



NAVIGATE THE 2011 CPA EXAM

Certified Public Accountant

KAPLAN CPA REVIEW

CPA Exam Fast Facts

The CPA Exam consists of four sections:

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

You can sit for these sections in any sequence you choose. However, once you pass your first section, you have 18 months to pass the additional three sections.

CPA Exam testing windows:

- **January–February**
- **April–May**
- **July–August**
- **October–November**

You can sit for as many or as few sections as you choose in each testing window.

The latest AICPA-released pass rates for the CPA Exam are just below 50%.

"I was able to pass REG on my first attempt. Kaplan set out a structured study schedule which maximized the return on my time. Kaplan is perfect for a working person and is user-friendly."

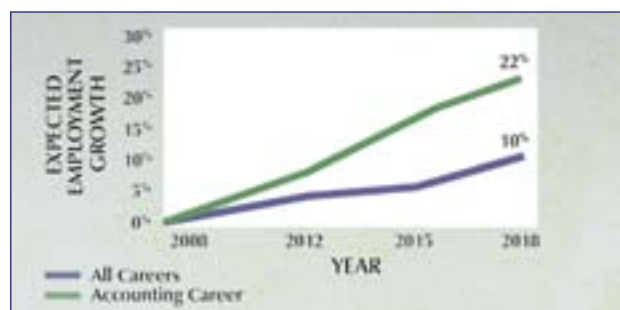
Mike McGuire
Wells Fargo

Why Earn Your CPA?

There's never been a better time to pursue your CPA license. CPAs are in high demand, and earning your license is a major step you can take toward advancement throughout your career. Preparing for the CPA Exam can be challenging. In the pages that follow, you'll find useful links, key exam information, and requirements needed to become a CPA.

Going Up?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010–2011 Occupational Handbook, the best job prospects will be for accountants and auditors who have a college degree or any certification, but especially a CPA certification. Statistics also show employment is expected to grow 22% by 2018.



Important Websites:

- www.cpa-exam.org
Candidate bulletin, exam tutorial, sample tests, and more
- www.nasba.org
State requirements
- www.prometric.com/cpa
CPA Exam Testing Center
- www.CPA-Launchpad.com
CPA designation information

To learn more about the CPA Exam, click on one of the links below:

[Take the Practice Exam](#)

[CPA Exam Blog](#)

[What's New?](#)

[State Specifics](#)

8 Steps to Become a CPA

Step 1: Decide Where You Want to Be Licensed

A summary of the specific requirements for becoming a CPA in each of the 55 United States jurisdictions can be found at www.nasba.org.

Step 2: Review the CPA Candidate Bulletin

The CPA Candidate Bulletin provides detailed information every candidate should read prior to applying for the CPA Exam. The bulletin is an invaluable resource as it covers virtually every aspect of the CPA Exam process. Find the Candidate Bulletin at www.cpa-exam.org.

Step 3: Apply to Take the Exam

Contact your board of accountancy or its dedicated agent to receive an application form. Complete the application form and submit it along with your examination fees to the appropriate address. The application process may take as long as 4–8 weeks.

Step 4: Take a CPA Review Course

You should plan to spend 250–400 hours in total preparation for the CPA Exam. Put in the time and effort to prepare yourself completely so you can sit for each section with the knowledge, skills, and confidence you need to pass.

Choose from Live or Self-Study Online Review Courses at www.kaplanCPAreview.com.

Step 5: Receive Your Notice to Schedule (NTS)

Verify that all information is correct. Be sure the name appearing on the NTS exactly matches the name on the identification documents you will be bringing to the testing center.

Step 6: Schedule Your Exam

Schedule your examination appointment immediately after you receive your NTS. It is recommended that you schedule at least 45 days before the desired test date.

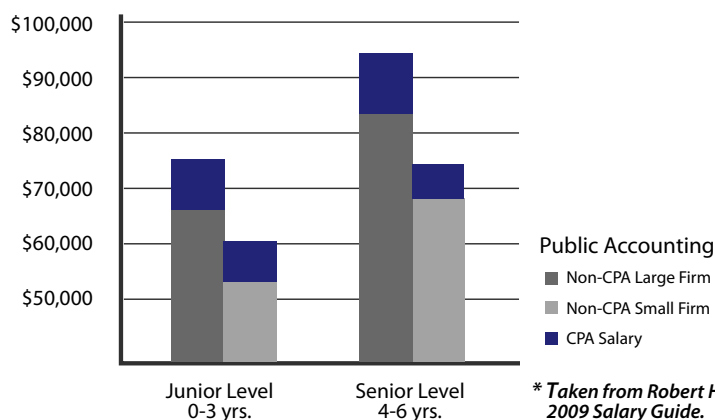
Step 7: Take Your Exam

Proper nutrition and rest leading up to exam day are crucial for maximum recall of reviewed topics. Have confidence in yourself and know that you are well prepared for success.

Step 8: Receive Your Scores

A passing score is 75, and scores may be released as early as 30–90 days after taking your exam. You will receive a diagnostic report along with your score.

CPA SALARY COMPARISON*



More Knowledge = Less Stress

CPA Exam Tips

- Start your application process 90 days before the date you plan to sit for the exam.
- After successfully passing your first exam, you have 18 months to complete the remaining sections.
- You must arrive at the test center at least 30 minutes before the scheduled exam appointment.
- You must bring your NTS with you on the day of the exam.
- Most jurisdictions have a NTS validation of six months during which you must schedule and take the exam section before the NTS will expire and all fees will be forfeited.
- You are required to present two forms of identification, and one must contain a photo.
- Keep the Confirmation of Attendance form you receive after the exam as proof of completion.
- Breaks are offered after each exam testlet. However, be aware the clock continues to run.

