



ASCPAs Student Career Fair to Meet the Firms in Fall



Wednesday, September 19, 2018

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants

11300 Executive Center Drive

Little Rock, AR 72211

Students-You are invited!

Meet professionals from firms and companies hiring for internships and full-time positions at this free event! Join us at the Arkansas Society of CPAs Student Career Fair!

All post baccalaureate students and junior and senior level accounting majors at four-year public and private colleges and universities are eligible to attend. (There will be no limit to the number of students per school who may attend.) Attendance is free.

Bring plenty of copies of your resume to hand out to each of the firms in attendance and an additional copy for ASCPA staff upon check in.

Public accounting firms of all sizes, corporations, and state and federal governmental agencies who are seeking staff now or in the future for their various accounting departments are invited to attend.

Dress for this event is business casual attire. This means that suits are encouraged, but ties are not required. Attire that would be inappropriate in an office setting such as t-shirts, jeans, shorts, etc. will not be permitted. Beverages and light snacks will be available throughout the event.

Please register online by **SEPTEMBER 10, 2018.**

To Register:

<http://www.arcpa.org/Content/career-fair.aspx>

This will allow us to estimate the number expected to attend. All pre-registered attendees will receive printed name tags, and will be entered in drawings for CPA Exam study prizes.

All registered attendees will receive a pre-printed nametag and will be entered in drawings for CPA Exam review prizes.

For more information about this event, contact Robin Harris, Director of Public Relations and Communications, (501) 664-8739 or rharris@arcpa.org

"We really appreciate the continuance of the Career Fair. We have hired our newest employees from this event and have been very satisfied. Thanks again." - Anonymous ASCPA Member at a growing CPA firm



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Why You Should Prepare for Recruiting Season in the Summer

By Lysern Marcelino

Recruiting season is my favorite season of the year; forget spring and summer! But while recruiting season is a lot of fun and really helps you get your foot in the door for your career, needless to say, it can also be stressful. For many accounting students, this is your time to shine and really ensure that you have a job after you graduate. But luckily, I've lived through it enough to help you navigate it smoothly and easily. And one of my top pieces of advice is to start preparing for recruiting season in the summer-while you still have time.

As far as accounting recruiting goes, you will maximize your chances by recruiting in the fall rather than in the winter or in the spring.

Recruiting tends to happen within the first few months of the fall term. However, if you start your recruiting work during the summer, you can get ahead of the game and all the preparation out of the way before you have to start going to class, taking exams, and submitting assignments.

Before I keep rambling on, you're probably thinking: Who would spend their summer preparing for recruiting season?

Summer is for relaxing, sitting on the beach, and forgetting about that horrible Statistics final that was designed to torture students. Let me clarify: I'm not saying to spend every hour of every day writing cover letters or researching companies. But, if you can set aside one hour a day or one day a week to doing your recruiting homework, you'll thank yourself during the fall semester when you're watching Netflix and your friends are scrambling to edit their resume and write a compelling cover letter one hour before applications are due.

Now that I've convinced you to prepare for recruiting during the summer, here's what you should do now and why.

[Prepare your resume and at least one cover letter.](#)

Having your resume complete by the first day of fall term will allow you to spend less time crafting your resume, and more time to go to networking opportunities that you think will be beneficial to you.

Also, if you have at least one cover letter done, in the worst-case scenario that you have an essay due or a midterm on the same day as a job application deadline, then you can reuse the cover letter and change the company names. (I wouldn't recommend using the same cover letter for every job application because recruiters often can tell that the cover letter has been reused, but if you're facing tons of deadlines then a reused cover letter is better than no cover letter at all.)

[Meet with a career counselor at your college or university's career center.](#)

Career counselors are great resources to help guide you through the recruiting process. They can offer some great career advice, help you perfect your resume, and find problems in your cover letter that you wouldn't catch. In one of my meetings with a career counselor, the counselor told me all the tips and tricks of our school career website, which helped me scope out future Big 4 events on campus and job application deadlines.

The perk of seeing a career counselor during the summer is that they are generally not busy in the summer. In contrast, if you try to book a career counseling appointment in the fall, they are probably booked weeks out. Most colleges and universities keep their career centers open in the summer, albeit for shorter hours. Check with your school for specific career center information.

