



## **ROADMAP TO CPA SUCCESS**

03132025



This guide is intended for individuals who plan to take the International Qualification Examination (IQEX). The examination is offered via a network of test centers across the United States and its territories, as well as India, Nepal, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Philippines, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Bermuda.

Successful completion of the examination is one of the requirements for licensure through an established MRA by the participating states and territories (jurisdictions) of the United States. In order to take the examination, you must submit a current Letter of Good Standing form.

The IQEX covers ethics, professional and legal responsibilities, business law and taxation related specifically to U.S. accounting practice. The IQEX is not a substitute for the U.S. CPA Examination, and is used only to test areas related specifically to accounting practice in the U.S.. The IQEX currently uses an administration of the Uniform CPA Examination's Regulation (REG) section.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION. DO NOT DISCARD BEFORE RECEIVING YOUR EXAMINATION RESULTS.

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# INTRODUCTION



## LEARNING ABOUT THE PATH

## WHO ACCEPTS IQEX?

If your goal is to practice public accounting in the U.S., the following map illustrates the participating states and territories that are prepared to consider applications for certification or licensure from IQEX candidates.

Some states and territories require additional education and/or experience in conjunction with passing the IQEX. Refer to each individual state's rules and regulations for additional information regarding licensure applications based on IQEX qualifications.

## INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO QUALIFY AS A CPA ARE IDENTIFIED AS A CPA CANDIDATE.



Not Allowed

## **EXAMINATION PARTNERS**







## **American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)**

The AICPA is the largest national, professional organization for CPAs. The AICPA provides members with the resources, information and leadership that will enable them to provide valuable services, in the highest professional manner, to benefit the public as well as employers and clients. For the Uniform CPA Examination, the AICPA determines the content of the examination, prepares the examination questions, determines the method of scoring, prepares advisory scores and conducts statistical analyses of examination results.

## National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA)

The 55 U.S. and territorial Boards of Accountancy are the members of NASBA. NASBA exists to serve its members by providing numerous services that encourage common understanding and practices to promote uniformity across the country to facilitate interstate practice. NASBA takes on the role of a central clearinghouse where all jurisdictions submit information on eligible candidates and from which all jurisdictions receive advisory scores and other examination data.

## **Prometric**

Prometric is the global leader in technology-enabled testing and assessment services for information technology certification, academic admissions and professional licensure and certifications. Prometric operates a network of computer-based test centers around the world. Among its many clients are the professional licensure examinations for physicians, architects and pharmacists, as well as educational examinations such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).



## **EXAMINATION PROCESS**

Taking the examination involves a series of steps. While each Board of Accountancy has the right to develop its own laws and regulations, and there are variances in this process from state to state, the basic process may be explained as:

- 1. Apply to Take the Examination
- 2. Complete Payment of Examination Fees
- 3. Review the Tutorial and Sample Tests
- 4. Receive Your Notice to Schedule
- 5. Schedule Your Examination
- 6. Take Your Examination(s)
- 7. Receive Your Score Reports

There are numerous details that make up each step, and these are explained in the remaining sections of this guide. You will also find important information on the IQEX<u>website</u>. It is strongly recommended that you visit the website and familiarize yourself thoroughly with the information provided.



## PREPARING FOR THE CPA EXAM

## **BEGINNING THE JOURNEY**

## **PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION**

The best preparation for the International Qualification Examination is a thorough review of the content. NASBA does not endorse any specific review course or study materials.

## **Examination Content**

The IQEX uses an administration of the Uniform CPA Examination's Regulation section (REG). The examination covers ethics, professional and legal responsibilities, business law and taxation related specifically to U.S. accounting practice. The IQEX is not a substitute for the U.S. CPA Examination and is used only to test areas related specifically to accounting practice in the U.S. An Exam Blueprint has been created for the Regulation section of the Uniform CPA Examination. The blueprint provides greater clarity in the presentation of content, skills and related representative tasks that may be tested on the Exam.

Watch the features and functionality video for highlights of the exam software. You'll find various topics that discuss the functionality of tools, resources and navigation found in the IQEX.

IQEX Features and Functionality Video ->

IQEX Study Materials ->

Examination content, skills and representative tasks are provided in the Examination Blueprints. Make certain you review the Blueprints to learn about the specific topics tested.

## **Prometric's Test Drive**

Prometric offers the test takers of select exams the opportunity to take a 30-minute "dry-run" of the test center experience prior to their exam when the test center has available appointments. The program, called Test Drive, allows candidates to walk through, on a practice basis, all check-in and testing procedures that occur at the test center on test day. For more information, please visit Prometric.com/TestDrive.

## **Sample Test and Tutorial**

To familiarize yourself with the examination's functionality, format and directions, you are advised to review the examination tutorial and sample test for Regulation available at <u>aicpa.org</u>. Failure to follow the directions provided in the tutorial and sample test, including the directions on how to respond, might adversely affect your score.

The sample test will provide you with a preview of the examination experience. The tutorial is a guided tour of the IQEX that will demonstrate the functionality of question types, tools, resources and navigation found in the examination. It is a functional replica of the examination, and provides you an opportunity to become familiar with the examination's format in an interactive environment. You are advised to familiarize yourself with the exam functionality demonstrated in the tutorial before you review the sample test. The sample test software allows you to answer test questions that represent all of the question types found on the IQEX including multiple choice questions (MCQ) and task-based simulations (TBS). The sample test does provide answers to sample questions but is not intended for use as study material in preparation for the examination. Neither the tutorial nor the sample test will be available at the test centers.

You are responsible for reviewing the tutorial and sample test. Before the beginning of the examination session, you must attest to the fact that you have had the opportunity to review the tutorial and sample test, as well as the Candidate Bulletin. This requirement is intended to ensure that before you report to the test center, you are knowledgeable about the examination process, and thoroughly familiar with examination functionality, format and directions. Failure to follow the directions provided in the tutorial and sample test, including the directions on how to respond, may adversely affect your score.

Take the sample test to become familiar with typical multiple-choice questions and task-based simulations, as well as with the software that is used for the Examination.

IQEX Sample Test ->

## APPLYING FOR THE CPA EXAM

## TAKING THE FIRST STEP

## **APPLYING FOR THE EXAMINATION**

We have established Mutual Recognition Agreements with the following professional associations that enable you to qualify for the IQEX:

- <u>CPA Australia</u>
- <u>Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ)</u>
- <u>CPA Canada (CPAC)</u>
- <u>Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI)</u>
- <u>CPA Ireland</u>
- Instituto Mexicano de Contadores Publicos (IMCP)
- South African Institute of Chartered Accountants

### **The Application Process**

Candidates must submit an application each time they want to sit for the IQEX. Once the application has been processed, a Notice to Schedule (NTS) will be issued that will be valid for six months. Candidates are advised to not submit an application unless they are prepared to sit within that timeframe. Fees are not refundable.

The application is available online at <u>nasba.org</u>. The first step in the application process is to create an online user account. Registering for a user account will allow you to apply for the examination, maintain your current information and view your scores.

The name on your application must appear exactly the same as it appears on the identification you plan to take to the testing center. If the names do not match, you will not be admitted to the examination center and your fees will be forfeited. If your official government ID (i.e passport) does not indicate a surname or given name, please input NoLastName or NoFirstName on your application.

Testing centers fill quickly. Do not expect to be able to test at the end of the testing window. Testing space at the end of the window fills more quickly than space at the beginning of the window. Failure to schedule your examination will result in all fees being forfeited. Fees are not refundable.

To have the best chance of scheduling on your preferred date and at your preferred testing center, schedule your examination early. Your application and Letter of Good Standing must be received before your NTS will be released.



## **Evidence of Qualification**

Every candidate must request a Letter of Good Standing, to be submitted directly from his or her professional credentialing institution, to document his or her qualifications. Forms for the Letter of Good Standing can be found on the <u>IQEX website</u> under the applicable professional associations. Below are a few key facts for the evidence of qualification.

- The Letter of Good Standing must be received before the NTS can be released.
- These letters will be kept on file for one year. After that time, a new Letter of Good Standing will be required for future applications.
- For additional information regarding qualification requirements, please visit *nasba.org*.

The Letter of Good Standing must be submitted directly from your institute and can be sent to the following:

Email: iqex@nasba.org

NASBA Attn: IQEX 150 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 700 Nashville, TN 37219

Please, only use one of the listed methods. Do not send multiple copies of your Letter of Good Standing.

### **Refund Policy**

Examination fees are not refundable and cannot be transferred to future examinations. Remember your NTS includes an expiration date. If your NTS expires prior to your taking the examination, or you fail to attend your scheduled testing appointment, you will not be able to reschedule or receive a refund on any of the fees you have paid and you will have to reapply for a future examination and pay the appropriate examination fee.

### **Rescinded Eligibility**

If NASBA informs you that you are not eligible to take the IQEX because of changes in education requirements, candidate misconduct, or other reasons, your NTS will be canceled. You will receive a copy of a canceled NTS. If you have not scheduled an appointment, you do not need to take any other action. If you have scheduled an appointment, NASBA will contact Prometric to cancel your appointment and rescind your eligibility. In the event that you are no longer eligible to take the examination, you will not receive a refund of any examination fee.

### **Testing Accommodations**

NASBA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, including changes made by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) and related regulations. To ensure equal opportunity for all qualified persons, NASBA will make reasonable accommodations for applicants with disabilities. NASBA will not pay for any costs you may incur in obtaining the required diagnosis and recommendation; however, we will pay for reasonable testing accommodations that are approved and granted by NASBA.

The IQEX Testing Accommodations Request form is available to download from NASBA's web site at nasba. org. This form and the required medical documentation must be submitted to request accommodations on the examination. For additional information regarding the accommodations application process, see the IQEX Testing Accommodations form.

# RECEIVING YOUR NOTICE TO SCHEULE



## YOUR KEY TO THE EXAM

## **RECEIVE YOUR NOTICE TO SCHEDULE**

Once your application has been processed, you have paid all fees and you have been determined to be eligible to take the IQEX, a Notice to Schedule (NTS) will be issued to you. Each NTS will be valid for six months from the date it is issued. This time period will include some non-testing time. See the information on testing windows for additional information.

It typically takes up to seven (7) days to process an NTS once your application and Letter of Good Standing have been received. You will receive an email when your NTS has been issued. At that time, you will need to create a NASBA Candidate account to access your NTS. If you do not receive your NTS, you can reprint it with your online user account at <u>https://dashboard.nasba.org</u>. You will not be able to schedule an examination appointment or take the examination without a valid NTS.

When you receive the NTS, verify that all information is correct. Be certain that the name appearing on the NTS matches exactly the name on the identification documents that you will use during check-in at the testing center. If your official government ID (i.e passport) does not indicate a surname or given name, please input NoLastName or NoFirstName on your application. This is a standard operating procedure with CPA Examination Services and Prometric testing centers. If the information is incorrect or the ID and NTS do not match, immediately contact NASBA to request a correction.

An NTS is valid for six months from the date it is issued. You must schedule and take the examination during this time. After this time, your NTS will expire and all fees will be forfeited. If you do not take the examination before the NTS expires, you will not be able to extend it, apply it to the next examination, or receive a refund of any of the fees you have paid.



