

Continue









## How much for cpa exam

Passing the CPA exam can be a life-changing achievement. An individual who has a CPA license will be eligible for a wide range of jobs that require expertise in accounting. Consequently, you can expect to command a higher salary and a greater degree of job security. Many roles within certain organizations are open only to CPAs. You could also stand a better chance of getting promoted and being considered for senior positions within the company. Of course, you have to pass all four sections of the CPA exam first. This requires dedication and hard work. Additionally, you have to be prepared to pay several thousand dollars in fees and costs. What are the expenses that are involved in passing the CPA exam and getting your license? There are five different types of costs that you will need to incur. These are: Cost of the CPA Review Course CPA Exam Application Fee Examination Fees Registration Fees CPA Ethics Exam Fees These expenses exclude licensing fees and the costs associated with your Continuing Professional Education (CPE) in the period after you pass the CPA exam. These will be addressed in the latter part of this article. Let's first examine the costs associated with studying and passing the CPA exam. Consider this as one of the best investments that you will ever make. There are several available at different price levels. However, don't assume that the most expensive course is the one that will provide you with the greatest benefits. What should you look for when you are deciding on a CPA Review Course? Each course has distinct features. Here is what is on offer: ⇒ Video lectures - all the courses provide this feature. It's a good idea to watch a sample video before you select a course. ⇒ Help center and email support - some courses even offer live chat or a personal counselor. ⇒ Audio course - if you're more comfortable with audio, check if the course that you are considering offers this feature. ⇒ Pass guarantee - no, this isn't an assurance that you will pass the exam. It's merely an undertaking that you will have access to the course until you pass the exam. If you need to retake the exam, you need not pay any additional amount to the CPA course provider. Familiarize yourself with the features of the different CPA review courses and select the one that best matches your needs. Varies by state \$50 to \$200 Paying this fee to your state board entitles you to apply to take the CPA exam. It is a fee that you pay to determine if you are eligible to take the exam. Your application will be approved if you meet the conditions that have been laid down. Each state has its own rules. You can check your state's requirements here. Most states specify that you must have a bachelor's degree in accounting. Furthermore, a degree in business could also help you to meet the eligibility criteria. If your application is approved, you will receive an authorization to test (ATT) notice. However, if your application were rejected, you would need to reapply. This would involve paying the CPA exam application fee once again. Remember that the ATT is valid for a limited period. It usually expires in 90 days. Hence, before this period is over, you should pay your exam fees. Varies by state About \$200 for each of the four sections of the exam The examination fees vary by state. You can check your state's fee through the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy's (NASBA) website. Payment is also required to be made through the NASBA website. At this stage, you are required to select the sections that you plan to take and pay the relevant exam fees. As an example, consider the fees in New York: Sections Price Auditing and Attestation (AUD) \$208.40 Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) \$208.40 Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) \$208.40 Regulation (REG) \$208.40 If you plan to take all four sections, you will have to pay \$833.60 (\$208.40 X 4). It's advisable to pay for the sections that you plan to take in the next six months. Why should you do that? Read point 4 to find out. View All Varies by state About \$300 for all four sections When you make the payment of the examination fee detailed in point 3 above, you also need to pay a registration fee. Again, registration fees vary by state. The NASBA website provides state-wise details of the payment that is required to be made. Some states followed a tiered structure for registration fees. Opting to take more than one section allows you a discount on these fees. For example, in Massachusetts, registration fees are payable in the following manner: Sections Price 4 exam sections \$177 3 exam sections \$157 2 exam sections \$137 1 exam section \$117 So, it would seem that there are considerable savings to be made by opting to take all four sections together. But there's a catch. The Notice To Schedule (NTS) that you receive after paying your fees is valid only for six months. Consequently, if you don't take all four sections in these six months, you will have to pay your exam fees and your registration fees once again. However, it is important to remember that your state may specify a different validity period for the NTS. Therefore, you should check this before you pay your registration fees. What is the relevance of the NTS? It is the document that allows you to log onto the Prometric website to schedule your exam date. Prometric is the organization that conducts the CPA exam and manages the test centers. #5- CPA