

# Don't Be That Exam Candidate:

## Misconduct and Prohibited Items During Testing

As a Uniform CPA Exam candidate, you know that reviewing the Exam tutorial and sample tests before taking the Exam is very important. But do you know that reading the Candidate Bulletin and knowing the regulations applicable to Exam candidates at Prometric Testing Centers are just as important?

While there are some obvious prohibited items and behaviors (cheating, bringing study material into the testing room, and communicating with other candidates during testing), there are some less obvious items and behaviors that are prohibited.

Did you know that you can't wear a watch or a fitness tracker in the testing room? Food and beverages aren't allowed in the testing room, either.

What about a phone purse, or wallet?

Those items aren't permitted in the testing rooms.

Boards of accountancy, NASBA, the AICPA, and Prometric have a number of measures in place to prevent and detect candidate misconduct and cheating.

All Exam sessions are audio/video recorded to document the occurrence of any unusual activity, and the test center staff is trained to watch for unusual behavior and incidents during the Exam. Candidate misconduct is reported to boards of accountancy daily.

Consequences of misconduct include, but are not limited to, a warning from test center staff, confiscation of the prohibited item (whether or not in use), expulsion from the test center, invalidation of Exam scores, and the pursuit of civil or criminal charges. Below are some recent incidents of misconduct reported to boards of accountancy by test center staff:

- Candidate arrived 45 minutes late for the Exam and was told he could not test. Candidate became belligerent and exhibited rude and unprofessional behavior (Disruptive and Rude Conduct).
- Candidate was checking in and was told his ID was expired. Because he was unable to provide another acceptable form of identification, he was told he could not test. Candidate became verbally abusive and used vulgar language with the test center staff (Disruptive and Abusive Conduct).
- During the routine search conducted during check-in, notes were found taped to the candidate's leg inside his socks (Prohibited Item and Conduct).
- Candidate took a break, went to her locker, retrieved her cell phone and made/received a call (Prohibited Conduct).
- Candidate decided to take a break and when he was asked to sign his correct name on the sign-out sheet, he used vulgar language and was verbally abusive to the test center staff (Disruptive and Abusive Conduct).
- Candidate took a break, went to his locker, removed review course notes and began reading them (Prohibited Conduct).

- Candidate concealed exam review notes in the waistband of her pants. She pulled them out and starting reading them (Prohibited Item and Conduct).
- When a candidate returned from break, the test center staff noticed a black object under her shirt collar; it was a Bluetooth device (Prohibited Item).
- Candidate began waving his scratch paper in the testing room and complaining that an item was missing on his Exam. Test center staff attempted to speak with him, but he continued to speak loudly, disrupting the testing room (Disruptive and Abusive Conduct).

Don't be that candidate whose test-day behavior ruins all your hard work. Reading the Candidate Bulletin (<https://nasba.org/exams/exam-resources/>) and reviewing the Prometric test center regulations and lists of prohibited and permitted items ([www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com)) can keep you out of trouble and on your path to becoming a CPA.

*Source: Activity Review, No. 07-2017, North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners*