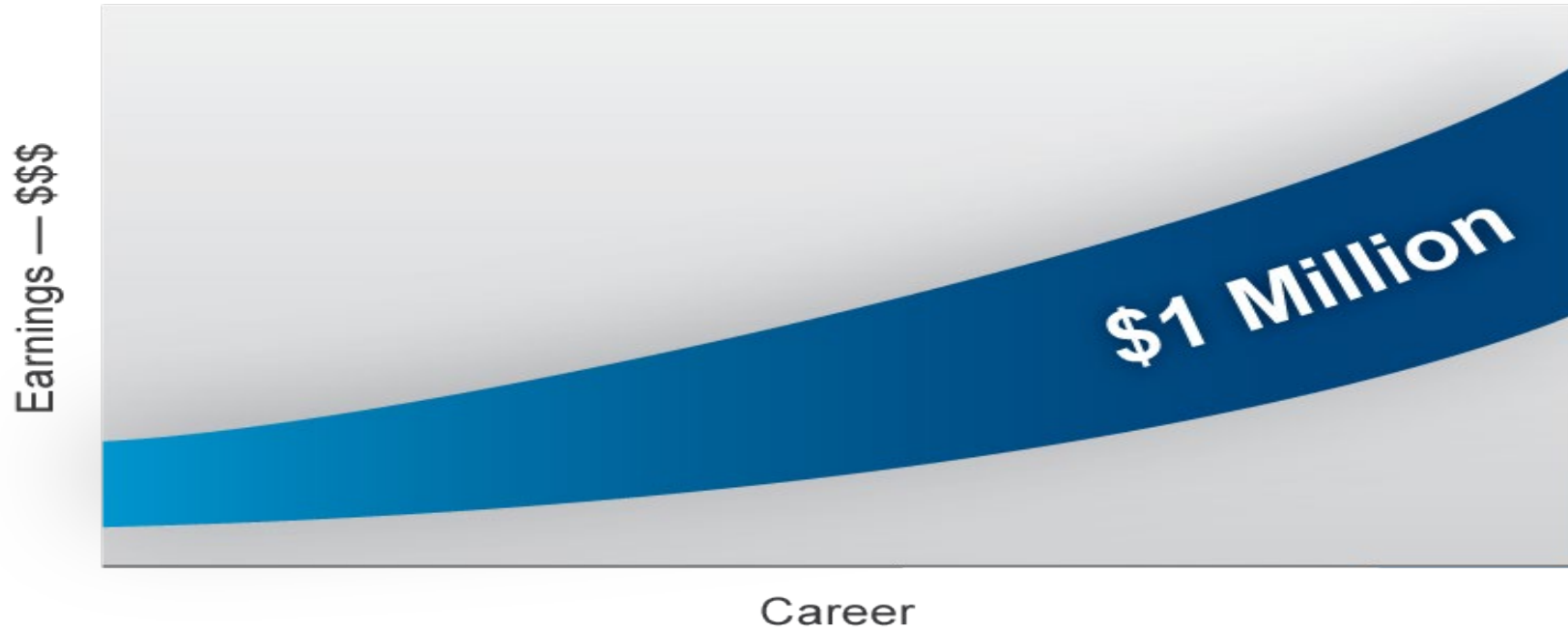# The CPA Exam and Requirements

Earnings Power of a CPA
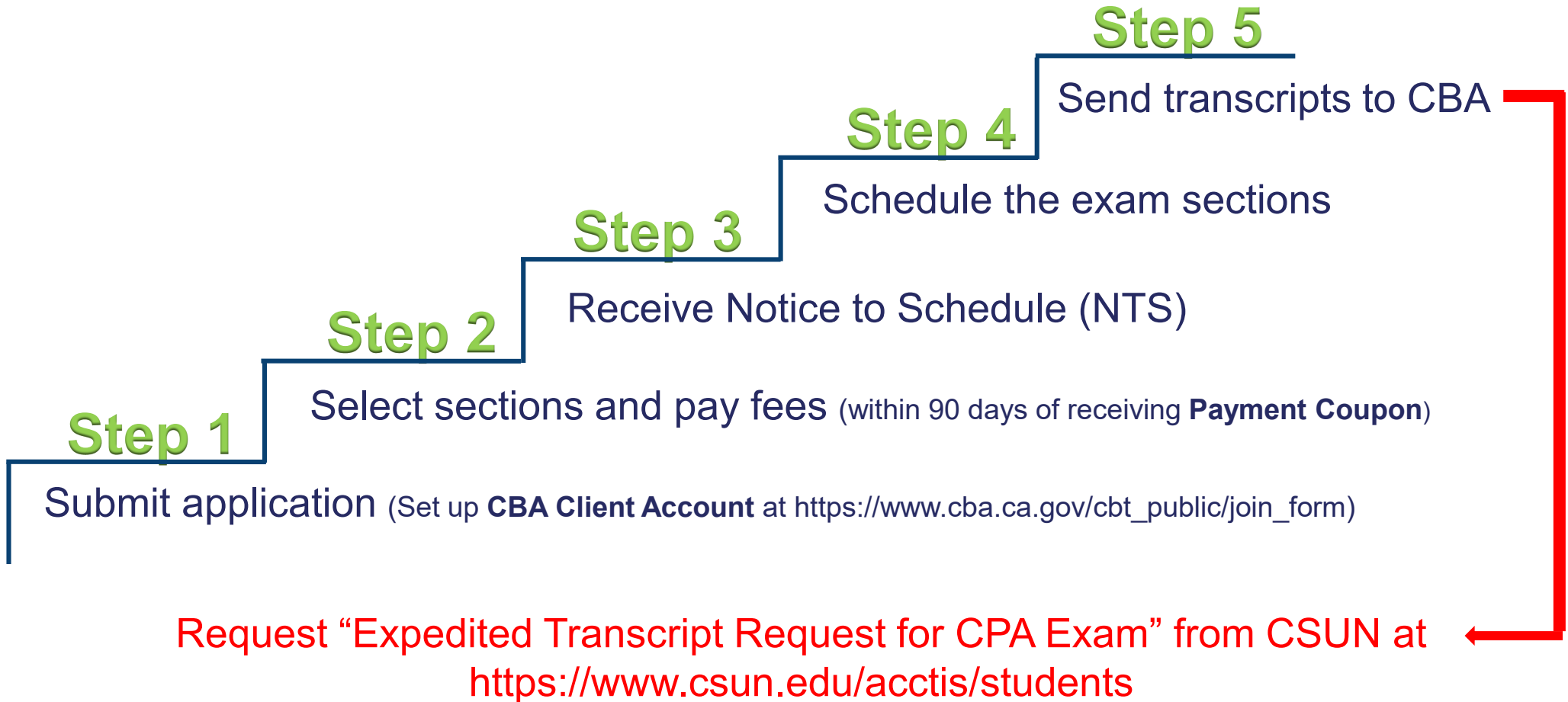

An extra $1,024,870 with a CPA license.

Education | Exam | Experience

Every state is unique

5 Key Steps – Exam Process

Step 5
Send transcripts to CBA

Step 4
Schedule the exam sections

Step 3
Receive Notice to Schedule (NTS)

Step 2
Select sections and pay fees (within 90 days of receiving **Payment Coupon**)

Step 1
Submit application (Set up **CBA Client Account** at https://www.cba.ca.gov/cbt_public/join_form)

Request "Expedited Transcript Request for CPA Exam" from CSUN at https://www.csun.edu/acctis/students

California
Educational Requirements

Educational Requirements	To Sit for CPA Exam	To be Licensed
Baccalaureate Degree	No	Yes
Unit Requirements	Must be completed within 240 days of applying to take the CPA exam. 24 accounting units 24 business units 120 total units	30 accounting units 38 business units 10 ethics units (3 in accounting) 150 total units

	CPA Requirements	**CSUN**
Accounting Units	30	37
BUS Related Units	38	43
Ethics Units	10	10

CPA Ethics Requirement

- **RS 361**   **3 units**
- **PHIL 305 or BLAW 368***   **3 units**
- **ACCT 460**   **1 unit**
- **ACCT 511**   <u>**3 units**</u>

                                                  10 units

* Or any other BLAW course.