## SCHEDULING YOUR CPA EXAM

# SITTING FOR THE EXAM

## **SCHEDULE YOUR EXAMINATION**

Quarter	REG (IQEX) Test Dates	Core Score Reports
24Q2	April 1 - June 25	August 1
24Q3July 1 - September 25November 1		November 1
24Q4 October 1 - December 26 Early February		Early February 2025

- Scores will still be released in waves. You can find the AICPA scheduled score release information here: <u>https://www.aicpa.org/becomeacpa/cpaexam/psychometricsandscoring/test-windows-score-release.html.</u>
- The Exam section ID listed on your NTS is only valid for one testing event or until the NTS expires.
- You cannot use the same section ID to schedule multiple appointments with continuous testing.
- You cannot use the same section ID to schedule a new appointment after you received a failing score.
- You cannot apply for a new NTS if you think you already failed the exam in order to book a new appointment before receiving your score.
- It will take at least 72 hours after you receive your score before you would be able to re-register for the same section.
- Once you receive your new NTS, you can schedule the exam for the next available testing date.
- The only limitations on how many times you can take a section is the time it takes to receive a score, reregister, obtain the new NTS and find an available testing date.
- Once you receive your new NTS, you can schedule the exam for the next available testing date.
- The only limitations on how many times you can take a section is the time it takes to receive a score, reregister, obtain the new NTS and find an available testing date.

## **SCHEDULE EARLY**

You should schedule your examination appointments as soon as possible after you receive your NTS. You must schedule your examination appointment at least five days in advance of the test date. To increase the likelihood that you receive your first choice of date, time and location, you should schedule at least 45 days before the desired test date(s). You must take each examination section within the time period for which an NTS is valid (before it expires). Your Board of Accountancy, NASBA and Prometric are not responsible if you cannot schedule an appointment before a deadline expires in your jurisdiction.











## **Testing Centers**

You will be allowed to take the examination in the United States and its territories, as well as India, Nepal, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Brazil, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Bermuda; at any one of the authorized Prometric test centers. Test centers move, new ones are opened and some close from time to time. The most current list of test centers may be found on the Prometric Web site at *prometric.com/cpa*.

## **Schedule your Examination Appointments**

Before you make your appointment, you must have received your NTS. Additionally, be ready to identify the dates, times and locations where you want to take the examination.

You should schedule your examination appointment as soon as possible after you receive your NTS to increase the likelihood that you will receive your first choice of date, time and location. You must schedule your examination appointment at least five days in advance of the test date. NASBA and Prometric are not responsible if you cannot schedule an appointment before the expiration date of your NTS.

When scheduling your examination appointments through Prometric you will be asked to accept the Data Privacy Notice. For more information and a copy of our full Privacy Policy, please visit <u>www.prometric.com/privacy-policy</u>.

No appointment may be made for any examination fewer than five days in advance of the desired test date. For example, if you call or use the Internet on Monday to schedule an appointment, the first available date will be Saturday of the same week. Walk-in appointments are not permitted. Please note that candidates with testing accommodations must schedule at least 10 days in advance of the desired test date.

After you have made an appointment for the examination, you may find it necessary to change (re-schedule) or cancel your appointment. Be aware that you may be required to pay a re-scheduling or cancellation fee or forfeit your examination fee, depending on when you notify Prometric of the change.

## **Conduct and Non-Disclosure Agreement**

Effective January 4, 2023, the ACIPA will require acceptance of a Uniform CPA Examination Conduct and Non-Disclosure Agreement as part of the Exam scheduling process through Prometric. This agreement outlines a code of conduct for maintaining the secrecy and confidentiality of the Exam Content.



## **Options for Scheduling**

### Online (prometric.com/cpa)

You will find the easiest and quickest way to schedule an examination appointment (as well as reschedule and cancel an appointment, if necessary) is on the web site. Using the Internet provides you 24-hour access to scheduling and avoids any "on hold" waiting time. Because of this, you have the quickest and most direct access to preferred dates and test center locations. Additionally, you will instantly receive a detailed confirmation of your appointment (on screen and via e-mail).

The International Qualification Examination is listed under the Uniform CPA Examination program on Prometric's web site.

Before you begin, you must have your NTS in front of you. You will be required to provide information from the NTS.

#### Prometric's Candidate Services Call Center (800-864-8080)

Prometric's Candidate Services Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. (Hearing-impaired candidates using teletypewriter [TTY] may call 800-529-3590 to schedule appointments.)

Before you call, you must have your NTS in front of you. You will be required to provide the customer service representative with information from the NTS.

You will not receive written confirmation of your appointment. Be sure to write down the date, time, location and confirmation number for your appointment. We strongly encourage you to visit prometric.com/cpa to print a confirmation of your appointment. If you need directions to the test center, ask the customer service representative at the time you make your appointment. There are multiple test centers in some metropolitan areas; be sure you are certain of the correct test center location where you are scheduled to take your examination.

## **Options in Guam**

IQEX is currently offered in Guam. In order to qualify to take the IQEX in Guam, you must establish your eligibility to take the IQEX. Once you have been found eligible as an IQEX candidate you would only need to select Guam as your testing location when scheduling your exam though Prometric's website. The Examination is only offered in English, and is the same computerized test as the one administered in the U.S.

## **Options at International Locations**

IQEX is currently offered in select international locations, as listed on the <u>IQEX website</u>. In order to qualify to take the IQEX in international locations, you must establish your eligibility to take the IQEX. Once you have been found eligible as an IQEX candidate you would only need to select an international testing location when scheduling their exam though Prometric's website. The Examination is only offered in English, and is the same computerized test as the one administered in the U.S.

## **Pre-approved Testing Accommodations**

You can request accommodations by submitting the IQEX Testing Accommodations Form which is available to download from the IQEX page of <u>nasba.org</u>.

If NASBA has approved you for testing accommodations, information regarding the nature of the accommodation will be sent to you by email. The type of accommodation will also be shown on your NTS and will be sent to Prometric. Neither you nor the Prometric phone representative may make any changes to the accommodations that have been approved. When you receive your NTS, if you believe that the accommodations are incorrect, you must contact NASBA before proceeding.

