



National Association of State Boards of Accountancy

February 15, 2023

TO: State Boards of Accountancy and other interested parties

FROM: Nicola Neilon, Chair – NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act Committee

As approved by the NASBA Board of Directors, we are releasing for a 60-day comment period, a revised exposure draft incorporating additional proposed amendments to the Uniform Accountancy Act's Model Rules that pertain to the examination. The original amendments were developed by the NASBA CBT Administration Committee and reviewed by the NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act Committee, which recommended them to the NASBA Board for public comment at its October 11, 2022, meeting.

At its January 2023, meeting, NASBA's Board of Directors voted unanimously to support further amendments to Rule 5-7 that would increase the length of conditional credit from 18 months to 24 months and to request a review of the proposed language in Rule 5-7(e) to determine if greater clarity as to a Board's authority to allowing additional time to candidates could be gained by adding descriptive language. In February, NASBA's Uniform Accountancy Act committee met and developed the additional clarifying language. NASBA's Board of Directors approved both additional changes for exposure at its February 14, 2023, meeting.

The changes being proposed cover the granting of credit requirements for sections passed on the Uniform CPA Examination (Exam) for those wishing to enter the CPA profession. The revised exposure draft provides that once a candidate has successfully passed one section of the Exam, all jurisdictions provide candidates with a rolling twenty-four (24) month period to successfully pass the remaining sections of the examination. The date from which credit is calculated varies among the jurisdictions. In addition, recent revisions to the Exam indicate that score delays may occur when updates are made to Exam content and structure. The Committees' recommendation seeks to provide uniformity among the jurisdictions on how the granting of credit is calculated and to address possible future score delays when Exam content or structure changes occur.

As proposed, Rule 5-7 Retake and granting of credit requirements would be deleted and re-written to include:

- Rule 5-7(a) provides that a candidate may take the required Test Sections individually in any order and that credit for any Test Section passed shall be valid for twenty-four (24) months from the date the passing score was released by NASBA to the candidate or the Board.
- Rule 5-7(a)(1) provides a candidate must pass all Test Sections within a rolling twenty-four (24) month period that begins with the date the first passing score(s) are released by NASBA to the candidate or the Board. The rolling window would conclude with the sit date of the final Test Section passed, regardless of when the score is released by NASBA for the final Test

Section. If all Test Sections are not passed within twenty-four (24) months, credit for any Test Section passed outside the twenty-four (24) month period shall expire.

- Rule 5-7(b) is being proposed to prohibit a candidate from taking a failed Test Section until the candidate has been notified of the score for the most recent attempt of that failed Test Section.
- Rule 5-7(c) provides that a candidate is deemed to have passed all required Test Sections in the rolling twenty-four (24) month period.
- Rules 5-7(d) provides a candidate shall retain credit for any and all Test Sections of the examination passed as a candidate of another state if such credit would have been given under then applicable requirements in this State.
- Rule 5-7(e) provides that the period of time to pass all Test Sections of the examination may be extended by the Board upon a showing that the credit was lost by reason of individual hardship including, but not limited to, health; military service; a disruption at the local, regional, or national level impacting the candidate; or other circumstances beyond the candidate's control.

We believe these changes will provide guidance for State Boards and candidates in the years ahead. We encourage the State Boards and other interested parties to consider these proposed changes and send any comments or recommendations to the UAA Committee via uaacomments@nasba.org by April 17, 2023.

Sincerely,

Nicola Neilon

Nicola Neilon, CPA
Chair, NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act Committee

Uniform Accountancy Act Model Rules – Conditional Credit

Rule 5-7 – Retake and granting of credit requirements.

