



## Why You Should Study for the CPA Exam During Summer

Summer can be a good time to start thinking about what your next moves are going to be both career and education-wise. And if you're already thinking about that CPA license, here are some great reasons why we encourage all college graduates to start studying for the CPA Exam this summer.

### 1. The earlier you start, the better off you'll be!

As you already well know from late-night procrastination in college, the earlier you start on something, the better off you'll be. Don't wait to study for your CPA Exam. You have ample time this summer (about 3 whole months) to get a jump start on a very difficult test. Use this time to your advantage. Research the requirements, figure out what you need to do to become eligible, figure out which section you should take first, and hop to it. There will be many roadblocks and red tape that you will come across that will require a lot of time and patience that you might not have later. Finding out what those roadblocks are and how to overcome them will put you ahead of the game with no surprises and no pending deadlines that you're scrambling to meet. Get started early, and you will be prepared for whatever comes your way and make things happen in due time.

### 2. You'll get your bonus faster

If you're already working at a firm or are planning to do so, you already know that many firms give out bonuses (anywhere up to \$5,000!) for candidates who finish and pass the CPA Exam in an allotted amount of time (usually 1 year). Pass the exam before that due date, and you may get that bonus even quicker! Plus, this will show your current or potential employer that you mean business. Taking the CPA Exam is ambition enough—but passing all 4 sections before they expect you to? Yes. You'll be on the radar and you may enjoy some benefits that your peers won't be privy to, giving you some extra fluff on your shoulders.

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## ARCPA Mock CPA Exam Hosted by Surgent

Are you truly ready to pass the CPA Exam? Have you studied enough? Are you focusing on the right material? There is only one way to find out, give it a try! Sign up for the free virtual event on **Thursday, September 19, 2024**.

Students and non-certified Associate members are invited to participate in a live 4-hour mock CPA Exam (virtual) workshop hosted by the Arkansas Society of CPAs and Surgent CPA Review. This unique opportunity will allow you to experience what it is like to sit for any CPA Exam section as you immerse yourself in questions pulled from the actual CPA Exam Blueprints. Plus, you will receive your own personalized ReadySCORE (an accurate measurement of your actual exam score) as well as a detailed report showing your areas of strength and weakness for that section.

Don't go into exam day unprepared. Find out if you are ready - sign up today for this free virtual event!  
To Register: <https://www.arcpa.org/become-a-cpa/mock-cpa-exam>

For questions, contact Robin Harris at ARCPA (501) 664-8739, or email [rharris@arcpa.org](mailto:rharris@arcpa.org)



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### Bill Puckett, CPA

Bill is the Regional Controller for Pritchard Industries, Inc. in Little Rock. He is a native of Little Rock, AR, and an alumnus of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Finance and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where he earned a second Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Masters of Business Administration.



#### What favorite activities/hobbies/volunteerism do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy playing golf throughout the year and squeezing in some duck hunting in the winter months. Myself and a few buddies have a BBQ team as well. We typically get in 3 to 4 competitions throughout the year and also volunteer to cook BBQ for a Ronald McDonald House fundraising event each year. Other than that, I just try to spend as much time with my wife and kids as I can.

#### Best advice for students about becoming a CPA, or taking the CPA Exam?

The best advice I would give those that are taking the CPA exam is to fully commit to passing. It is not something that you can just pick up a book a few times before taking the test. Before you even begin studying for a section, create a study plan with a set amount of

hours to study each week. Then break that total amount of hours up by day on your schedule. Breaking the entire study program down to a daily schedule makes it feel much more reasonable and achievable.

The entire study plan should have you wrap the first run through of the study materials a week or two before the scheduled testing date. That week or two gap allows you to go back through any areas that you weren't 100% confident in. As long as you commit to your plan, then you should feel confident walking into each of your exams.

#### Why did you become a CPA?

I became a CPA because I knew achieving that goal would open doors to opportunities throughout my career that I otherwise wouldn't have had access to. The amount of work required to become a CPA is recognized worldwide as a significant task, and I knew it would help me get my foot in the door before the person standing next to me. Once you've obtained the license, you are still required to meet continuing education requirements for the remainder of the time you hold your license. This demonstrates to potential employers that not only did you set a difficult goal and achieve it, but you also continue to learn and improve yourself to ensure that the achieved goal doesn't go to waste. The journey to becoming a CPA, and then maintaining that designation, is not an easy one, but it is very much a rewarding one.

## ARCPA President and Staff

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### Lou Anne Emrich, CPA

As a member of the ARCPA Board of Directors, Lou Anne works as a Manager for Emrich & Scroggins, LLP in El Dorado, AR. She is a native of Warren, AR, and an alumna of Ouachita Baptist University.

#### Favorite memory of your involvement with ARCPA?

I've always enjoyed learning from the variety of experiences and perspectives from participants at in-person CPE events.

#### Best advice for students about becoming a CPA, or taking the CPA Exam?

Wholeheartedly commit yourself to the preparation process for a few months as soon as you finish your degree, and it will pay a lifetime of dividends.

#### What favorite activities/hobbies/volunteerism do you do in your spare time?

I volunteer in my church as a teacher and interpreter for the Deaf, and I serve in a community women's Bible study as the media specialist. I also enjoy attending Razorback sporting events with my family and following the teams from afar when I can't support them in person.



#### Why did you become a CPA?

I love both the logical and relational aspects of an accountant's work, and my goal has always been to serve my employers and my clients to the highest standards. Obtaining my CPA has enhanced my ability to do this via collaboration, resources, and continuing education.

