

# CPA Exam Timeline

Here's what you need to do in order to become a CPA.



## 1. Apply via your state board

Once you determine that you're eligible to take the CPA Exam in your state or jurisdiction, read the Candidate Bulletin from NASBA, and apply for the exam, you'll receive your Notice to Schedule (NTS), which is valid for 6 months.



## 2. Understand the exam sections

Review the material covered in the 4 sections of the CPA Exam to help inform your study schedule. Decide the order in which you'd like to take your exam sections based on your experience and study habits.



## 3. Organize your study routine

Plan your study schedule by plotting out the amount of studying you'll need to do based on the number of weeks you have before exam day. Remember to take into account things like personal and work obligations and what material you'll focus on each week.



## 4. Schedule your exams

Sign up to take your exams through Prometric. Don't forget that external factors like weather, test center closures or not passing an exam section may affect your timeline.



## 5. Take + pass the exams

Clear the 4 exam sections within the 18-month window. You can view your exam scores on designated AICPA score release dates to see what sections you've passed.



## 6. Apply for the CPA license

When you've passed all 4 sections and met your state requirements, you can apply for your CPA license. Be sure to fulfill your yearly CPE credits to maintain your status as a CPA.