

Georgia

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY



New CPA Exam Begins April 1, 2017



On April 1, 2017, the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) will launch the next version of the Uniform CPA Examination (Exam), a four-section (AUD, BEC, FAR and REG), 16-hour assessment (four hours per section) that places a greater emphasis on testing a candidate's higher-order cognitive skills such as critical thinking and analytical ability. Through multiple-choice questions and an increased use of task-based simulations across all sections, as well as written responses in BEC, candidates will be presented with questions that test the knowledge and skills that a newly licensed CPA must possess.

To guide candidates along in their preparation, Exam blueprints will replace the current Content Specification Outline (CSO) and Skill Specification Outline (SSO). A blueprint for each Exam section will provide greater clarity in the presentation of content, skills and related representative tasks that may be tested on the Exam.

Developed through comprehensive research and the input of countless stakeholders committed to strengthening and preserving the profession, the next Exam remains current, relevant, reliable and legally defensible, and fulfills the needs of the Boards of Accountancy in carrying out their licensing responsibility.

The changes in the Exam will not impact the existing average 20-day score release timeline on an ongoing basis. However, consistent with Exam launches in the past, there will be a delay in the release of scores following the close of the initial testing window (second quarter of 2017). Scores will be released once, approximately 10 weeks after the close of the testing window. For the third and fourth quarters of 2017, scores for all candidates will be released once, approximately 10 days after the close of each testing window. The delay in score releases for the Q2, Q3 and Q4 testing windows provides sufficient time to statistically validate candidate performance on the next Exam. In the first quarter of 2018, it is expected that the existing average 20-day rolling score release timeline will resume.

The State Board recognizes that this may cause some candidates to have parts that may expire and is taking steps to ensure that there is no impact to those candidates.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE NEXT VERSION OF THE EXAM



**The Launch Date for the
Next Version of the Exam**
April 1, 2017



Sections

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



Examination Outline

Exam content, skills and representative tasks are provided in Exam Blueprints.



Testing Time

AUD: 4 hours FAR: 4 hours Total:
BEC: 4 hours REG: 4 hours 16 hours



Breaks

15-minute standardized break (does not count against testing time). Optional breaks still permitted.



Content Breakdown

AUD: 72 MCQ, 9 TBS
BEC: 62 MCQ, 5 TBS, 3 WCT
FAR: 66 MCQ, 9 TBS
REG: 76 MCQ, 9 TBS

MCQ: Multiple-Choice Questions
TBS: Task-Based Simulation
WCT: Written Communication Tasks

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STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY



Georgia State Board of Accountancy

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- Ashley N. Addison, CPA
- Elizabeth W. Hardin, CPA
- James P. Martin - Consumer Member
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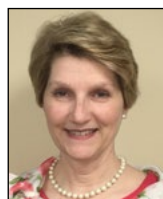
Executive Director: Paul Ziga, CPA

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Board Member & Staff Highlights

Board Member Elizabeth Hardin, CPA



Elizabeth is an administrative partner at McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants (GSCPA) and past president of the Middle Georgia Chapter of the GSCPA. She is a former Rotary assistant district governor, as well as, treasurer for the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon. She is a member and past president of the Career Women's Network (CWN). Elizabeth is a recipient of the 2006 Woman of Achievement Award from the CWN and the 2000 Distinguished Alumna Award from Shorter College. She earned a bachelor's degree from Shorter College. She and her husband, Phil, reside in Macon, GA.

Staff Member Ayokah Harrison-Holmes, Investigator



Ayokah was born in Trinidad and Tobago and raised in New York City. She earned her undergraduate degree from Baruch College in New York and her MBA in Forensic Accounting from Southern New Hampshire University. Before joining the GSBA, her accounting career was mainly in the Governmental and Non-profit sector. She has two boys who consume her time with soccer, karate, swimming, wrestling and concert band. She and her family love to travel and have visited 27 states and 12 foreign countries. Her boss Paul Ziga, CPA, Executive Director said, "As our Investigator, Ayokah manages to bring a refreshing perspective to an otherwise 'by the book' workday with her wit and sense of humor." Her lifetime goals are to learn American sign language, visit our National Parks and complete a 30-day tour of Europe.

