Education includes study materials and exams and is entirely virtual.

You must complete eight courses and their associated exams to earn the designation, which can take up to two years. While it's highly relevant for those in underwriting and related fields, the CPCU curriculum is open to all insurance professionals.

Enhance Your Career

Simply put, earning a CPCU designation will help you stand out from the pack. It provides an exceptionally strong foundation in insurance knowledge while signifying your motivation and desire for growth.

Alan Brown, Universal's Vice President of Underwriting and Product Development, earned his CPCU in 2018. Brown believes the CPCU education was vital in advancing his insurance career.

"The CPCU has given me a better understanding of the complexities of our industry, helping me develop effective strategies and make better-informed decisions within my roles at Universal," Brown stated. "There's also a level of respect and credibility that comes with obtaining the designation."

Once you begin the curriculum, you also join a network of others who have earned CPCUs through The Institutes, a group of fellow motivated industry professionals looking to excel.

The curriculum benefits all professionals, from young upstarts to established insurance veterans.

Christian Gebler, a product development manager who joined Universal in 2022 after over 20 years in the German insurance sector, pursued a CPCU shortly after his hire to help transition to the U.S. insurance market.

“Thanks to the profound knowledge acquired during the CPCU training, I gained numerous valuable insights within a few months in the product development team,” Gebler said. “This quickly made me a more valuable team member for my colleagues and the tasks at hand.”

Gebler also mentioned how the CPCU community has been “great for networking in our industry, staying abreast of market trends, and accessing various theoretical and practical training opportunities.”

How Universal Can Help With Your CPCU Journey

Universal encourages you to further your education. All exams and materials for The Institutes CPCU courses total at least \$2,800. The company can reimburse you once you finish your coursework.

Once you earn your CPCU, fill out the expense reimbursement form on the Finance & Accounting page on uConnect.

To find the form, navigate to the “Sites” page at the top of the uConnect home page. Click “Finance & Accounting” to go to that department’s information. You will find a form called “Expense Reimbursement” to download.

Be sure to follow the steps and document your expenses accurately. You must get manager approval to receive reimbursement.

Tips for CPCU Success

If you’re thinking of pursuing your CPCU, regulatory compliance analyst David Horn, who earned the designation in 2015, stressed the importance of establishing a routine that works for your circumstances, as staying on top of coursework must be balanced with work and life.

“I found it was best to complete one course every three to four months. This method allowed me to balance work, personal, and family time while also holding me accountable to complete each course on a routine schedule, Horn said, adding, “The CPCU journey is different for everyone, so the trick is to find what works best for you and stick to it.”

Alan Brown had some more tips for success, like creating a consistent study schedule, leveraging available resources (such as the study guides and practice tests), and connecting with other CPCU candidates to find ‘accountability partners.’

According to Brown, "The CPCU designation is more than an academic achievement; it's a symbol of professionalism and a commitment to uphold certain standards within your respective industry."