



ASCPA STUDENT NEWS

ARKANSAS SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SEPTEMBER 2007

FRESHMAN FINANCE 101: MONEY MANAGEMENT SKILLS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Don't wait until you're a senior to learn how to manage money. Start now by sitting down with your parents to discuss monetary issues openly.

Have a plan in place

To avoid misunderstandings with your parents, be up front about which college expenses they will cover and which they expect you to pay. Once you're in agreement, have them set up a plan for disbursing those funds.

Monthly payments typically work best. If your parents give you a large lump sum at the beginning of the semester, you may be tempted to use the entire amount in the first few months. When the money runs out, unless it's an emergency, you won't be able to cover the shortfall and you'll never learn the value of living on a budget.

Focus on Budgeting

College life is full of opportunities to spend. By developing a budget you can maintain control of your money and limit spending. Get started by listing all sources of income—job earnings, savings, and parental support—and then develop a list of what you think you might spend in each category for a month.

Identifying your living expenses in advance can be tricky. For starters, think about the cost of books and school supplies, meals not covered by a meal plan, entertainment, personal care items, laundry, telephone and Internet service, transportation or car expenses, and clothes. Remember, budgets need to be flexible and can be revised after the first month or two.

The next step is to total your income and expenses. If expenses are higher than your income, you'll need to find ways to increase the income, perhaps by taking on a part-time job or by reducing spending.

Credit cards can spell danger

With credit card companies aggressively targeting college students, credit cards can be a major pitfall. Having a credit card for emergencies and for building a credit history is not necessarily a bad idea. But for some, access to credit is an invitation to overspend.

If you decide to get a credit card, be sure you understand how credit works. You should never charge more than the amount you can comfortably afford to pay each month. Want to be on the safe side? Use a debit card for everyday expenses and reserve the credit card for true emergencies. Debit cards give you all the convenience you need but are limited to the amount of money in your bank account.

Checking accounts provide convenience and teach skills

It's usually a good idea to open a checking account in the area where your school is located. Locate a bank that offers free or low-fee checking for students and has several convenient ATM locations. This reduces out-of-network ATM fees.

You should know how to balance a checkbook. It's a tedious job, but it's cheaper than bouncing checks. Also, it's important to know that out-of-state check deposits take a few days to clear.

Smart spending saves dollars

Keep your spending under control by looking for low-cost entertainment on campus. Universities and college towns are known for having excellent entertainment at lower prices. Also, joining clubs and organizations means that you will have something to do and someone to do it with, and the expenses are far less than a weekend shopping spree. It's also good to learn to comparison shop and economize. Clipping coupons, purchasing used textbooks, sharing cab rides, buying generic brands, and renting videos instead of going to the movies are just some of the ways you can save money.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Q&A WITH KEVIN PERKINS, CPA OF THE FBI	2
LEADERSHIP SKILLS GIVE CANDIDATES EDGE	3
CPA EXAM REVIEW PROVIDERS	3



Q&A WITH KEVIN PERKINS, CPA FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Following are excerpts from an interview conducted with Kevin Perkins, CPA, Assistant Director of Inspection Division with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in Washington, D.C.

What do you like best about the FBI?

The FBI is a great organization to be a part of and offers a non-traditional career for a CPA. How many companies train their CPAs in firearms and defensive tactics and require them to be in peak physical condition and to be available for assignment on a moment's notice anywhere in the world? CPAs within the FBI are assigned to a broad range of duties, including counterterrorism, counterintelligence/espionage, public corruption and corporate fraud investigations. Over my 21 year career, I have had assignments in each of those fields and served as a sniper/observer on an FBI SWAT team.

When did you decide to join the FBI?

I've wanted to be an FBI agent since I was five years old. I remember standing with my dad in the checkout line in a Kmart in Pittsburgh one day, and there was a book about the FBI laboratory. I was fascinated.

How did you become interested in accounting?

My father-in-law, Layton Bowman, CPA, influenced my decision to go into accounting. I worked for his firm (Bowman & Associates, CPAs, PA, in Mountain Home, Arkansas) when I was in high school, doing everything from cleaning the office to data entry.

Tell us what a typical day is like...

The FBI is a \$6 billion organization with 30,000 employees worldwide. Along with our headquarters in Washington, D.C., we have 56 field offices in major U.S. cities, almost 400 resident agencies in smaller cities and towns across the nation and 60 international offices in U.S. embassies. The FBI procures more than \$2 billion worth of goods and services a year and maintains a payroll in excess of \$3 billion. As CFO, I meet daily with other officials on budget, procurement and accounting issues. Meetings range from daily briefings of FBI Director (Robert) Mueller and senior FBI executives, oversight of our external financial statement audit, liaison with congressional appropriators and development of a new financial management system.

What hobbies do you enjoy in your spare time?

I find time to compete as an Ironman triathlete. I think this "hobby" is what keeps me sane. Triathlon instills a sense of self-confidence that helps me face the challenges and opportunities life presents. An Ironman triathlon consists of a 2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. I work out every day, sometimes twice a day. I run very early in the morning, swim during lunch and bike after work and on weekends. It's a way to stay young.

Tell us about yourself...

I was born in Oklahoma, grew up in Pittsburgh and went to high school in Mountain Home, Arkansas. When I was in college, I called the local FBI office and said I wanted to work for them. They told me I was too young; you have to be 23 to be an FBI agent. They told me to graduate and get a job and then call back in a couple of years, so that's just what I did. I went to work in public accounting but never gave up my dream of becoming a FBI agent. That dream came true in January, 1986, when I entered the FBI Academy at Quantico, VA.