Ethics Exam Fees Not required in all states About \$150 - \$200 This is an easy exam that can be taken before you pass the CPA exam or even afterwards. It's not even required in all states. You can check whether you need to take this exam here. The exam is conducted by the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA). Here's a table that summarizes these five costs: Type of Fee Amount Range Estimated Total Cost Payable To: 1. CPA Review Course \$1,000 - \$3,000 \$3,000 CPA Review Course Provider 2. CPA Exam Application Fee \$50 - \$200 \$125 Your State Board 3. CPA Examination Fees About \$200 for each of the four sections of the exam \$800 Payment varies by state. Details available with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy - NASBA 4. Registration Fees About \$75 for each of the four sections of the exam \$300 Payment varies by state. Details available with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy - NASBA 5. CPA Ethics Exam Fees (not required for all states - you can check your state's requirement here) \$150 - \$200 \$175 Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA) Total \$4,400 Note - We have assumed an expense of \$3,000 for the CPA Review Course. This is on the higher side. You can probably buy a perfectly good course for much less than this sum. In addition to these expenses, you will have to bear two additional costs after you pass the CPA Exam. These aren't CPA exam costs, but you should know about them all the same. These are payable on a recurring basis. CPA Licensing Fees CPA Continuing Professional Education (CPE) costs Let's examine these in a little more detail. The different states charge varying levels of CPA licensing fees. The yearly amount that you can expect to pay would range from \$50 to \$500. It's essential to pay these charges as a CPA license authorizes you to practice as a CPA and carry out activities like signing tax returns and audit reports, costs about \$1,000 per year. The Continuing Professional Education Program conducted by the AICPA ensures that you maintain your professional competence and knowledge after passing the exam. You can view the CPE requirements of different states on the NASBA website and also see how much the various courses will cost. Expect to pay about \$1,000 per year to comply with this requirement. The total amount that you will have to spend to pass the exam is about \$4,400. Of course, this sum could vary based on the CPA Review Course that you choose. Additionally, each state has its own rules and charges, so this could also result in a higher (or lower) total cost. You also have to remember that you may not pass on your first attempt. This could mean additional exam fees and registration charges. However, the total expenditure for passing the CPA exam is a small fraction of the financial gains that you can make as a member of one of the world's most respected accounting bodies. Compare the Best CPA Review Courses How much does it cost to get a CPA? There are five different types of costs that you will need to incur. These are: Cost of the CPA Review Course, CPA Exam Application Fee, Examination Fees, Registration Fees, and CPA Ethics Exam Fees. Total costs associated with CPA certification are estimated to be roughly \$4,400 (although there are some situational dependent factors here). What are the fees for the CPA exam? There are fees to apply for the exam, and then a fee to take each of the 4 sections. The application fee varies by state, from \$50 - \$200. The fees to take each section of the exam also vary by state, but are roughly \$200 per section, or \$800 for all 4 sections. Is becoming a CPA worth it? The total amount that you will have to spend to pass the exam is about \$4,400. Of course, this sum could vary based on the CPA Review Course that you choose. Additionally, each state has its own rules and charges, so this could also result in a higher (or lower) total cost. You also have to remember that you may not pass on your first attempt. This could mean additional exam fees and registration charges. However, the total expenditure for passing the CPA exam is a small fraction of the financial gains that you can make as a member of one of the world's most respected accounting bodies. Can you be a CPA without a degree? While you might not need an accounting specific degree, most states require you to have completed at least 150 credit hours of education (usually a Bachelor's Degree is around 120 credit hours). Be sure to check your state's specific requirements as you begin to formulate your plan. Studying For CPA Exam? Top Review Course \$1,000 OFF The short answer, though frustrating, is that CPA exam costs and fees vary from state to state. Fees depend completely upon the jurisdiction where you want to become licensed. However, knowing approximately what will be due, together with payment deadlines, can be valuable information. Here are some average ranges: Application Fee: \$50-\$200 Registration Fee: \$300 Exam Fee: \$200-\$250 per section As stated above, some of the fees will vary by state. You will see these variances particularly in the application fees and registration fees. The application fee is a one-time fee to obtain your authorization to test. The registration fees may be for all four modules, or each module may have a different price. The exam fee is set by the jurisdictional testing authority (i.e. state board of accountancy) and can fluctuate year to year at their discretion. Source: Gleim CPA Review