CPA Exam Practice Analysis Background

New CPA Evolution Licensure Model, New CPA Exam Expected to Launch 2024

The CPA Evolution initiative is transforming the CPA licensure model to recognize the rapidly changing skills and competencies the practice of accounting requires today and will require in the future. It is a joint effort of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

The AICPA Governing Council and the NASBA Board of Directors both voted to advance the CPA Evolution initiative. NASBA and the AICPA are moving forward with implementing a new Core and Discipline CPA licensure model, and plan to launch a new Uniform CPA Examination® (CPA Exam) in January 2024.

Under the CPA Evolution licensure model, all candidates will be required to pass three Core exam sections covering: Accounting, Auditing & Attestation, and Taxation. Technology concepts will be incorporated within all Core and Discipline sections. The Core sections will assess the knowledge and skills that all newly licensed CPAs need in their role to protect the public interest.

Each candidate will also choose a Discipline in their area of interest (i.e., Business Analysis and Reporting, Information Systems and Controls, or Tax Compliance and Planning) to demonstrate greater knowledge and skills. The Disciplines will focus on topics that apply to newly licensed CPAs engaged in those areas of practice and are less likely to be encountered by CPAs who are not focused in those areas of practice. Regardless of a candidate's chosen Discipline, the CPA Evolution model leads to CPA licensure, with rights, privileges, and responsibilities consistent with the present CPA license.

New Licensure Model: Core and Disciplines
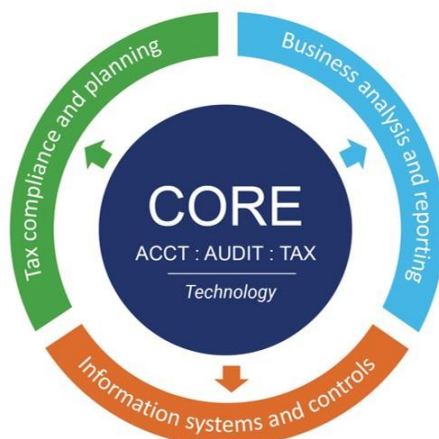
Strong **Core** with accounting, auditing, and taxation along with a recognition of the impact of technology

More knowledge in three primary **Disciplines**

Reflects reality of practice

Adaptive and flexible

One CPA license

Enhances public protection

CPA Exam Practice Analysis Research

The AICPA is currently conducting a research project designed to determine the knowledge and skills required of newly licensed CPAs in their role to protect the public interest under the CPA Evolution licensure model. This research is known as a practice analysis.[1]

The proposed content that could be assessed in the Core and Discipline sections is a result of preliminary research conducted through March 2021 and includes input from volunteer CPAs obtained through surveys, focusgroups, and interviews; as well as input from NASBA, the AICPA, and the AICPA's Board of Examiners.

In the summer of 2021, the AICPA surveyed the profession on the high-level preliminary content outline for the Core and Discipline sections. Initial results of the survey indicated support for the outline. Concurrently, the CPA Exam Content Subcommittees developed and reviewed draft Blueprints, including task statements, for the Core and Discipline sections.

In the next step of this research, licensed CPAs from across the profession will review and rate the content, including task statement level detail, for the Core and Discipline sections.

An Exposure Draft containing the CPA-Evolution-aligned CPA Exam Blueprints and related Exam design will be published on July 1, 2022 with plans to accept stakeholder comments through September 30, 2022.

A final report on the results of the practice analysis, including final CPA Evolution Exam Blueprints and related Exam design, is planned to be published on January 1, 2023. The new Exam is planned to be launched in January 2024.

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[1] A practice analysis is a research project designed to update the understanding of the knowledge and skills required of newly licensed CPAs in their role to protect the public interest. A newly licensed CPA is an individual who has fulfilled the applicable jurisdiction's educational and experience requirements and has the knowledge and skills typically possessed by a person with one to two years of experience.

Volunteers Needed for Critical CPA Exam Practice Analysis Research

The AICPA seeks licensed CPAs from all areas of the profession to provide feedback on the latest version of the CPA Evolution-aligned CPA Exam. Eligible volunteers will play a critical role in validating proposed content to be included in a new CPA Exam Blueprint to be published in January 2023.

To participate, you must have supervised newly licensed CPAs within the last two years. Interested volunteers must answer this short eligibility survey by October 15, 2021.

If accepted, you will be asked to rate the content for a Core and a Discipline Exam section, which should take less than two hours. This time commitment includes a short training session during which AICPA Examinations team staff and our research firm, American Institute for Research, will provide background information on CPA Evolution, the content review process, and answer volunteer questions.

Depending on your eligibility, background, and experience, you will review and rate your agreement with content from one of the following CPA Exam section pairs:

Core section / Discipline Section:

- Auditing and Attestation (AUD) / Information Systems and Controls (ISC)
- Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) / Business Analysis and Reporting (BAR)
- Taxation and Regulation (REG) / Tax Compliance and Planning (TCP)

Examples of current eligible Exam content may be viewed in the CPA Exam Blueprints.

Selected volunteers will be contacted in mid-to-late October about training sessions. Review work may begin by November 1. Multiple training sessions will be scheduled in November.

Please contact PracticeAnalysis@aicpa.org with any questions or concerns.