Prometric Testing Centers
(Glendale, Camarillo, Culver City)

"Test Drive"

- **$30**
- **Actual check-in**
- **ID confirmation**
- **Documentation checking**
- **Image capture of finger print**
- **Assignment of a locker**
- **Seated at a computer**
- **Sample test (at a computer for 15 minutes)**
- **Become familiar with parking, location, and commute time to the center.**

Current Exam Fees

- **Accounting & Data Analytics**   **$ 226.15**
- **Auditing & AIS**   **226.15**
- **Tax**   **226.15**
- **Discipline**   **226.15**
- **Total**   **$ 904.60**
- **Application Fee ($50 re-application)**   **100.00**
- **Total**   **$1,004.60**

Notice to Schedule (NTS)

➢ **NTS is good for 9 months.**

➢ **Candidates may sit for one or more sections at any time and in any order.**

➢ **A section that is not passed cannot be retaken until the failing test score is released.**

➢ **Must pass all four sections within a rolling 18-month period.**

The CPA Evolution

The new CPA exam begins in 2024.

Core–Plus–Disciplines Model . . .

Core (all 3)

- **Accounting & Data Analytics**
- **Auditing & AIS** (Accounting Information Systems)
- **Tax**

Disciplines (one of these)

- **Business Analysis and Reporting**
- **Information Systems and Controls**
- **Tax Compliance and Planning**

Current Exam

Sections not yet passed or
where credit has expired

2024 CPA Exam Evolution

Sections to take on the
2024 CPA Exam

AUD → **Core:** Auditing & Attestation (AUD)

FAR → **Core:** Financial Accounting & Repoting (FAR)
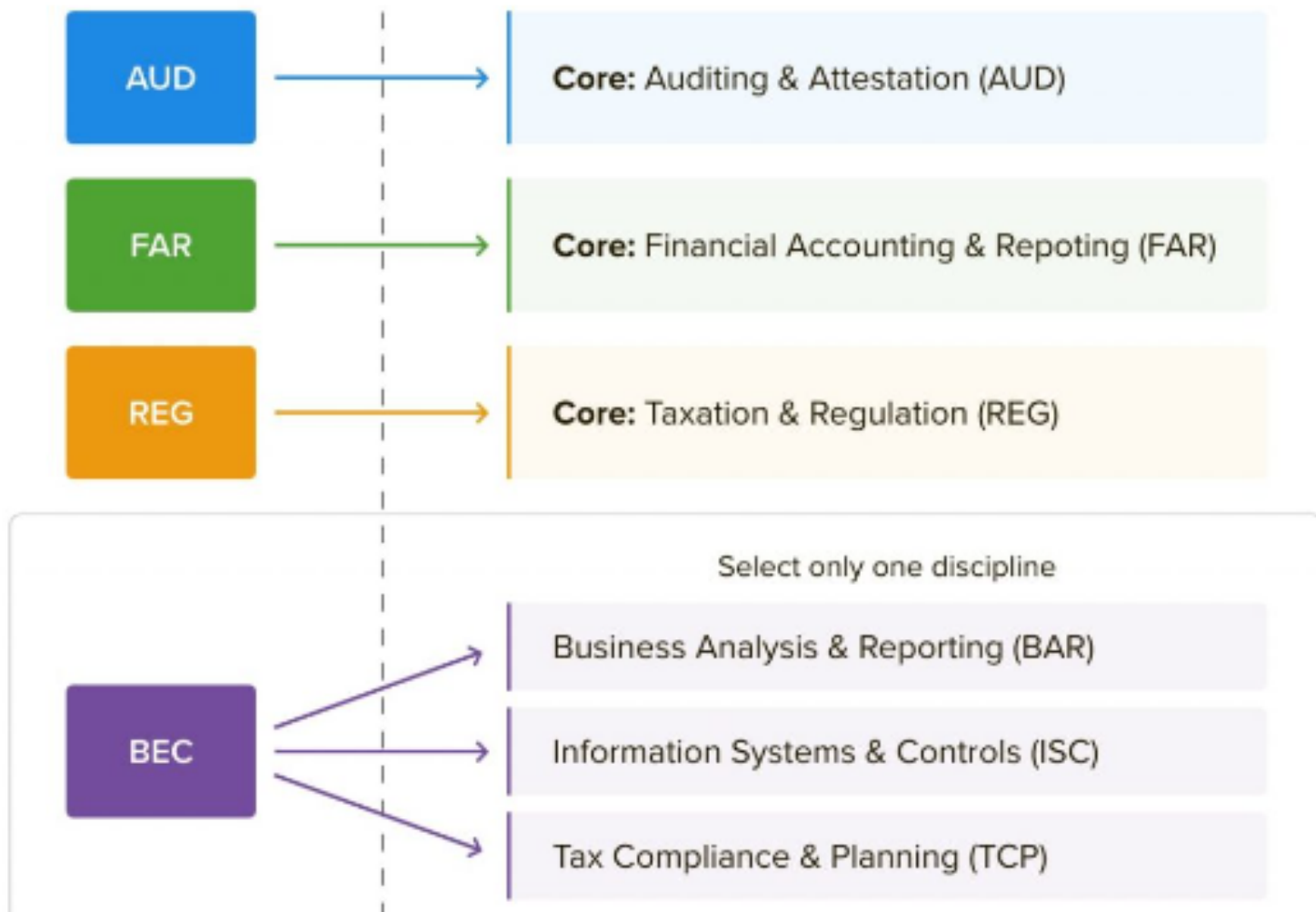
REG → **Core:** Taxation & Regulation (REG)