After scheduling your appointment online or by phone, you will receive an email confirmation of the appointment from Prometric. If scheduling by phone, be sure to write down the date, time, location and the confirmation number for your appointment. Check the email confirmation to verify that the information you were provided matches the information included in the email. If you need directions to the test center, either check online or call and ask a Prometric phone representative. There are multiple test centers in some metropolitan areas; be sure to review the email confirmation, so that you are certain of the correct test center location where you are scheduled to take your examination.

## NOTICE

- You may schedule your IQEX appointment online using Prometric's online scheduling tool (www.prometric.com/CPA) or by phone (call Prometric Testing Accommodations at 1-800-967-1139 to speak to a Testing Accommodations Advocate).
- Before you call Prometric to schedule, you must have your NTS in front of you.
- You will be required to provide the phone representative with information from the NTS.
- Please be aware that for some accommodations, you must schedule the examination at least 14 days in advance of the date that you intend to test.
- • Do not call the Prometric Testing Accommodations department unless you have been pre-approved for testing accommodations by NASBA.



## **Changes to Appointments**

### **RE-SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT**

If you are unable to appear for your appointment and want to change to a different date, time or location, you are required to re-schedule using one of the methods below. If you fail to re-schedule using one of the methods below, you will be marked as a "no-show" and you will forfeit your examination fee.

You may reschedule an existing appointment by one of two methods:

#### On the Internet

Use Prometric's web scheduling tool located at prometric.com/cpa. The system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You must have your confirmation number available from your original appointment.

#### Prometric's Candidate Services Call Center

Call 800-864-8080. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You will not receive written confirmation of your appointment. Be sure to write down the date, time, location and confirmation number for your appointment. We strongly encourage you to visit prometric.com/cpa to print a confirmation of your appointment.

Candidates with testing accommodations must call 800-967-1139 to re-schedule. Candidates using a teletypewriter (TTY) should call 800-529-3590.

### **CANCEL AN APPOINTMENT**

If you are unable to appear for your appointment and want to cancel your appointment without re-scheduling, you are required to cancel using one of the methods below. If you fail to cancel your appointment and do not attend, you will be marked as a "no-show" and you will forfeit your examination fees. If you cancel your appointment, you can later schedule a new appointment provided your NTS has not expired.

If you need to cancel your appointment and do not wish to reschedule, you will not receive a refund of the examination fee you have paid. If you do not appear for your appointment, you will not receive a refund of the examination fee you have paid.

You may cancel an existing appointment by one of two methods:

#### On the Internet

Use Prometric's Internet scheduling tool located at prometric.com/cpa. The system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We strongly encourage you to print, and keep for your records, the confirmation of the change.

#### Prometric's Candidate Services Call Center

Call 800-864-8080. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You will NOT receive a written confirmation of the cancellation. We strongly encourage you to visit prometric.com/cpa to confirm the change.

Candidates with testing accommodations must call 800-967-1139 to cancel. Candidates using a teletypewriter (TTY) should call 800-529-3590 to cancel an appointment.

## **Test Center Closings**

If severe weather or a local emergency requires a test center to be closed, every attempt will be made to contact you. However, if you are unsure if your test center is open on the date of your examination, you may call the local test center directly or call Prometric's Candidate Services Call Center at 800-864-8080, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Test center closures are listed and updated at prometric.com/sitestatus.

If the test center is closed, Prometric's Outbound Team will contact you to assist in rescheduling your appointment without penalty.

If the center is open, it is your responsibility to keep the appointment, provided your safety and well-being are not at risk. If the center is open, but you cannot attend due to outages or safety or travel concerns, etc., contact NASBA via email at candidatecare@nasba.org and provide the following information:

- Your name as it appears on your NTS
- Name of the section and the section ID printed on your NTS
- Appointment date
- Test center location
- · A detailed outline of the circumstances which prevented you from attending the appointment
- Documentation of the weather conditions in the affected area (attach a weather report or travel advisory)
- Current NTS expiration date

NASBA's Candidate Care Department will work on your behalf to assist in the rescheduling process.



## **Rescheduling/Cancellation Fees**

	You will pay	
If you call this many days before your scheduled appointment	this fee to Prometric to make a change to the scheduled appointment.	Example
60+ days before your scheduled appointment	\$0.00	You have scheduled an appointment to take IQEX on August 18 at 8:00 a.m.
		On June 16, you realize that you have a conflict on August 18. You contact Prometric to reschedule.
		Because you rescheduled more than 60 days before the scheduled appointment, you will not have to pay a fee to reschedule. You may reschedule to a date before or after August 18; however, it must be before the expiration date of your NTS and you cannot reschedule to a date within five days of when you do the rescheduling (e.g., June 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21).
31- 60 days before your	\$30.00	You have an appointment to take IQEX on October 3.
scheduled appointment		On September 1, you realize you won't be able to take your examination on October 3 and you contact Prometric to reschedule.
		Because you rescheduled within the 31-60-day window, you will be required to pay \$30.00 to make a change to either the date, time or test center where you will take the IQEX. You may reschedule to a date either before or after October 3; however, it must be before the expiration date of your NTS and you cannot reschedule to a date less than five days of when you do the rescheduling.
5- 30 days before your	\$60.00	You have an appointment to take IQEX on March 31.
scheduled appointment		On March 3, you realize you won't be able to take your examination on March 31 and you contact Prometric to reschedule.
		Because you rescheduled within the 5-30 day window, you will be required to pay \$60.00 to make a change to either the date, time or test center where you will take the IQEX. You may reschedule to a date either before or after March 31; however, it must be before the expiration date of your NTS and you cannot reschedule to a date within five (5) days of when you do the rescheduling.
Less than 5 days and up to 24 hours	\$90.88	You have made an appointment to take IQEX on October 18 at 1:00 pm.
before the time of the scheduled appointment (based on local time for		On October 14 at 1:01 pm, you contact Prometric to change the date of the appointment to October 19, which is before the expiration of your NTS.
the testing center). If less than 24 hours, all fees are forfeited, and you must reapply. <i>NOTE: Candidates with</i>		Because you contacted Prometric after 1:00 pm less than 5 days before the originally scheduled appointment, you are required to pay \$90.88 to make the scheduled change. You will not be able to reschedule to a date and time earlier than the original appointment time, but you may rescheduled to a date and dime on or after October
NOTE: Candidates with extreme circumstances may request an exception to policy through their board or CPAES. Additional fees may apply.		19; however, it must be before the expiration date of you NTS.

