Meeting Minutes
Becker CPA
February 5, 2013

Speaker:
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Obtaining your CPA license
- 3 Es = Education, Exam, Experience
- Some of you may have experience now some may get some later
- Every state is unique with different requirements
  - Go to becker.com and pick a state
  - Also check California Board of Accountancy’s website for requirements

Requirements to sit for the exam
- Bachelor’s Degree
- 24 semester or 36 quarter units of accounting
- 2014 licensure changes – 150 credits
  - If a class counts for one part, it can’t count for another part.
  - No double dipping
  - 2 pathways
    - Passing score is 75 for each section
    - Green section stays the same till 2014
    - But when 2014 begins, the purple section is a little bit different
    - The extra 30 units need to be in accounting and ethics
- The 1 year work experience is the requirement for the license, not for to sit for the exam.

Exam Process – 5 key steps
- Make sure you qualify – requirements state
- Apply – you need to include all transcripts from all colleges attended
- Prepare- study
- Scheduling –
  - You don’t have control over scheduling, but you have control over studying.
You need to wait for a paper that’s required on day of exam. If you don’t have it, you are not allowed to sit for exam. Make sure name on ID matches the notice to schedule paper

- Prometric San Diego office – Exam location
- 18 months to pass the exam (18-month rolling window)
  - You have 18 months from the moment you pass your first exam
- Every 3rd month is a blackout month- are not allowed to take exam on those months
- Each exam is about $200

Exam Overview
- Financial - 4 hour exam
  - 4 testlets
  - First 3 testlets are MC (60%) contains a total of 90 questions
  - Last one is seven task based simulations and one of them doesn’t count (40%)
  - Content: Government Accounting, NFP accounting, Concepts and standards
- Audit
  - Academically based
  - Contents: Professional responsibilities, Accounting and Review Engagements, Evaluating Findings
- Regulation – 3 hours
  - 3 testlets – includes 72 MC questions
  - Last testlet is simulation (6 questions) – 1 doesn’t count
- Business – 4 hours
  - 3 testlets – MC with 72 questions (85%)
  - Last one – 3 written communication tasks (15%)
    ▪ Tip: write as if you are writing to a partner of a firm

Exam appearance
- There is a spell checker and calculator available

Becker’s History and Interesting facts
- Been around for over 50 years
- Are partners with the Big 4 Accounting firms
- High pass rate (over 400,000 candidates have passed the CPA exam using Becker)
  - “Becker’s Promise” = if you don’t pass one of the sections of the CPA exam and you show proof to Becker that you passed the other 3 sections, Becker will allow you to re-take the review class cost-free.

Course Formats – Live, Online, Self-study
- Online – taught by dedicated online instructors
- Self-study- anytime, anywhere at your own pace, you will receive materials in the mail
- Study planner - good way to manage your time
- Study Road Map – more interactive with practice and review
- HW- over 6,500 questions available; complete answer explanations available, links to lecture and to e-text. Will go to the exact location of the related topic
  - Timer is there.
- Student support is available on the Self-study software
  - Live classes- 2 classes a week, can be completed on any given day
  - FastPass available @ UCSD’s Rady School of Management
    - Instead of 6 classes a week, you have 4 classes a week but 4 hour classes
    - Best suited for those that don’t have a job because it is treated as a job basically
    - The online version of this is only available during the summer

Additional Tips, Advice, and Information
- Review before the exam
- There have been situations where students bought textbooks from Becker but when received, they are not Becker books – so be careful. Ordering directly from Becker would be the safest bet.
- Additional Study Tools on the software
  - Flashcards and Final Review (can be done on iphone, ipad, ipods)
- Offers 0% financing – 18 month interest-free loan
  - $125 processing fee
  - If you study with Becker but do not pass the CPA Exam, you may repeat our course at no additional tuition cost if you satisfy our requirements
    - If you have to repeat a section, you have to make sure you have met the requirements
- Best time to start studying for the CPA exam would be as soon as you graduate from college.

Social Media and Networking Tips
- Make sure your Facebook profile is clean!! No weird profile pictures!
- Important to make a good first impression.
  - Pictures showing you doing community service is good!
- Recruiters are using social media for character checks
- Clean up your timeline and interests section
- Try Google yourself / Bing Yourself (check images)
- Delete old accounts such as MySpace, Twitter accounts, and other social media. Have updated information up to date
- NASBA/AICPA – frequently posts relevant information for CPA examinations
- Get a LinkedIn Account and connect with professionals!
- Research your recruiter- show interest and be prepared with questions
- Facebook.com/beckerCPACali – Like us on fb!!

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