Important Reminders for the Months Ahead

The Public Accounting Firm License Renewal Period is Closed.

If you did not renew your Firm License, which expired June 30, 2016, it has now lapsed and you must file a Firm Reinstatement Application (see the Forms Download link at www.sao.georgia.gov/gsba) to bring it back to active status. Operating a firm without an active license in Georgia will result in fines and board sanctions.

Individual CPA Licenses Expire December 31, 2017.

Please note that the renewal window will open on or around October 1, 2017. It will be an online process with instructions posted on the front page of our website at www.sao.georgia.gov/gsba. In addition, you will also receive a renewal reminder via email from the Board.

Remember to Complete Your CPE Requirements for the 2016-2017 Reporting Period!

Board Policy #4 outlines stricter penalties for the current reporting period (see Policies link at www.sao.georgia.gov/gsba).

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STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY



Effective July 1, 2014, the Georgia State Board of Accountancy was transitioned from operating as a licensing board within the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Board (PLB) Division to operating as an attached agency of the State Accounting Office.

You can reach the GSBA at its new location and via new contact information listed below. All inquiries are important to us and will be addressed as soon as possible.

CPA Exam Performance for Georgia Candidates

CPA Exam Performance Summary: 2016 Q4

1,638 Total Candidates

1,115 First-Time Candidates

48.8% Average Pass Rate

71.8 Average Score

 **29.8** Average Age

New Office Licenses

Approved by the Board at the January 11, 2017 Meeting

Mind Your Business Consulting
TriMerge Consulting Group, PA
Paritz & Company, P.A.
Steven D. Eisenberg CPA, P.A.
D Arcangelo & CO., LLP
Metro CPAs & Associates
Randolph W. Gass, C.P.A.
EHW Accounting Services, LLC
Akram & Associates PLLC
Templeton & Company, LLP
Alerding & Co., LLC
Matthew H. Lindsey CPA
Anderson Accounting, LLC

Sparkmon Advisory Services, LLC
Global Executive Management Solutions
Nolen & Associates, PLLC
Shirley Langley CPA
Frost, PLLC
Charles R. Cox, P.C., CPA
Michael Wayne Ahart CPA
Jennings Advisors, LLC
R A Moore, CPA
Burkett Burkett & Burkett, Certified Public Accountants
Myers CPA, LLC





New CPA Licenses

Approved by the Board at the January 11, 2017 Meeting

Lyanne Altamirano
Jonathan Ambery
Brittany Anderson
Edozie Anusionwu
Natalie Applonie
Kelly Archerd
Sarah Arnold
Matthew Barnard
Zack Bennett
Mary Berg
Brandon Best
Alison Bisnauth
Daniella Blackard
Sedrick Blake
Iryna Boiko
Robert Bonner
Scott Bradford
Lucas Bradstreet
Jordan Brohm
Leslie Bruder
Donna Brunstad
Benya Buntichai
Andrew Burch
Maria Elizabeth L. Cabonce
Ran Chang
Connor Chilton
Sandra Chisholm
In Chun
Chelsea Clever
Zachary Collins
Natalia DAries
Courtney DeFranco
Kristen DeVos
Allyson Dicks
Tyler Dingman
Dillon Duff
Jonathan Duncan
Kelly Earthman
Nedra Erysthee
John Evans
Patricia Farmer
Casey Farrell
Preston Firmin
Mitoya Fountain
Samantha Franco
Jeffrey Franklin