Select only one discipline

BEC →
- Business Analysis & Reporting (BAR)
- Information Systems & Controls (ISC)
- Tax Compliance & Planning (TCP)

Accounting Courses for Each Core

Accounting & Data Analytics

ACCT 350 – Intermediate Financial Accounting I

ACCT 351 – Intermediate Financial Accounting II

ACCT 352 – Intermediate Financial Accounting III

ACCT 450 – Advanced Financial Accounting

ACCT 475 – Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting

Auditing & AIS

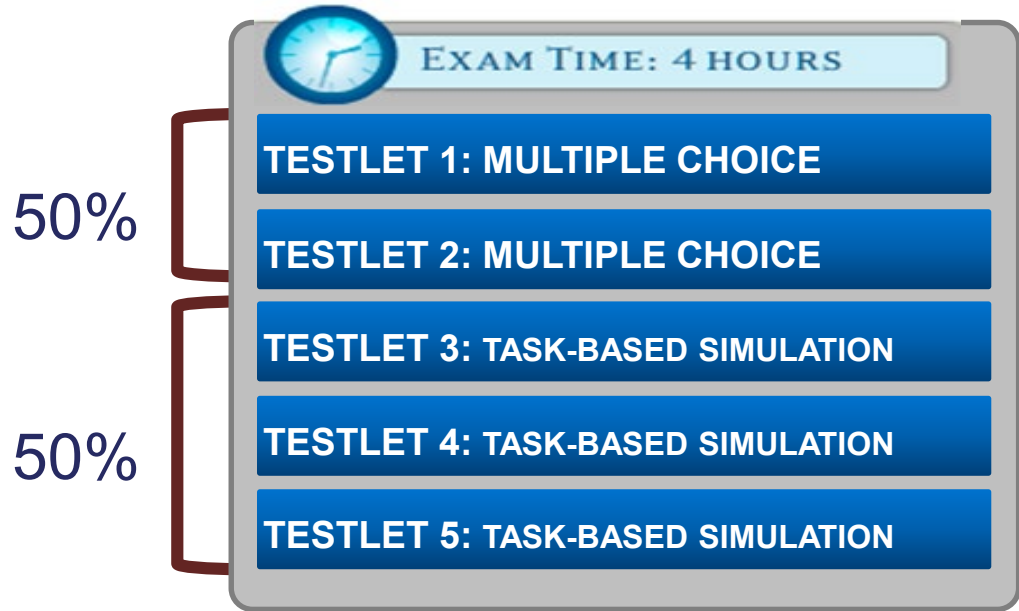**ACCT 460 – Auditing Principles and Analytics**