[Do some research about which line of service would best fit you](#)

Most accounting firms have three main service lines: Audit,

Tax, and Advisory. Each service line has their pros and cons, and there may be one that is the best fit for your personality. If you do some research before starting the recruiting process, you may find the one that calls out to you, and if you find "the one" your recruiting search can be targeted towards finding opportunities in that service line. But, don't worry if your research doesn't help you pick a service line, because most firms hold networking and info sessions to help you decide.

[If you have any friends at the firms you'd like to apply for, ask them if they can connect you to the firm's recruiting team.](#)

Do any of your friends work at EY, PwC, or any of the firms that you want to apply to? Or maybe one of your professors works or used to work at an accounting firm?

If you have any connections that have a tie to a company that you'd like to work for, ask your connection to help put you in contact with the recruiters at the firm. Worst case scenario, they will say no, but there is no harm in asking.

In summary, prepare early, research thoroughly, and always ask for help. Getting a head start will give you the advantage of being doubly prepared when you are networking with recruiters and professionals. When a recruiter asks you for a resume, you'll have one to give them. If a recruiter asks you "Why are you interested in X firm?", you'll already have an answer prepared from your research. Being prepared makes a great first impression, and a great first impression is invaluable when recruiting.

I hope you take my advice in preparing for recruiting season now and in the summer. It will give you a huge advantage and you won't regret it!

Lysern Marcelino is a Guest Blogger for Roger CPA Review. This article first appeared on Roger CPA Review Blog, Thursday, May 3, 2018.

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Get a wealth of accounting career resources without spending a dime! ThisWayToCPA is committed to shaping young minds. The goal is to help students understand the wide variety of opportunities and benefits that come with a career in accounting—and help them at every step along the journey to becoming a CPA.

ThisWayToCPA is fueled by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), the world's largest member association serving the accounting profession—and writers of the CPA Exam. It offers engaging recreational materials to inspire future CPAs and tell them everything there is to know about a career in accounting.

Register for free for AICPA Student Affiliate Membership, at www.ThisWayToCPA.com

Student Membership Changed

ASCPA Student Membership eligibility has changed. Recently Arkansas Society of CPAs approved a change to its Bylaws affecting Student Memberships. Now, any student of a college or university, who is enrolled either full-time or part-time, who is interested in accounting can join! Previously, only those majoring in accounting who had attained at least junior class standing, with the goal of becoming a CPA, could join as a student member. Please help spread the word and encourage students who are interested in accounting to become a member. www.arcpa.org/public/join/join.aspx

Becker CPA Review

Arkansas Society of CPAs associate or student members can receive a discount on the Becker Professional CPA Review for the full 4-part review course. Save \$300 off of the full 4-part review of either Live, Online, or CD-Rom self study review course format. Becker CPA Review classes correspond with the exam testing windows that you select.



For more information on this member service, ASCPA members should click on the Becker icon in the Student Lounge section of the ASCPA website: www.arcpa.org or call Becker toll-free at (800) 868-3900.

Surgent CPA Review

Surgent CPA Review can help students prepare for the CPA Exam—during or after their undergraduate or graduate education. The 100% online course utilizes a state-of-the-art adaptive learning platform that shortens study time and improves retention allowing students to prepare and pass faster! Enrollment includes access to the online system and its 350+ lectures, a test bank of more than 6,800 multiple-choice questions, 295 simulations, textbooks, customized study guides, complete practice exams, and a study planner.



ASCPA members receive a 10% discount on the full course or individual course. Contact Surgent at 800-778-7436 or cpareview@surgent.com to place your order or visit www.surgentcpareview.com and enter discount code **ASCPA** at checkout to receive your discount automatically.

Wiley CPA Review

As an ASCPA member, you are entitled to a 20% discount on all Wiley CPAexcel products, including the popular Wiley CPAexcel Platinum Course featuring Bite-sized Lessons and 12,000 AICPA CPA Exam practice questions.

To redeem the 20% discount, visit www.wileycpaexcel.com or call 888-884-5669 to order. Enter code ASCPA at checkout.