## Connect With ARCPA on Social Media



[www.facebook.com/arcpafans/](http://www.facebook.com/arcpafans/)



<https://twitter.com/ARSocietyofcpas>



[www.linkedin.com/company/arcpa](http://www.linkedin.com/company/arcpa)



Review us on Google  
Arkansas Society of CPAs

## Student Conferences Discounts

Student members may attend ARCPA conferences for just \$15! (we're not kidding!) Meet and network with professionals and prospective future employers at any of these ARCPA events for \$15 each:

- End of Busy Season CPE & Fish Fry
  - Industry Commerce & Banking Conference
  - Equip Conference
  - Fraud Conference
  - Agriculture Conference
  - AR Federal Tax Institute
- Call ARCPA to register: (501) 664-8739 or (800) 482-8739.

## Becker CPA Review

Arkansas Society of CPAs associate or student members can receive a discount on the Becker Professional CPA Review for the full 4-part review course. Save \$300 off of the full 4-part review of either Live, Online, or self study review course format. Becker CPA Review classes correspond with the exam testing windows that you select.

For more information on this member service, or to access ARCPA preferred pricing with Becker, ARCPA members should visit the partner page <https://www.becker.com/arcpaPP>.

## Surgent CPA Review

Surgent CPA Review can help students prepare for the CPA Exam—during or after their undergraduate or graduate education. The 100% online course utilizes a state-of-the-art adaptive learning platform that shortens study time and improves retention allowing students to prepare and pass faster! Enrollment includes access to 350+ 20 minute-or-less video lectures, a test bank of over 7,700 multiple-choice questions, over 400 simulations, customized study guides, and unlimited practice exams.

ARCPA members receive a 35% discount on the Surgent CPA exam review course! These state-of-the-art online lectures provide a customized study program, access that doesn't expire, and a pass guarantee with every course. Studying with Surgent means less stress for you—and a faster path to passing the CPA Exam. Learn more: [www.surgentcpareview.com/partners/arkansas-society-of-cpas/](http://www.surgentcpareview.com/partners/arkansas-society-of-cpas/)

## Wiley CPA Review

As an ARCPA member, you are entitled to a 20% discount on all Wiley CPAexcel products, including the popular Wiley CPAexcel Platinum Course featuring Bite-sized Lessons and 12,000 AICPA CPA Exam practice questions.

To redeem the 20% discount, visit [www.wileycpaexcel.com](http://www.wileycpaexcel.com) or call 888-884-5669 to order. Enter code ASCPA at checkout.

## UWorld Roger CPA Review

ARCPA members save 20% off the Unlimited access course! Prepare to pass the CPA Exam with exceptional course materials that make difficult concepts easy to understand. Proven with a 91% pass rate, we proudly serve the accounting profession's top educators, employers and professional organizations to ensure success for future CPAs.

Learn more, at <https://accounting.uworld.com/cpa-review/lp/partner-organizations/>

## CPA Review Courses



## Become A Student Member Today! Membership is Free

Join Arkansas Society of CPAs (ARCPA) for free. Apply Online: <https://www.arcpa.org/join>

## Why Study for the CPA Exam During Summer (Cont'd)

### 3. You still have momentum going

Take advantage of the fresh information in your brain and the pep in your step. Although you may have just graduated and finished school, you're still in student mode. There's no better time to utilize all the things you've learned about time management and study tactics for the CPA Exam than now. Additionally, all the nitty-gritty details that you've learned in your accounting courses are still in memory and you'll be able to quickly apply what you've learned in class to topics that will be tested on the exam. One of the main areas of difficulty for CPA Exam candidates is not being able to recall the topics they learned in their accounting courses that show up on the exam, and so they essentially have to re-learn things they once knew. Eliminate the forgetful factor while the information is still brewing and fresh!

### 4. It's really just a good idea

You may be tempted to take a trip you planned with friends and family or to go out and be one with the wilderness for two months, but honestly—you're still young and there will always be plenty of time to travel. After all, what could be more exciting than spending some hours obtaining those extra 150 credits or studying for cost accounting? No, but seriously, in retrospect, the few months you spent studying for the CPA Exam that will prepare you to pass one or all four sections is just a slight dent in your summer vacation compared to the rest of your life as a successful CPA. So really, it's a win-win situation.

Source: UWorld Accounting



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## AICPA Career Launchpad

AICPA & CIMA have created a Career Launchpad. The Career Launchpad is a resource for AICPA student members. Any college student thinking about their first job is encouraged to check it out! Designed for the AICPA® & CIMA® Student Community, this comprehensive tool provides five free modules that offer invaluable resources, expert tips for building a resume, essential tools and effective strategies to elevate job searching skills. It includes over an hour of interviews with CPAs from across industries who share their "why" with students - why they chose accounting, why the CPA, and why they love it!

What to expect from each module:

- Career pathways, including advice & behind-the-scenes information from accountants across industries (Module 1)
- Navigate the accounting industry, benefits, and work-life balance (Module 2)
- Real-life case studies (Module 3)
- Enhance your resume/CV, cultivating skills, and crafting your LinkedIn profile (Module 4)
- Ace the interview (Module 5)

Students may also earn up to three digital badges by completing the modules.

Badge 1: Career Launchpad, Module 1-5 will be earned upon completion of the first five modules.

Badge 2: Career Launchpad, Module 6 is earned for those completing at least one mock interview in the AI tool.

Badge 3: Career Launchpad with AICPA & CIMA is earned for those completing all course modules.

Students can sign up (or sign in if already members) at [www.thiswaytocpa.com/Career-Launchpad](http://www.thiswaytocpa.com/Career-Launchpad).

Visit us on the web!

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