The application and registration fees are the fees that everyone must pay at least once. Many people are unable to pass one or more modules on their first attempt and must reapply to take the module over. If this is the case with your test, you will likely need to pay a reapplication fee, which will often be discounted significantly from the initial application fee. You will be required to pay the application fee every time you need to refresh your authorization to test (ATT) notice. Your authorization to test will be valid for 18 months. What Happens If I Miss My CPA Exam? If you are able to, reschedule it. You will still have a small fee to deal with, but you will not lose your notice to reschedule. You simply need to contact NASBA within 48 hours of the missed exam, and they will allow you to reapply for a new notice to schedule. If you are unable to pass all modules inside of the first 18-month period, you will need to start from scratch and a new cycle of 18 months will begin. CPA Exam Rescheduling Fee If you need to reschedule your CPA exam, the fees will vary based on how close you are to your test date. If you are over 30 days from your test date, there is no associated rescheduling fee. If you are between 30 and 5 days from your exam date, there will be a \$35 fee, and if you are 4 days or less from the exam date, then the full course fee must be paid to reschedule. Within 24 hours there is no option to reschedule. How Much Do CPA Exam Courses Cost? There are some paid courses out there that are specifically geared to get you ready to take your CPA exam. They range in price from about \$1,500 to nearly \$4,000, depending on how long you need it and what you need it to do for you. The Becker CPA Review, for example, will not only give you a 4-part course to focus on each of the testing modules, but it supplies digital textbooks, digital flashcards, 12 sample exams that mirror the exam content and style, and even proficiency scores on each module to estimate your chances of passing the real thing. The Becker program also includes 1-on-1 support time with CPAs and unlimited practice tests. The higher levels of the program offer a study planner and an interface that replicates the exam and blueprint. With a price tag around \$3,000, Becker stresses that this is not just an exam prep course. You are investing in your future, and they are going to help you every step of the way. Their review course focuses on higher-order cognitive skills and following the AICPA blueprint as closely as possible for maximum success. The Surgent CPA Review is another well-known and well-respected CPA review course. They will provide in-depth tutoring and coaching on all 4 sections of the CPA exam. Their course comes in 3 different levels, ranging from \$1,600 to \$3,000, with varying amounts of additional perks. At the first level, you have access to their ASAP technology, e-books, lecture study notes, and over 7,000 MCQs for practice. As you go up in level to the mid or top-level, you gain additional benefits, features, or perks, like printed textbooks, spiral-bound flashcards, and 1 on 1 coaching with an expert CPA. At the top level, you gain features and bonuses like an integrated test bank with an extra 1,000 MCQs, additional audio lectures, additional customer support, and a certificate of completion. For further reference, our team of experts has purchased and reviewed the best CPA test prep courses on the market today. To aid in your quest for the best prep course for you, check out our Best CPA Review Courses here. Chances are if you've looked into pursuing CPA exam application and becoming a Certified Public Accountant, you've found out that it's not free. There are several different CPA exam costs involved in sitting for the exam and getting your license that many people don't tell you about. Getting your CPA certification is a big investment that will pay off for the rest of your life, but that doesn't mean it will be cheap. Let's take a look at all of the expenses required to become a CPA and answer the question, how much does the CPA exam cost? Even before you pay any actual CPA exam fees, you should purchase a CPA review course. It is possible to study for the exam without one, but it's way more difficult and you are way more likely to fail multiple times without a real study guide. Trust me. It's not worth it. Why would you want to prolong the pain of taking the CPA exam any longer than you have to? Do the right thing; get a CPA review course that is right for you. Most CPA prep courses cost between \$1,000 - \$3,000. I've made a complete list of all the most popular and most useful courses here. Check it out before you buy one. See the Top CPA Review Courses The first of the CPA exam costs is the application fee. This varies by state but is usually between \$50 - \$200. This is the fee that you pay to your state board in order to apply to take the exam. It's only a one time fee, but you might end up paying it more than once if your application is rejected the first time or you let your authorization to test notice (ATT) expire. You don't want either of these things to happen because there's no sense in paying the application fee twice. Follow these steps to make sure your application process goes smoothly the first time. The next set of fees you will have to pay is the exam fees. These are the costs associated with actually taking the exam. After you receive your ATT, you will be able to choose which sections you want to take and pay