## TAKING YOUR EXAMINATION

# KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT

## **TAKING YOUR EXAMINATION**

## **Arrive Early**

Arrive at the test center at least 30 minutes before the scheduled appointment time for your examination. This allows time to sign in, have your identification checked, review the security and test center policies and be seated at your workstation. Arriving for your scheduled testing appointment anytime after the scheduled start time may result in your being denied permission to test; you will not receive a refund. To avoid forfeiting all fees for the examination, arrive at least 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. You will not be admitted into the test center without your NTS and you will forfeit your examination fees.

## **Identification**

The IQEX employs very strict security measures. One level of security involves your identification. The same form of your name must appear on your application, NTS and on the identification you present at the test center. Do not change the spelling and do not change the order of your name on your application or when making your appointment. If your name is different from your identifications at check-in, you will not be permitted to test.

If your official government ID (i.e passport) does not indicate a surname or given name, please input NoLastName or NoFirstName on your application.

When you arrive to take your examination, you are required to present one form of identification, which must contain a recent photograph. As a precaution, it is encouraged to bring two forms of ID. Each form of identification must bear your signature and must not be expired. If you do not present acceptable identification, you will not be allowed to take your examination and you will forfeit your examination fees.

### **Primary Forms of Identification**

You must present one of the following primary forms of identification:

- Valid (not expired) driver's license with photo and signature issued by one of the 50 U.S. states or by a U.S. territory
- Valid (not expired) driver's license with photo and signature issued by a foreign government authority, that is printed in English to the extent necessary to compare the candidate's name with the one on the NTS and confirm that it is a valid driver's license (Examples are driver's licenses issued by Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, British authorities and from countries that retain English as an official language)
- Valid (not expired) passport with photo and signature issued by the U.S.
- Valid (not expired) government issued passport (for non-US citizens) that has the candidate's name exactly matching the name that appears on the candidate's NTS. If your official government ID (i.e passport) does not indicate a surname or given name, please input NoLastName or NoFirstName on your application.
- Valid state identification card issued by one of the 50 U.S. states or by a U.S. territory (candidates who do not drive may have an identification card issued by the agency that also issues driver's licenses).

### **Secondary Forms of Identification**

Secondary forms of identification must include candidate's signature. Acceptable forms of secondary identification include:

- · An additional government issued identification from the above listing
- · Valid credit card
- Bank automated teller machine card (ATM)
- Bank Debit Card

#### **Unacceptable Forms of Identification**

- Draft classification card
- Social Security card
- Student identification card
- United States permanent residency card (green card)

If the test center staff has questions about the identification presented, you may be asked for additional proof of identity. You may be refused access to an examination and forfeit the examination fee if the staff believes that you have not proven your identity. Admittance to the test center and examination does not imply that your identification is valid or that your score will be reported if subsequent investigations reveal impersonation or forgery.

## At the Test Center

The staff at each test center has been trained in the procedures specific to the IQEX. Center personnel will guide you through the steps that have been developed by NASBA and the AICPA.

- You must arrive at the test center at least 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment. If you arrive after your scheduled appointment time, you may forfeit your appointment and examination fee. Arrive early and be sure to have your correct NTS and required identification. You will not be admitted to the examination without the correct NTS and required identification.
- Your examination should begin within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time. If circumstances arise, other than candidate error, which delay your session more than 30 minutes, you will be given the choice of continuing to wait or rescheduling your appointment.
- 3. You must place personal belongings, such as a purse or cell phone, in the storage lockers provided by the test center. You will be given the key to your locker which must be returned to the test center staff when you leave. The lockers are very small and are not intended to hold large items. Do not bring anything to the test center unless it is absolutely necessary. Test center personnel will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.
- 4. You may bring soft, foam earplugs with no strings attached for your use. TCAs will inspect the earplugs.
- Your ID will be scanned/swiped in the combined magnetic strip and 2D barcode reader. The ID will then be placed on a flatbed scanner which captures an electronic image of the photo ID and uses optical character recognition (OCR) to compare printed and encoded data.
- 6. You will have a digital photograph taken of your face. Note: A photograph is required to test.
- 7. All candidates will be scanned via hand-held metal detector wand prior to each entry into the test room, including returns from breaks. Candidates will be required to turn their pockets out, and the scan will be done immediately afterward.
- 8. A biometric fingerprint-capturing system will be used and is required to test. You will also be asked to provide a fingerprint before and after breaks. If for physical/medical reasons your fingerprint will not be available, you must contact NASBA to request Testing Accommodations prior to your exam appointment.
- 9. Scratch paper and pencils will be provided. You will be directed to write your examination Launch Code (from your NTS) on your scratch paper. You will be required to return the scratch paper and pencils to the test center staff when your examination is complete. If you need additional writing space, you may request additional scratch paper from the test center staff, but you must first turn in the original scratch paper you received in order to get a new supply.
- 10. A calculator will be provided. A separate calculator will not be provided and you may not bring a calculator.
- 11. You will be escorted to a workstation by test center staff. You must remain in your seat during the examination, except when authorized to get up and leave the testing room.

