



# CPA Review Program

Open House

Department of Accounting and Inf.Systems

College of Business and Economics

Qatar University

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# Why the CPA ?

- All persons who wish to describe themselves as accountants and/or who have majored in accounting should take the CPA exam.
- Trusted financial advisor who helps individuals, businesses, and other organizations plan and reach their financial goals
- The CPA designation is prestigious, and it is a source of pride to those who have achieved it.
- All CPAs are accountants, but not all accountants are CPAs

# To become a CPA: The 3 E's

- 3 E's are required:
  - Education
  - Exam
  - Experience
- State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) determine the laws and rules for each state/jurisdiction

# Education

- Requirements vary by state/jurisdiction
  - Most states now require 150 credit hours
  - Number of accounting hours (in the 150 total) is dependent on state requirements

Currently six jurisdictions do NOT have the 150 hour requirement in place: California, Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont and the Virgin Islands.

# Exam

- Computer-based format
- Consists of 4 sections
  - Auditing and Attestation (AUD)
  - Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)
  - Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)
  - Regulation (REG)
- Same test no matter where it is taken
- Passing score is 75 on a 0-99 scale
- Question types include multiple choice, simulation and written communication

# Experience

- A *candidate* is an applicant for a CPA license
- Many states require the candidate to have 1 – 2 years experience under a CPA
- Additional requirements vary by the candidate's:
  - Education – e.g., Graduate degree vs. 150 hours of undergraduate
  - Employer(s) – e.g., Public accounting firm vs. industry
  - Type of work – e.g., Tax professional vs. auditor

# The CPA Exam



# Exam Format (2011)

<b>AICPA Formal Title</b>
<b>Acronym</b>

Auditing & Attestation	Business Env ironment & Concepts	Financial Accounting & Reporting	Regulation
AUD	BEC	FAR	REG

<b>Exam Length</b>
<b>Testlets:</b>
<b>Multiple- Choice</b>
<b>Simulations</b>
<b>Written Communicat ion</b>

**14 hours**

<b>4 hours</b>	<b>3 hours</b>	<b>4 hours</b>	<b>3 hours</b>
3, 30 questions each	3, 24 questions each	3, 30 questions each	3, 24 questions each
1 with 7 tasks	0	1 with 7 tasks	1 with 6 tasks
0	1 with 3 tasks	0	0

# Exam Format (2011)

- For the (FAR, AUD & REG), multiple-choice questions comprise **approximately 60%** of the CPA Exam, while the other **40% consist of task-based simulations** — case studies that test candidates' accounting knowledge and skills using real work situations. In the final section
- BEC, multiple-choice questions comprise **approximately 85%** of the CPA exam, with the remaining **15% made up of written communication questions**.



# AICPA CONTENT SPECIFICATION OUTLINES

**2011 CPA Exam:  
Structure and Content Overview**



# Auditing and Attestation (AUD)

- Engagement Acceptance and Understanding the Assignment 14%
- Understanding the Entity and Its Environment (including Internal Control) 18%
- Performing Audit Procedures and Evaluating Evidence 18%
- Evaluating Audit Findings, Communications, and Reporting 18%
- Accounting and Review Services Engagements 14%
- Professional Responsibilities 18%

# Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)

- Corporate Governance 18%
- Economic Concepts and Analysis 18%
- Financial Management 21%
- Information Systems and Communications 17%
- Strategic Planning 12%
- Operations Management 14%

# Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)

- Conceptual Framework, Standards, Standard Setting, and Presentation of Financial Statements 20%
- Financial Statement Accounts: Recognition, Measurement, Valuation, Calculation, Presentation, and Disclosures 30%
- Specific Transactions, Events and Disclosures: Recognition, Measurement, Valuation, Calculation, Presentation, and Disclosures 30%
- Government Accounting and Reporting 10%
- Not-for-Profit (Nongovernmental) Accounting and Reporting 10%