ACCT 465 – Advanced Auditing

Tax

ACCT 440 – Income Tax I

ACCT 441 – Income Tax II

Structure

EXAM TIME: 4 HOURS

50%
- TESTLET 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE
- TESTLET 2: MULTIPLE CHOICE

50%
- TESTLET 3: TASK-BASED SIMULATION
- TESTLET 4: TASK-BASED SIMULATION
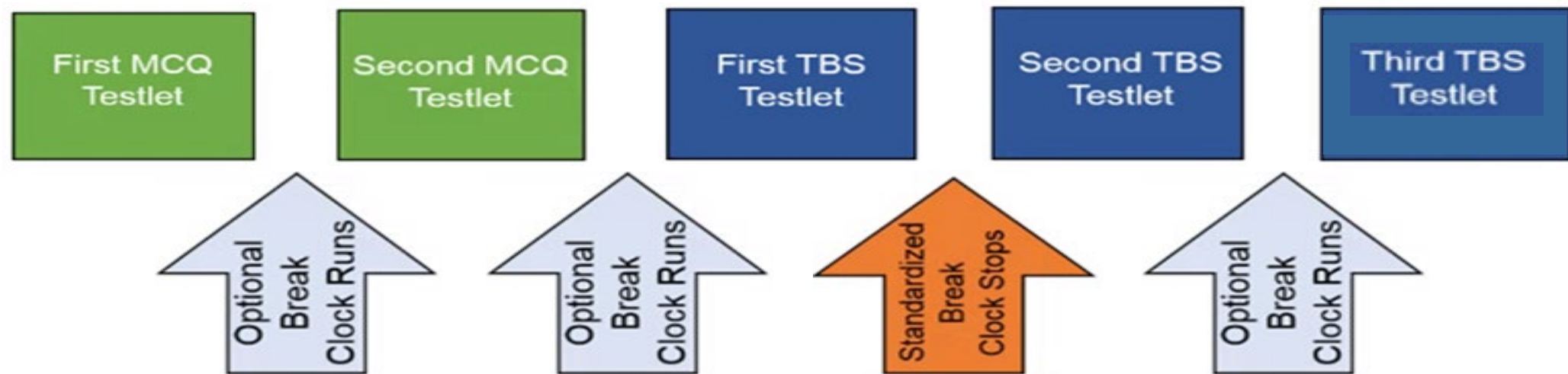- TESTLET 5: TASK-BASED SIMULATION

- Two multiple-choice question (MCQ) testlets.

- Three testlets containing task-based simulations (TBS).

Section	Section Time	Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)	Tasked-Based Simulations (TBSs)[4]
AUD – Core	4 hours	78	7
FAR – Core	4 hours	50	7
REG – Core	4 hours	72	8
BAR – Discipline	4 hours	50	7
ISC – Discipline	4 hours	82	6
TCP – Discipline	4 hours	68	7

Total testing time: 4 hours

First MCQ Testlet

Second MCQ Testlet

First TBS Testlet

Second TBS Testlet

Third TBS Testlet

Optional Break Clock Runs

Optional Break Clock Runs

Standardized Break Clock Stops

Optional Break Clock Runs

Rolling 18-Month Period
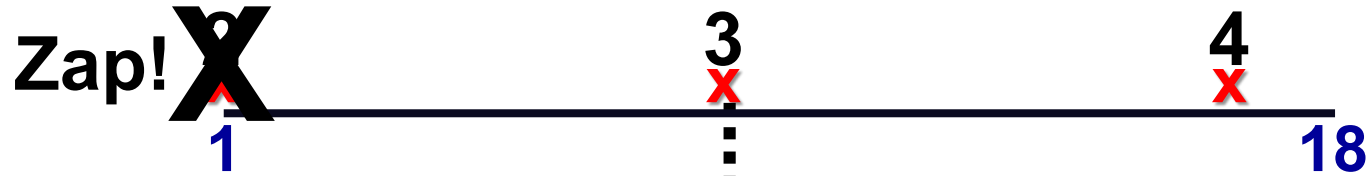
California Experience Requirements

- **Accounting Experience**

  – 1 year in a CPA firm (public accounting) or

  – 1 year in a non-CPA firm (private accounting or government) *in the accounting function and under the direct supervision of a CPA.*

- **Auditing Experience** (Optional)

  – 500 hours

  – *Only required if authority to sign audit reports is desired.*

A passing score is 75 **~Psychometrics & Psychometricians~**

The MCQ testlets have two levels of difficulty – medium and difficult.