## **Introductory Examination Screens**

You should be aware that once you enter your Launch Code, the subsequent introductory examination screens operate under a 5-minute time limit and you must move through the introductory screens quickly. If the 5-minute time limit is exceeded, the session will automatically terminate and it will not be possible to restart the examination. In this case, you must leave the test center, forfeit fees, reapply to test in the next test window, and receive a score of 0.

While there is adequate time to review the screens and respond, there is not time for you to take notes, leave the testing room, or do anything other than reading and responding to the screens.

After you enter your Launch Code, proceed through the introductory screens and start the examination, the computer screen will display a countdown timer at the top of the screen which will let you know the time remaining as you work through the examination. Plan your time so that you do not use your time up early in the examination and do not have enough time later in the examination. The Prometric test center appointment time includes examination testing time plus 30 minutes. The additional 30 minutes is allocated to the examination login, the candidate survey at the end of the examination and standardized break. It is not additional testing time; you will only be given four (4) hours to take the examination.

If you are a Testing Accommodations candidate and have been approved for extra time, please refer to your accommodation letter for the actual length of your examination.

## **Time Allotted to Take the Examination**

Thirty minutes will be added to your examination session so that you can complete the sign-in process and survey without infringing on your examination time. Therefore, your confirmation notice will reflect examination time plus 30 minutes. This will not increase your examination time. If you have been approved for testing accommodations with extra time, please refer to your accommodation letter for the actual length of your examination.

The computer screen will have a count-down timer which will let you know the time remaining as you work through the examination. Plan your time so that you do not use your time up early in the examination and do not have enough time later in the examination. Prometric test center appointments are for 30 minutes longer than the length of the examination to allow you time to enter your examination section identification number and complete the candidate survey at the end of the examination. However, you will only be given four (4) hours to actually take the examination (including breaks). If you have been approved for testing accommodations with extra time please refer to your accommodation letter for the actual length of your examination.

## **Breaks**

Each examination section contains units known as testlets. Each testlet is comprised of either a group of multiplechoice questions, a group of condensed case studies (known as task-based simulations). After indicating that you have completed a testlet, you will be presented with the option to take a break. You will receive this option between testlets. If you choose to take a break, you will be asked to leave the testing room quietly. You will be asked for a fingerprint to verify your identification prior to and upon returning from your break. The test center staff will confirm you have completed the testlet prior to your break. Breaks are considered a part of the testing process, so the testing clock will continue to run during breaks.

You do not have to take a break. The clock will keep running during the break. Therefore, it is recommended that you use break time wisely. When you return from a break, you will be required to enter your Launch Code in order to continue the examination. Note that breaks lasting more than ten minutes will be reported.

In addition to the optional breaks between testlets, which count against your testing time, you will be offered a

standardized, 15-minute break approximately midway through the Exam. This break will not count against your testing time. The Examination clock will pause for the standardized break after the first TBS testlet is completed. You may choose to decline the standardized break and continue testing but this break will not be offered again. If you choose to take the break, you will be required to leave the testing room and adhere to all security protocols. If you do not return and start the second TBS testlet prior to the expiration of the 15 minutes, the Examination clock will restart.

You will not be allowed to take a break at any other time during the examination. If you leave the testing room at any time, without exiting the testlet and selecting the break option, you will not be allowed to return to the testing room. Information regarding your absence will be reported.

## **Examination Specifications**

The examination is comprised of two (2) multiple choice question (MCQ) testlets consisting of a total of 76 questions and three testlets consisting of a total of eight (8) task based simulations (TBS). The examination is offered in English only. IQEX is a "non-disclosed" examination, which means that the questions and answers are not released after the examination has been given. Each candidate answers a predetermined set of questions; to help protect the integrity of the examination, candidates do not answer all the same questions.

### **Multiple-Choice Test Questions**

The multiple-choice portions of the examination are administered to you in a series of testlets. Testlets are groups of questions that are constructed to appear together. Each examination section will include two multiple-choice testlets.

### **Task-Based Simulations**

Task-based simulations are condensed case studies that test accounting knowledge and skills using real life, work-related situations. All task-based simulations are intended to assess knowledge and skills that are appropriate for an entry-level accountant.

### **Pretest Items**

Pretest items are used to develop future examinations; they are NOT used in computing examination scores. Each testlet, whether it be comprised of multiple-choice questions or task-based simulations, may include pretest items.

The instructions at the beginning of the examination state: "Some of the multiple-choice questions and task-based simulations you will receive, are pretest items. These items do not count toward your final score. You will not know which items are scored and which are pretest items."

## **Authoritative Literature**

While completing the task-based simulations, you will use taxation databases, which include certain portions of the Internal Revenue Code, as well as certain portions of the professional standards issued by the AICPA and the PCAOB. As it relates to the task-based simulations, the databases will be updated periodically, and updates will be communicated to candidates through the AICPA website. In a rare situation, a recent change in the Internal Revenue Code may impact the task-based simulation. In those situations, you should answer the task-based simulation using the database provided.

### **Examination Confidentiality Policy**

Before you begin your examination, you will be required to accept the terms stated in the "Policy Statement and Agreement Regarding Exam Confidentiality and the Taking of Breaks". If you do not accept the statement, your test will be terminated and your test fees will be forfeited. You can find information regarding this policy here: https://www.prometric.com/sites/default/files/TestCenterRegulations.pdf.

## **Test Center Regulations**

A standardized environment is necessary to ensure that the examination you take is essentially equivalent to the examination all other IQEX candidates take. For this reason, all candidates must follow the same regulations.

#### **Prohibited Items**

Grounds for confiscation of a prohibited item and warning the candidate include possession of any prohibited item (whether or not in use) inside, or while entering or exiting the testing room – including when on break.

## Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- × Books
- × Briefcase
- × Calculator/Portable Computer
- Calculator Watch
- \* Camera, Photographic or Scanning Device (still or video)
- Cellular Phone
- Cigarette/Tobacco Product
- Container of any kind
- Dictionary
- × Earphone
- × Eraser
- Eyeglass Case
- \* Food or Beverage
- Handbag/Backpack/Hip Pack
- × Coats
- \* Hat or Visor (except head coverings worn for religious reasons)
- \* Headset or Audio Earmuffs (other than those provided by the Testing Center)
- \* Jewelry Pendant Necklace or Large Earrings
- Newspaper or Magazine
- × Non-Prescription Sunglasses
- × Notebook
- Notes in any written form
- × Organizer / Day Planner
- × Outline
- Pager / Beeper
- Paper (not provided by Test Center)
- Pen / Pencil (not provided by Test Center)
- Pencil Sharpener
- \* Personal Digital Assistant or Other Electronic Device
- Plastic Bag
- × Purse/Wallet
- **×** Radio/Transmitter/Receiver
- Ruler/Slide Ruler
- Study Material
- × Tape/Disk Recorder or Player
- × Umbrella
- × Watch
- \* Weapon of any kind

You can find a list of permissible items here: <u>https://www.prometric.com/test-owners/resources/testing-accommodations-pre-approved-items</u>.

### Candidate Misconduct, Cheating, Copyright Infringement

NASBA and the AICPA take candidate misconduct, including cheating on the International Qualification Examination, very seriously. If NASBA determines that a candidate is culpable of misconduct or has cheated, the candidate will be subject to a variety of penalties including, but not limited to, invalidation of scores, disqualification from subsequent examination administrations and civil and criminal penalties. In cases where candidate misconduct or cheating is discovered after a candidate has obtained a CPA license or certificate, a board of accountancy may rescind the license or certificate.

NASBA, the AICPA and Prometric use a variety of procedures to prevent candidate misconduct and cheating on the examination. Test center staff is trained to watch for unusual behavior and incidents during the examination. In addition, all examination sessions are audio/videotaped to document the occurrence of any unusual activity and candidate misconduct is reported to NASBA on a daily basis.

All examination materials are owned and copyrighted by the AICPA. Any reproduction and/or distribution of examination materials, including memorization, without the express written authorization of the AICPA, are prohibited. This behavior infringes on the legal rights of the AICPA and, in addition to the penalties listed above, the AICPA will take appropriate legal action when any copyright infringements have occurred.

By applying for the CPA Examination, you agree to not engage in unauthorized assistance or collaboration on the Uniform CPA Exam, by giving unauthorized assistance to another person or receiving unauthorized assistance from another person, including in connection with preparing for the exam.

If the test center staff suspects misconduct, a warning will be given to the candidate for any of the following situations:

- · Communicating, orally or otherwise, with another candidate or person
- Copying from or looking at another candidate's materials or workstation
- Allowing another candidate to copy from or look at materials or workstation
- · Giving or receiving assistance in answering examination questions or problems
- Reading examination questions aloud
- Engaging in conduct that interferes with the administration of the examination or unnecessarily disturbing staff or other candidates

Unauthorized assistance includes providing information to another person, or receiving information from another person, about the exam, exam content, questions, and/or answers."

#### **Grounds for Dismissal**

If you engage in misconduct or do not follow the test center regulations, the test center staff may dismiss you from the examination or you may have your score canceled by NASBA. The following are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated during the examination:

- · Repeating acts of misconduct after receiving prior warning(s)
- Removing, or attempting to remove, examination questions from the testing room by any means
- · Copying, writing or summarizing examination questions on any material other than the noteboard issued to you
- Tampering with computer software or hardware, or attempting to use a computer for any reason other than completing the examination session
- · Intentional refusal or failure to comply with instructions of the test center staff
- · Conduct that may threaten bodily harm or damage to property

## **Reporting Examination Concerns**

### **During Your Examination Session**

Report equipment/functionality issues to test center staff without delay.

#### After Completing Your Examination

If you feel that the circumstances surrounding your test administration prevented you from performing at a level consistent with your knowledge and skills; or, if you have a question or concern about the test, you must notify NASBA no later than seven (7) days from the date of your examination to document your concern.

You may notify NASBA using any one of the methods below.

- By E-mail: candidatecare@nasba.org
- By Telephone: 866-MY-NASBA (866-696-2722)
- By Fax: 615-880-4225
- By U.S. Mail: NASBA
  - IQEX 150 Fourth Avenue North, Ste 700 Nashville, TN 37219

#### **To Report Cheating**

If you witnessed a candidate cheating or believe a test center employee acted improperly, contact Prometric's security department at 800-347-3781.

#### To Report a Test Center Issue

If you experienced a problem at the testing center, contact Prometric's Customer Care at 800-853-6769.

#### **Comments about the Content of Examination Questions**

If you believe you have identified a problem with a question, you should fax your comments to the AICPA Examination Team at 609-671-2922, Attn: IQEX. Your fax should include the precise nature of your concern, the rationale, and, if possible, references. Do NOT include the exact wording or attempt to outline the multiple-choice question or task-based simulation. Rather, provide enough information to allow the AICPA to identify the item; for example – "multiple-choice question number 18 in the second "testlet" or "the Interest Expense tab in the first task-based simulation."

Your fax must be received by the AICPA within 4 days of testing to ensure that all comments are received and reviewed in time for scoring. Be sure to include your examination section identification number in your fax.

The AICPA reviews every fax received by the deadline; however, the AICPA is unable to respond directly to candidates.

## **IQEX Data Processing (Personal Information May Be Processed As Follows)**

National ID numbers, including social security numbers (collectively "National ID Numbers"), may be used only for verifying your identify and detecting and investigating fraudulent activity and compliance with applicable mandatory legal requirements. Access to National ID numbers is restricted to employees, agents, service providers and government entities with a need to access them for these purposes, and reasonable efforts shall be made to protect National ID numbers from unlawful disclosure and keep them confidential by maintaining physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with applicable regulations.