# Regulation (REG)

- Ethics, Professional, and Legal Responsibilities 17%
- Business Law 19%
- Federal Tax Process, Procedures, Accounting, and Planning 13%
- Federal Taxation of Property Transactions 14%
- Federal Taxation of Individuals 16%
- Federal Taxation of Entities 21%

# Skill Specification Outlines (SSO)

Skills Category	Weight in AUD, FAR, REG	Weight in BEC	Question Format	Resource(s)
Knowledge and Understanding	60%	85%	Multiple-choice questions	Calculator
Application of the Body of Knowledge	40%	--	Task-Based Simulations	Authoritative Literature, calculator, spreadsheets, etc.
Written Communication	--	15%	Written Communication Tasks	Word processor with spell check

# Skill Specification Outlines (SSO)

- Knowledge and understanding:
  - Learning
  - Recalling
  - Comprehending
- Application of the body knowledge
  - Analysis, judgment, synthesis, evaluation, research.
- Written communication
  - Basic writing skills, business writing techniques.

# CPA Exam @ International





# International CPA Exam Administration

- Since July 2011.
- The international exam is the same as the one offered in the U.S., using the same computerized format and administered in English.
- The international exam is only offered one month within each testing window.
- **The examination will only be offered during the second month of the testing window in international locations**
- In other words, it will only be offered four months out of the year.

# Should you sit inside or outside the U.S.?

If you reside in one of the following countries, consider taking the CPA exam at an international location.

- Bahrain
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- United Arab Emirates
- Egypt\*
- Jordan\*
- Oman\*
- Qatar\*
- Saudi Arabia\*



\*Citizens or long-term residents of Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia may sit for the CPA exam at one of the Middle East Locations.

# Submitting your application

- International candidates sitting outside the U.S. will still need to apply through one of the participating state boards.
- NASBA has released a list of states participating in the International CPA Examination Administration.
- Details:

<http://www.nasba.org/exams/internationalexam/international-process-to-apply/>

# Submitting your application

## International candidates must:

- Meet the eligibility requirements of the participating state board they wish to apply through and submit necessary applications and fees.
- Make a commitment to seek CPA licensure upon passing the CPA exam, and thereafter maintain their status as licensees to sit for the exam outside the U.S.
- Meet citizenship/residency requirements
- Provide demographic information
- Pay additional fees
- Prometric centers:

<http://www.prometric.com/CPA/default.htm>

# Fees

Regardless of which Board of Accountancy has declared you eligible for the examination, in addition to paying any domestic testing fees, you must pay additional fees for each examination section you plan to take internationally.

([www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org))

Those fees per examination section are:

- Auditing and Attestation (AUD) \$304.65
- Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) \$323.75
- Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) \$304.65
- Regulation (REG) \$323.75

(Source: [nasba.org](http://nasba.org), retrieved March 2012)

# Fees

- There are two types of fees: Application fees (established by the state board) and Examination fees, which vary by exam section. The recipient, due date, and amount of these fees will vary state to state, so be sure to follow the directions carefully.
- You can apply for one or more sections at a time, but you will need to complete a new application each time you are ready to take the next section.
- Remember to apply early! Some jurisdictions can take up to 6-8 weeks to complete an application.

# To know more !

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants: (Updates about the exam, sample exam questions)

[www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org)

- National Association of State Boards of Accountancy:

[www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org)

# Our offering !

- The four parts around the academic year from September through May.
- Qualified instructors with solid educational background and experience.
- Good staff/personnel to support your educational journey.
- Modern educational infrastructure:
  - Classrooms equipped with the latest technology
  - Academic setting (Qatar University).



# Our Fees

- Total course (four parts): 18 000 QR.
- Could be paid on two installments.
- All payments should go through QU current account.
- Registration form is available on:

[www.qu.edu.qa/business](http://www.qu.edu.qa/business)

# Contacts

- For additional information please contact:
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# Thank You !