- (a) ~~A Candidate may take the required Test Sections individually and in any order. Credit for any Test Section(s) passed shall be valid for a period of eighteen (18) months and be calculated from the actual date the Candidate took that Test Section, without having to attain a minimum score on any failed Test Section(s) and without regard to whether the Candidate has taken other Test Sections.~~
- (1) ~~Candidates must pass all Test Sections of the examination within a rolling eighteen (18) month period, which begins on the date that the first Test Section(s) passed is taken.~~
- (2) (A) ~~Subject to subsection 7(a)(2)(B), Candidates cannot retake a failed Test Section(s) in the same testing window. A testing window is equal to a calendar quarter (January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December). Candidates will be able to test no less than two (2) months out of each testing window.~~
- (B) ~~If the Board determines that the examination system changes necessary to eliminate the test window limitations have been implemented, subsection (A) will no longer be effective, and a Candidate can retake a Test Section once their grade for any previous attempt of that same Test Section has been released.~~
- (3) ~~In the event all Test Sections of the examination are not passed within the rolling eighteen (18) month period, credit for any Test Section(s) passed outside the eighteen (18) month period will expire and that Test Section(s) must be retaken.~~

- (b) A Candidate shall retain credit for any and all Test Sections of the examination passed as a candidate of another state if such credit would have been given under then applicable requirements in this State.
- (c) A Candidate shall be deemed to have passed the examination once the Candidate holds at the same time valid credit for passing each of the Test Sections of the examination. For purposes of this section, credit for passing a Test Section of the examination is valid from the actual date of the Testing Event for that Test Section, regardless of the date the Candidate actually receives notice of the passing grade.
- (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Rule, the Board may in particular cases extend the term of credit validity upon a showing that the credit was lost by reason of circumstances beyond the Candidate's control.
- (a) A Candidate may take the required Test Sections individually and in any order. Credit for passing any Test Section shall be valid for that Test Section for twenty-four (24) months from the date the passing score for such Test Section is released by NASBA to the Candidate or the Board, as the case may be, regardless of the number of Test Sections taken or having to attain a minimum score on any failed section(s).
- (1) A Candidate shall pass all required Test Sections within a rolling twenty-four (24) month period. The rolling twenty-four (24) month period begins on the date the first passing score(s) are released by NASBA to the Candidate or the Board, as the case may be. The rolling twenty-four (24) month period concludes on the date the Candidate sits for the final Test Section passed, regardless of when the score is released by NASBA for the final Test Section.
- (2) A Candidate who earns initial credit on one or more Test Section(s) of the CPA examination must sit for and complete the remaining required Test Section(s) of the examination by midnight local time at the Board's main office on the last day of the twenty-four (24) month period.

- (3) If all required Test Sections are not passed within this initial twenty-four (24) month period, credit for the first Test Section(s) passed shall expire and a new rolling twenty-four (24) month period shall begin on the date the second passing score(s) were released by NASBA to the Candidate or the Board, as the case may be, and continue for twenty-four (24) months from that date. If all required Test Section(s) are not passed within this next rolling twenty-four (24) month period, credit for the second Test Section(s) passed shall expire and a new rolling twenty-four (24) month period will begin on the date the next Test Section passing score, if any, was released by NASBA to the Candidate or the Board, as the case may be, and this cycle of twenty-four (24) month rolling periods and Test Section credit expirations will continue until all Test Sections are passed within one twenty-four (24) month rolling period. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a Candidate stops testing for a twenty-four (24) month period, then all credit for previously passed Test Sections will expire.
- (b) A Candidate shall not retake a failed Test Section until the Candidate has been notified of the score for the most recent attempt of that failed Test Section.
- (c) A Candidate shall be deemed to have passed the examination if the Candidate obtains credit for passing all required Test Sections in one rolling twenty-four (24) month period.
- (d) A Candidate shall retain credit for any and all required Test Sections of the examination passed as a Candidate of another state if such credit would have been given under then applicable requirements in this State.
- (e) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this Rule, the period of time in which to pass all required Test Sections of the examination may be extended by the Board upon a showing that the credit was lost by reason of individual hardship including, but not limited to, health; military service; a disruption at a local, regional, or national level impacting the Candidate; or other circumstances beyond the Candidate's control.