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CPA Review Courses



CPA Exam Advice From Top Scorers

By Lea Hart

Corey Shubiak remembers feeling a little overwhelmed by the amount of knowledge needed to pass the CPA Exam. "My biggest concern was the amount of information covered on the exams," he recalled. But Shubiak didn't let that stop him. "The key is to accept those challenges and overcome them, rather than avoiding them," he observed.

Clearly, he had the right attitude. Each year, roughly 100,000 people take the exam, and Shubiak was one of just 58 winners of the 2016 Elijah Watts Sells Award, given annually to candidates who obtain a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination and pass all four sections of the exam on their first attempt.

While the exam can seem overwhelming at the start, a solid plan can help prepare candidates for success. Shubiak, a CPA candidate, and four other Sells Award winners—Sabrina McMullin, CPA, and Chris Parsons, Georgina Prativiera, and Rachel Weeks, all CPA candidates—share their advice for preparing for the CPA exam:

Begin preparing as early as possible. As soon as you know you're going to take the exam, start preparing. Shubiak, a graduate of The College of New Jersey now employed with PwC, LLP, decided during his sophomore year of college that he was going to take the exam, and then used each class to prepare for it, he said. "Then going into my exam prep, when I was taking a review course, it was more about filling in gaps of what I didn't know—there weren't many topics that I hadn't seen before," he said.

Map a routine. Each exam candidate will need to find his or her own best strategy for studying and preparing, the award winners agree.

Parsons, a graduate of Lehigh University now employed at PwC, used a prep course, and said he'd begin studying for a section by looking at which topics would be

covered, the exam format, and the topic weights. Various preparation courses provide this information, as does the AICPA's [website](#), including the [Exam Blueprints](#), which provide a comprehensive guide to the exam.

Parsons said he created a study plan for several days at a time. Rather than map how many hours to study each day, he'd plan for the materials he wanted to cover. "I would start and end whenever I got through all that I wanted to get through for the day," he said.

Prativiera, a graduate of the Universidad Católica de Córdoba, now employed at Deloitte, was working full time when she took the CPA exam, and used a review course as well. Because she was working, she set aside one to two hours per day to study, as well as time on the weekends. She said she spent one to two months studying for each section.

Don't try to take shortcuts. Parsons said he made a checklist of all the topics he needed to study and didn't take any shortcuts.

"Even if I knew one topic well, I didn't skip over it," he said. "It would be disappointing to skip the review and then not do well on a topic you thought you knew."

But don't get hung up on one question or topic, either. In both studying for and taking the exam, it's important to plan your time well.

Parsons noted that, when studying, remember each topic is just one part of the exam. "You can feel overwhelmed if you're struggling with one topic, or maybe part of a topic, but it's good to keep the big picture in mind," he said.

Shubiak said when he struggled with a topic, he'd skip it and complete the rest of the chapter in the review book. Sometimes seeing other subject areas would put the area of struggle into context and make it easier to understand, he said.

When exam time arrives, give yourself time to answer all questions, said McMullin, a

graduate of Nanyang Technological University now employed at YRC Worldwide Inc. "Make your best educated guess, and move on," she said. "You don't want to get to the last question and know how to answer the question, but find that unfortunately you don't have any more time left to finish it."

Take breaks. Weeks, a graduate of Texas A&M University now employed at EY, said a routine was helpful, she also acknowledged she found her eyes glazing over at times.

"If I was reading or listening, and zoning out, I'd give myself a break," she said. "At that point, you're not absorbing it—you're going to get burned out and it's a waste of time to study when your mind can't focus."

Plan your test strategy. McMullin said it's important to remember you have an 18-month window to take the exam. Once you pass the first section, the remaining sections must be passed within that 18-month window.

Weeks chose to take Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) first because she saw it as the most time-intensive section. She took Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) next because it felt like less memorization of rules to her, and offered a little bit of a break after FAR. She took Auditing and Attestation (AUD) last because she said she felt it was the least time-intensive and gave her a breather at the end.

Prativiera also took FAR first because she felt it was the most difficult. It offered a confidence boost when she did well on it, she said. Each person should think about what topics are most difficult individually, and that can help determine in which order to take the sections. Developing a strategy when you decide to take the exam will give you a better chance of success, the award winners agree. Have a routine and a schedule that you stick to, and take it day-by-day.

Lea Hart is a freelance writer based in Durham, N.C. 2017 Journal of Accountancy



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