The questions are weighted on the level of difficulty.

The difficult questions receive more points in reaching 75.

Testlet 1
Medium

Weak Performance

Testlet 2
Medium

Testlet 1
Medium

Strong Performance

Testlet 2
Difficult

~ **International Testing Sites** ~

Bahrain	Jordan
Brazil	Kuwait
Egypt	Lebanon
England	Nepal
Germany	Saudi Arabia
India	Scotland
Ireland	South Korea
Israel	United Arab Emirates
Japan	

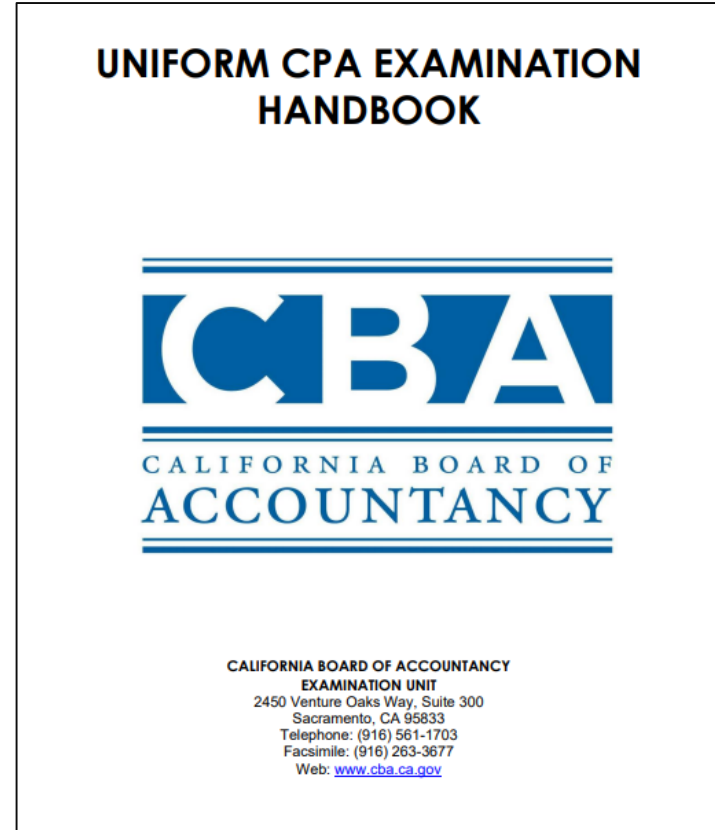# ~ Foreign Credentials Evaluation ~

Anaheim
Beverly Hills
Culver City
Los Alamitos
Redondo Beach
West Covina

~ Strongly Recommended ~

California Board of Accountancy *Uniform CPA Examination Handbook*

http://www.dca.ca.gov/cba/applicants/exambook.pdf

Online Ethics Exam

50 multiple choice questions

90% score required

300-page self-study course

3 attempts

One year to pass

$150 ($125 if member of CalCPA)

Membership in CalCPA is free for students and for one year while taking the CPA exam.

CPA Review Course

- **Study time is used more efficiently.**
- **Strategies for taking the exam are learned.**
- **Practice doing task-based simulations.**
- **Keeps you disciplined and organized.**
- **Most efficient way to review what you've already learned.**
- **Increases probability of passing.**
- **Obtain immediate feedback from practice exams.**
- **Obtain practice navigating the computer screen and simulations.**
- **Might help avoid paying $1,000 again to retake the exam.**

cpaexamguy.com

~ Best Advice for Passing the CPA Exam ~

- **Take a review course!!!!!!!**

- **Sit for the exam as soon as possible, and after completing each part of a review course!**

- **80 hours of continuing education.**