Depending on your state...

You may need to complete a required ethics exam or meet certain work experience requirements. Contact your state board of accountancy for complete details.

State Board of Accountancy List: www.nasba.org

2011 CPA Exam Breakdown

Exam Sections	Total Hours	Task-Based Simulations	Written Communication
Auditing & Attestation (AUD)	4 hours	YES	NO
Business Environment & Concepts (BEC)	3 hours	NO	YES
Financial Accounting & Reporting (FAR)	4 hours	YES	NO
Regulation (REG)	3 hours	YES	NO

DID YOU KNOW? *The CPA Exam changed significantly in January 2011.*

Task-Based Simulations

Beginning January 1, 2011, the CPA Exam simulations transitioned from case-based to task-based. You will complete six or seven task-based simulations in AUD, REG, and FAR which will account for 40% of your score in each section. These simulations do not include written communication tasks.

FASB Codification

You have been learning the standards by their traditional, somewhat confusing titles (e.g., SFAS 141r Business Combinations). On July 1, 2009 FASB codified all authoritative literature and it is now covered on the CPA Exam.

New Content and Skill Specification Outlines (CSOs/SSOs)

All content changes are driven by the new Content and Skill Specification Outlines. These new CSOs/SSOs are now available at www.cpa-exam.org. For example, strategic planning and operations management theory have been added to the BEC section of the exam. In addition, the professional responsibilities topic has been added to the AUD section.

Written Communication in BEC

Written communication will only be tested in BEC. Fifteen percent of your BEC Exam score will be based on the written communication assignment(s). The remaining 85% of your score will account for three testlets of multiple-choice questions.

International Financial Reporting Standards

The CPA Exam now includes International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). These new global reporting standards have a great impact on FAR; however, they appear in all four sections, and International Auditing Standards are tested in AUD.



CPA Review Courses

	Live Online Review Course	Self-Study Review Course
Live Weekly Course with playback	●	
Self-Study Course Videos		●
24 Months of Online Access	●	●
Study Manual	●	●
Flashcards	●	●
MP3 Audio Review	●	●
CPA Pro QBank	●	●
InstructorLink™	●	●
Instructor-Led Office Hours	●	●
Instructor Email Access	●	●
Interactive Study Calendar	●	●
Searchable FAQs	●	●
Exam-Tips Blog	●	●
Video Library	●	●

Purchase Multiple Sections and Save!

1 Section \$399	2 Sections \$749	3 Sections \$1,099	4 Sections \$1,399
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	--

[Enroll Today!](#)

STUDY MANUALS



The Complete Study Guide!

Use theoretical and practical examples as well as multiple-choice questions to help you understand critical concepts.

FLASHCARDS



In the waiting room, at the airport, or on your lunch break—turn idle time into study time with Kaplan CPA Review Flashcards.

Live Online Review Course

- Weekly classes delivered online in real time
- Instructor access in and out of class
- Class recordings available for on-demand review

[Learn More](#)

Self-Study Review Course

- Video CD courses delivered on your schedule
- One-on-one instructor access outside of class
- Study at your own pace—anytime, anywhere

[Learn More](#)

2011 Product Coverage

Did you purchase 2010 materials between April 1 and September 1, 2010? Were you unable to pass or unable to take your exam in 2010?

Don't worry, we have you covered! Call Customer Service before March 31, 2011 to receive a 2011 Online Review Course – and only pay for shipping!



24 Months of Online Access

Other review providers allow you online access for only a year or even less. Kaplan's online resources are available for 24 months, ensuring your ability to study throughout your 18-month testing period.

Online Resources

MP3 AUDIO REVIEW

An audio Q&A tool designed to reinforce the knowledge and terminology you need to pass the CPA Exam. Study anytime, anywhere by downloading to your MP3 player or listen to streaming audio online.

 [View Demo](#)



CPA PRO QBANK

Test yourself with over 4,000 practice questions and simulations. Build personalized exams based on difficulty, length, and topic of your choice. CPA Pro QBank reinforces your knowledge through practical use of the concepts taught in the course.



Resources for Students

CPA-LaunchPad.com

Where can a career as a CPA take you? What are the financial benefits of earning your license? What can you do now to prepare for success on the CPA Exam? Kaplan's new website is the launch pad for your career as a CPA.

Visit www.CPA-LaunchPad.com.

Monthly Student Update

Kaplan CPA Review produces a monthly thought-provoking newsletter designed to illuminate the flight path on your CPA journey. Each month we offer a perfect mix of news, humor, motivation, and career tips to keep you moving toward your goals. Send a request to LaunchPad@kaplan.com to start receiving monthly updates.

INSTRUCTORLINK™

Instructor-Led Office Hours

A virtual open door to a CPA specialist who can help get you through difficult areas. Instructors are available online in real-time to provide you with guidance and answer your questions.

Instructor Email Access

Email your questions or comments to a dedicated CPA instructor and receive an answer within 24 hours.

Exam-Tips Blog

Get the tips, strategies, and motivation you need from our team of CPA Exam experts.

Searchable FAQs

Search past questions candidates have asked our instructors, and get the answers you need.

Video Library

An innovative series of short, streaming videos created to supplement the material covered in your Online Review Course.

INTERACTIVE STUDY CALENDAR

Your roadmap to passing the CPA Exam. Simply enter the window of time in which you have to prepare for the exam and any weekly days off, and this program will automatically generate a study calendar tailored to your schedule.



"I chose Kaplan CPA Review after several of my friends who decided to use Becker ended up failing multiple sections on the CPA exam. I was pleased to find out that Kaplan was half the cost of Becker. Choosing Kaplan for my preparation was the best decision I made."

Austin Tse
CVS / Caremark