the applicable fees. The cost for each CPA exam section varies by state, but most states charge \$193.45 per section. AUD: \$193.45 FAR: \$193.45 BEC: \$193.45 REG: \$193.45 You will also have to pay a registration fee when you sign up for a section depending on your state. These costs are typically arranged in a tiered fashion allowing you to save money by signing up for multiple sections at one time. Here's how it works. One Section: \$63 Two Sections: \$81 Three Sections: \$99 Four Sections: \$177 Thus, if you sign up for each of the four sections individually, you will pay \$252 in registration fees. Now calm down and do go crazy thinking you are going to sign up for all 4 sections at once to save \$80. Remember that your NTS is only good for 6 months. If you sign up for all four sections, you will have to schedule all four sections in the next 6 months or your NTS will expire. Then you will have to pay the exam fees and the registration fees again to get a new NTS. That's where they get you. Be smart. Just sign up for one at a time. It will save you money in the long run. Many states require you to take and pass an ethics exam after you have completed the uniform CPA exam in order to get your CPA license. This isn't a big deal as far as tests go, but like all things, it isn't free either. The AICPA ethics exam costs between \$150 - \$200. This includes a study book and all fees required to take the exam. After you have successfully completed all four sections of the CPA exam and you have completed the AICPA ethics exam, you will need to pay your CPA licensing fees to your state board. This cost varies between states. Some states are as low as \$50 per while other states that want to make a buck off of you charge upwards of \$500 per year. You will have to pay this fee for eternity in order to maintain your license and practice public accounting. You didn't think you were done yet did you? Well, after you pay your licensing fee to the state board, you will need to maintain your continuing education. Like all requirements, this also varies among states. Most states require you to take 40 hours of continuing education each year. Depending on what platform and provider you use for your CPE, it could cost \$20 per hour on up to \$125 per hour. You can figure that it will cost at least \$1,000 per year for continuing education. Now I know what you are thinking at this point. "Come on, there can't possibly be more costs can there?" Well, there could be. Here are a few of them. Most CPA candidates don't pass the exam on their first try. Thus, they have to pay to retake each section that they fail again. This can add up seeing as it costs about \$250 to sit for a section. If you fail two sections, you are looking at another \$500 in fees. Yikes! This cost isn't as common as the last one, but it is pretty common. A lot of candidates don't take my advice on how to pick out the best CPA review course and they end up getting one that doesn't work for them. This causes them to fail a section or two and puts them in the market for a different review course. Other candidates do get the right course, but the course has an expiration date that runs out. Thus, they have to pay extra to renew the course. Most companies like Roger and Becker charge about \$500 to renew their courses. If you are applied from outside the United States, your state board will have to evaluate if your education meets the minimum requirements. Like anything else, they will hit you with a fee for this review. Most states that allow international candidates to take the exam in their jurisdiction charge a \$150 - \$200 fee for this extra review. Here's a breakdown of all CPA costs to take the CPA exam and get licensed. Fee Cost CPA Review Course \$1,500 Application Fee \$100 Exam Fees (All 4 Sections) \$775 Registration Fee \$250 Ethics Exam Fee \$150 Licensing Fee \$250 Total Costs \$3,025 I left off the CPE because most states don't require this for the first year. It's also an ongoing cost of maintaining your license just like the license renew fees. The certified public accountant certification isn't the most expensive accounting certification if you look at all credentials including the ones in the financial world. The CFA® designation is much more expensive to obtain than the CPA credential. It will cost you about \$4,000 to become a certified financial analyst. In short, yes. It's way worth it. Getting your CPA license will open so many doors for you that you would never had access to without being certified. You will also make way more money. The average CPA makes about \$1M more than his or her non-certified counter part over the course of his or her career. That's pretty sweet. It's worth the initial investment and the year it takes to pass the exam. Just buckle down and get it out of the way. You will be happy you did. If you haven't started studying yet, you should look at my comparison of the top CPA review courses and find one that fits your learning style best. The wrong course could mean the difference between you passing the first time and failing several times. Getting the right course is worth every penny. See the Top CPA Review Courses One of the most frequently asked questions from CPA candidates just starting the process is about the CPA Exam cost. Answering this question is more complicated than just sharing a fee. Several factors affect the cost of the CPA Exam, including location, whether you pass on the first try and any study materials you may use to