All other Personal Information may be used as follows:

- 1. By NASBA for purposes of facilitating the application process for licensure with State Boards, investigating any suspected fraudulent or inappropriate activity, and verifying and tracking your licensure status;
- By NASBA or the State Boards for the purpose of determining your eligibility to sit for the Test and obtain a CPA license;
- 3. By NASBA, Prometric and AICPA for administration and operational purposes (e.g., in relation to attendance at exams, communicating results, Test times and other details);
- 4. By NASBA or State Boards for helping NASBA and State Boards to track your license status;
- 5. For verifying compliance with NASBA, the AICPA and Prometric Test-taking and application policies;
- 6. For backing up records to prepare for events that may make it difficult for NASBA, the AICPA or Prometric to access original copies of your Personal Information;
- 7. For helping NASBA, the AICPA, State Boards and Prometric comply with contractual, legal or regulatory obligations;
- 8. For NASBA, AICPA, State Boards and Prometric's detection and investigation of fraudulent activity;
- 9. For AICPA, NASBA or Prometric's business management purposes.

Prometric, NASBA, the State Boards and the AICPA may transfer your Personal Information to each other to carry out the purposes described above. Your Personal Information may be exported to the US for the purpose of processing your application, including scheduling your Test. The United States and other countries may not provide a level of data protection equivalent to the level of data protection of EU Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.



## RECEIVING SCORES TO THE CPA EXAM

## **NO TURNING BACK**

## **RECEIVE YOUR SCORES**

After the Examination, candidate responses are forwarded to the AICPA for scoring. The AICPA does not receive nor have access to candidate identities. The responses are identified by the examination section identification number only. When advisory scores become available, the AICPA forwards them to NASBA. Scores are then matched to individual candidates.

Please note that scores are NOT released in a specific order, and the scores of candidates who test on the same day may be reported at different times during the scoring cycle.

Scores are reported on a numeric scale of 0-99, with 75 as a passing score. This scale does NOT represent "percent correct." A score of 75 reflects examination performance that has been judged to represent the knowledge and skills needed to practice competently in the U.S.

For more information about scoring, visit *Psychometrics and Scoring*.

## **Score Release Timeline**

Advisory scores and performance information are sent by the AICPA to NASBA. The AICPA does not provide score information to candidates. For more information about the score release timeline, visit <u>Score Release FAQs</u>. Scores notices will be released via the NASBA Candidate account. You will receive an email when your score is available. For the most up-to-date timeline, visit <u>CPA Examination Score Release Timeline</u>.

## **Retaking the Examination**

If you fail an examination section, you will receive a Candidate Performance Report, providing information about your examination performance as it compares with the performance of candidates in the "just passed" category – those who earned scores of between 75 and 80. This information will show you how your performance differed – by content area and by question type (multiple-choice questions, task-based simulations, written communication tasks) – from the performance of passing candidates. You are likely to find this information helpful when preparing to retake an examination section. This information is a tool to evaluate your performance and to serve as a study guide.

Candidate Performance Report FAQs, as well as a sample score report are available on the <u>AICPA website</u>. If you have any questions about a policy on retaking the examination, you must contact NASBA.



# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## PLAN AND BE READY

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

## If you have a question about:

- Eligibility to take the examination
- Testing accommodations
- Completing the application
- Name and/or address changes
- Receiving/replacing your Notice to Schedule (NTS)
- Examination score

Toll Free: 1.866.MY.NASBA Call Center Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 2 a.m. Eastern Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Eastern Phone: 615.880.4250 Fax: 615.880.4290, Attn: IQEX Coordinator Email: iqex@nasba.org

NTS reprints may be obtained at <u>https://okta.nasba.org/</u>. Note: Previously attended or expired NTSs are not available for reprint.

## If you have a question about payments to NASBA:

- Email: cbtcpa@nasba.org
- Phone: 800-CPA-EXAM (800-272-3926)

## If you have a general comment or concern about your testing experience, including comments about the test center:

- Email: candidatecare@nasba.org
- Phone: 866-MY-NASBA (866-696-2722)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## If you have a question about:

- · Scheduling, rescheduling or canceling your examination appointment
- Directions to your test center

All information and instant scheduling is available at Prometric's website.

Additionally, you may contact:

- Prometric Candidate Services Call Center: 800-580-9648
- Brazil/Bermuda (Scheduling Exams): 443-751-4995
- Brazil/Bermuda (Candidate Care and Testing Accommodations): 443-751-4990
- Europe: 35-342-682-5612
- Latin America: 1-443-751-4990
- Middle East Call Center: 35-342-682-5608
- Japan Call Center: 0120-34-7737
- South Korea Call Center: 007-9814-2030-248 (within South Korea) or +1-443-455-5411 (outside South Korea)
- Asia Pacific: +603-76283333

Write to: AICPA Examinations Team, Princeton South Corporate Center, 100 Princeton South, Suite 200, Ewing, NJ 08628

## If you have a general question about:

- General Content of the Exam
- Specific multiple-choice questions, task-based simulations or written communications tasks on the examination.

Contact the AICPA:

- Email: cpaexam@aicpa.org
- Phone: 609-671-2922

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### NASBA hosts a Facebook Group just for CPA Exam candidates.

There is no better time to find your virtual community to help you get through this journey.

## **JOIN TODAY!**

https://www.facebook.com/groups/cpaexamforum

## **Contacting NASBA**

The hours of operation and contact phone numbers are as follows:

Days and hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Central Time

> Domestic candidates: Call 1-800-CPA-EXAM (800-272-3926) International candidates: Call 615-880-4250

Street address: 150 Fourth Ave. North, Ste. 700 Nashville, TN 37219-2417

Mailing address: CPA Examination Services PO Box 198469 Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8469

If sending an inquiry via email, contact us at cpaexam@nasba.org. Please be sure to include your jurisdiction with your correspondence.

http://www.nasba.org/contact-us/