What advice would you give to students?

As part of ongoing recruiting efforts, I frequently visit college campuses and speak with students. I tell them that an accounting degree opens doors to anything else you want to do. It gives you a sound business sense and develops your business acumen. Whether students choose more traditional career paths or one such as becoming an FBI special agent, a degree in accounting provides an entry into a wide variety of career opportunities.



Kevin Perkins, CPA
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Note: After this interview was conducted, Perkins was named Assistant Director of the FBI's Inspection Division, which provides independent oversight of all FBI investigative and administrative operations.



LEADERSHIP SKILLS GIVE JOB CANDIDATE THE EDGE

Leadership makes a difference, according to a new report. Employers responding to the National Association of Colleges (NACE) *Job Outlook 2007* survey said that the job candidate who has held leadership positions has the edge over those that have no such record.

“When employers are considering two equally qualified new college graduates for a position, what influences their decision about which candidate to choose? In our survey, employers reported that the candidate’s having held a leadership position would influence the decision very much,” said Marilyn Mackes, NACE Executive Director.

Results showed that only the candidate’s major was as influential on the decision as leadership. On a scale of 1 (no influence at all) to 5 (extreme influence), employers also expressed a preference for hiring candidates with relevant work experience. (See table below for results).

“Other studies we’ve conducted show that organizations target new college graduates for job openings because it gives organizations the opportunity to mold their future leaders,” said Ms. Mackes. “This study bears out the importance as leadership skills.”

Also, less than five percent of respondents reported that work experience isn’t typically a factor in their decision to hire a new college graduate.

“For new college graduates, that relevant work experience typically comes from participating in an internship or cooperative education program,” said Mackes.

ATTRIBUTES RATING

On a scale of 1 (no influence at all) to 5 (extreme influence)

Has held leadership position	4.0
Major	4.0
High GPA of 3.0 or above	3.7
Has been involved in extra-curricular activities (clubs, sports, student government, etc.)	3.7
Has done volunteer work	3.2
School attended	3.0

BECKER CPA REVIEW

Arkansas Society of CPA associate and student members can receive a discount on the Becker Professional CPA Review for the full 4-part review course. Save \$250 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 new 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 at (800) 868-3900.

EXAMMATRIX CPA REVIEW

Arkansas Society of CPA associate and student members can receive a discount on the ExamMatrix™ CPA Review for both 4-part review course purchases, as well as individual exam sections.

The ASCPA associate and student member rate is \$795 full review (\$1195 retail), or \$245 per section (\$375 retail). The Full review includes ExamMentor, a free tool for Exam preparation guidance.

Click on the ExamMatrix icon in the Student Lounge section of the ASCPA website: www.arcpa.org.

KAPLAN CPA EXAM REVIEW

As an ASCPA student or associate member, you can take advantage of a 25% discount on Kaplan CPA Education’s complete package learning system which reduces the cost to \$359.25 for 1 section (\$479 retail) and \$1,199.25 for all 4 sections (\$1,599 retail) combined.

ASCPA members should click on the Kaplan icon in the Student Lounge section of the ASCPA website: www.arcpa.org or call Kaplan CPA Education at (605) 271-0593.

APPLICATION FOR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP



ARKANSAS SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

11300 Executive Center Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211-4352
501-664-8739 / 800-482-8739 in Arkansas / Fax 501-664-8320

Name _____
First Middle Last Suffix
Nickname _____ Spouse Name _____
Gender () Male () Female AICPA Member? () Yes () No Preferred mailing address () Home () Office
Date of Birth _____ E-Mail Address _____

Name of College or University _____
City / State _____
Class Level (Junior, Senior, etc.) _____

Residence Street Address _____ Zip+4 _____
Residence PO Box _____ Zip+4 _____
Residence City / State _____ County _____
Residence Phone () _____ Residence Fax () _____

Firm Name _____
Firm Street Address _____ Zip+4 _____
Firm PO Box _____ Zip+4 _____
Firm City / State _____ County _____
Firm Phone () _____ Firm Fax () _____
Job Title _____

You will be assigned to the Chapter in which your preferred mailing address is located. However, if you wish to participate in a different Chapter, please indicate your preference below:

- () Central () Delta () Northwest () Ozark () Southeast () Valley
() DeGray () Northeast () Ouachita () South () Texarkana () Western

Please indicate the legislative districts (district number only) in which you reside for the following:
House _____ Senate _____ Congressional _____

Race / Ethnic Identification: (Optional Information) () African American () Caucasian
() Native American () Asian Pacific () Hispanic () Other _____

I am fluent in the following foreign language(s) (Optional Information): _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM.
The ASCPA will bill for the \$25.00 Annual Dues when your membership becomes effective.

By signing this application, I hereby represent to the Arkansas Society of CPAs that I will be bound by the Society's Bylaws and Code of Professional Conduct. I further agree to comply with the rules of ethical conduct contained in the current version of the AICPA publication entitled, "Professional Standards, Ethics, Bylaws, Quality Control," the acceptance of which should not be construed as a denial of the existence of other standards of conduct not specifically mentioned.

Signature _____ Date _____

FOR ASCPA USE ONLY:

President _____ Date _____

Secretary _____ Date _____