prepare. To help you plan and prepare, learn about the costs you can expect to incur. How much does the CPA Exam cost? The minimum CPA Exam fees and costs will be around \$2,000. Let's take a snapshot of the costs before we dive deeper. CPA Exam Cost and Fee Type Approximate CPA Exam Costs for 2024 Initial eligibility application Between \$100 and \$200 Registration fee per section Between \$100 and \$400 (for four sections) Examination fee per section \$1,379.20 (for four sections) Total \$1,579.20 - \$1,979.20 CPA Exam cost per section The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) recommends that each section of the CPA Exam cost \$344.80. Assuming you pass all four sections (three Core sections and one Discipline) on the first attempt, the cost is \$1,379.20. While most of the 55 jurisdictions and state boards' fees align with NASBA's recommended fees, they can change the amount at their discretion, so we highly recommend verifying with your state Board of Accountancy. Application fees Before you can apply for an exam section, you'll need to apply with your state Board of Accountancy to ensure you meet the education requirements. This one-time fee varies depending on your state, but it's typically between \$50 and \$200, though it may be as much as \$300. Registration fees Depending on your state, you may be required to pay a registration fee when you sign up for each exam section. Retake fees If you don't pass a section of the CPA Exam, you will need to retake it, which means you may have to repay a registration fee and the exam section fee. Rescheduling fees If you reschedule your CPA Exam date, you may need to pay additional fees to Prometric (the service provider where you take the exam). Typically, you won't incur a fee if you're more than 30 days away from your testing date, but if your date is less than 30 days, you will be charged. International CPA Exam fees For CPA candidates outside the United States, you will need to choose a state Board of Accountancy that will declare you eligible, as some states do have residency and citizenship requirements. In addition to paying any domestic testing fees, you will also need to pay an additional \$390 per section. Should you bundle your CPA Exam fees? Some states may bundle the cost of registration fees for candidates by allowing you to pay for all four sections at once. It may seem tempting to register for all four sections of the exam at one time to save money. Still, your notice to schedule (NTS) is only valid for a specific period of time, usually between three and nine months, depending on your state. This means you will have to schedule all four exams within that period or risk paying your registration fees again. Although the CPA Exam cost may seem high, scheduling your exams based on your realistic ability to prepare for each section within your NTS rather than saving on CPA Exam costs is necessary. Additional fees for CPA licensure Once you pass the CPA Exam and move forward toward getting your license, there are other fees to consider and plan for. Ethics exam Many states require CPA candidates to take an ethics course and pass an exam before obtaining licensure. Some states administer a state-specific exam, while others require the AICPA's self-study ethics exam, which costs between \$250 and \$320, depending on whether you're a member of the organization. Be sure to check your state's CPA requirements to see if you need this. State licensing fee You've passed the CPA Exam, completed your ethics course, and have your experience documented and signed off by a licensed CPA. Submitting all your information and obtaining your license will come with another fee, which does vary from state to state. Is a CPA Exam review worth the cost? We didn't include pricing for a review course in above CPA Exam fees because it's not a state-mandated fee, but it is worth mentioning. Most review courses cost between \$2,000 and \$5,000, depending on which provider you choose. So, is this added cost worth it? Absolutely! With Becker's CPA Exam Review, you'll get access materials, resources and support that get you Exam Day Ready! This includes: Comprehensive textbooks that align with AICPA's exam blueprint Over 900 engaging lecture videos from our expert instructors breaking to help you understand complex topics SkillBuilder solution videos that walk you through how to solve multiple-choice questions and task-based simulations successfully One-on-one live tutoring and unlimited access to academic and customer support Live Online classes so you can engage with the instructors and ask questions in the moment Customizable practice tests with over 4,000 MCQs and 400 TBSS with real-time feedback Simulated exams to ensure you know the exam format, time limitations, and exactly how the "real thing" feels And Becker also offers a Pass Guarantee if you don't pass on the first time! Becker's CPA review has a 94 percent pass rate. When you're Exam Day Ready, this significantly reduces the likelihood of having to re-take exam sections and continually pay the extra fees. Is getting my CPA License worth the CPA Exam costs? The short answer is yes! Having your CPA license opens the door to increased career opportunities, including operating your own CPA firm. When you compare the CPA salary vs non-CPA salary, you'll see a clear difference in your income potential. We understand it can be daunting to earn your CPA license, but all the time, hard work, and even financial investment are well worth it.