Stephen Futral
Fen Gao Ryhal
Harold Gibbs
Mary Gleason
John Gross
Dongdi Gu
Candace Halim
Stephen Han
Stephen Hand
Sunju Hanna
Matthew Hansen
Curtis Hardwick
Daniel Herbert
Travis High
Yewande Idowu
Hunter Jackson
Arielle Jacobs
Ryan James
Brian Jantz
Ankita Jariwala
Benjamin Jenkins
Queena Jenkins
Kristina Johnson
Nguettabla Kamga
Shingo Kato
Daniel Keddie
Hanna Kim
Rachel Kim
Evan Kirkpatrick
Jeffrey Kochy
Kyle Kraft
Garrett Kuczynski
Zachary LaHood
Cassie Landis
Eric Lang
Richard Lanois
Timothy Lansdowne
Darren Lau
Seung Hee Lee
Dong Hoon Lee
Jasmine Lesane
Joshua Letts
Liangkai Liang
Tishka Lightfoot
Sophia Lu
Kathryn Lutrick

Hannah Machisko
Ashley Maclin
Tyler Mahoney
Christian Mantegna
Gina Martin
Nathaniel Martin
Christopher Mathis
Sarah McConnell
Sean McNeal
Allie McWhorter
Margaret Meherin
Amber Mehta
Shawaunna Middleton
Christopher Miles
Hector Mojena
Erica Morozin
Jacob Morris
Shannon Murdy
Yukai Ni
Josiah Oakley
Stephen OConnor
Ugochukwu Okoro
Olurotimi Omotoso
Alexis Onsager
Jessica Ortman
Awoyo Osiegbu
Jordan Perry
Nguyen Huong Pham
Zachary M Pion
Stewart Pittman
Kathleen Powers
Ammar Raza
Julie Reed
Nicole Reisman
Victoria Reppert
Adam Ridenour
Thomas Roberts
Victoria Robertson
Kelly Robinson
Austin Roddy
Michelle Romney
Anamaria Rosado
Josue Rosales
Jake Rosen
Alicia Ruttinger
Zachary Rymer

Leslie Sanchez
John Santamour
Sherry Schatz
Scott Schwab
Brian Scope
Monet Scott
Jason Sena
Nathan Shankle
Yilun Shen
Xuzhe Shen
Jiayu Shih
Nathan Shreve
Thomas Skelton
Jessie Slate
Lakyn Smith
Lindsey Smith
Steven Souther
Tracey Strickland
Khai Shing Tang
Lin Tang
Thomas Tavano
Matthew Tenoschok
Frederick Terry
Marla Timmer
Glenda Nadine Traylor
John Truong
Melanie Tuttle
Anirudh Verma
Anh Vo
Shelby Vold
Andrew Wachsler
Andrew Walker
Mary Ward
Steven Watts
Benton Weems
Chesley Whitesides
Keeley Wilder
Mary Williams
Nicole Williams
Hannah Wilson
Claire Wilson
Bradley Wong
Margaret Wright
Desmond Yee-Kee
Tina Zhang



New Email Scam Targets Tax Professionals

The Internal Revenue Service issued a warning to tax professionals to beware of a new two-stage email scam from cybercriminals who are posing as clients soliciting tax services.



TARGET:
ACCOUNTING AND TAX
PREPARATION FIRMS

You could be the next target especially during the upcoming tax season.

REASON:

To collect sensitive information that can enable criminals to prepare fraudulent tax returns.

2 STAGES TO THE SCAM

STAGE
1
SOLICITATION



EMAIL SENT FROM FRAUDSTER

"I need a preparer to file my taxes."

If the tax preparer responds, Stage 2 goes into effect.

Phishing emails may seem to come from a legitimate sender because they too have been victimized by cybercriminals who have taken over their accounts to send phishing emails.

STAGE
2
THE BAD LINK



FRAUDSTER SENDS A LINK

The link will either be embedded in the email or has an attachment with the link embedded.

If the link is clicked, the fraudster will begin to gather email addresses, passwords and other information.



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Never click on a link or open an attachment from an unknown sender.

Create internal policies or seek recommendations from security experts about how to deal with unsolicited emails seeking services.

Source: <http://www.accountingtoday.com/news/irs-warns-of-new-email-scam-targeting-tax-pros>