

STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL PERCEPTIONS OF CPA EVOLUTION

by

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by

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## Student and Professional Perceptions of CPA Evolution

### **Introduction**

The Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examination is the professional exam administered to individuals who wish to become licensed CPAs. The CPA Exam is comprised of four sections: Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), Taxation and Regulation (REG), and Business Environment and Concepts (BEC). Rapidly changing skills and competencies required in the modern practice of accounting have led the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) Board of Directors and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Governing Council to adopt the CPA Evolution initiative. Through CPA Evolution, NASBA and AICPA have developed a new core + discipline licensure model and will implement a new CPA Exam in January 2024. The CPA core + discipline licensure model is comprised of three of the former sections, AUD, FAR, and REG, as well as the option to choose one of the following disciplines: Business Analysis and Reporting, Information Systems and Controls, or Tax Compliance and Planning (CPA Evolution).

The purpose of this study is to better understand student and professional perceptions of CPA Evolution. We aim to understand which disciplines are a better fit for specific career paths including audit, tax, and consulting and whether a certain discipline will make the CPA more marketable to firms and corporations in various industries. Additionally, we will investigate the advantages of technology integration into the CPA Evolution core + discipline model including what CPAs should know about accounting technologies and what portion of this knowledge should be taught in undergraduate and graduate accounting programs versus in the field. Our study also examines whether the changes made to the CPA Exam will change perceptions of the

difficulty of the exam and thus change individuals' willingness or desire to take the CPA Exam. We also aim to understand student and professional perceptions of significant changes facing the accounting industry and technical and soft skills desired by employers who aim to hire CPAs.

## **Background**

The CPA Exam was developed as a test that the American Association of Public Accountants, the precursor organization to the AICPA, used as an admissions requirement for membership. In 1917, the AICPA began offering the exam to state accounting boards for use in general CPA licensure. Prior to this, each state had its own licensure exam that CPA candidates were required to take. By 1952, all states had implemented the Uniform CPA Exam and for approximately 50 years this exam could be taken semiannually via pencil and paper. In 2004, the AICPA and NASBA began administering the CPA Exam via computer at authorized testing centers that offer testing windows that are open for two months and then close for the following month (Granados). In 2017, NASBA and AICPA began conversations about CPA licensure approaches and whether there were opportunities to evolve CPA licensure (Yeaton).

In 2018, NASBA and AICPA formed the CPA Evolution Working Group and in 2019 launched the CPA Evolution website. The purpose of the website was to provide an open forum for stakeholders, including firms, state CPA society representatives, federal regulators, academia, and students, to provide feedback related to “technological disruptions in areas such as data analytics, robotics, artificial intelligence, and more” (CPA Evolution) on the CPA profession and how CPA licensure requirements might be amended to incorporate changing technologies. Stakeholder feedback indicated that while CPA licensure needs to change to incorporate new technologies, CPAs need not lose sight of core professional pillars of accounting, audit, and taxation. There are other significant factors altering the landscape of the CPA profession. For

instance, compared to the year 1980, there are three times as many pages of the Internal Revenue Code, four times as many accounting standards, and five times as many auditing standards. The CPA Evolution Working Group concluded that technology will still be added in an “intentional and significant way” to the CPA Exam. CPA Evolution received a vote of support from the AICPA Governing Council on May 20, 2020, and from the NASBA Board of Directors on July 27, 2020 (Yeaton).

The design of the CPA Evolution core + discipline model involved the evaluation of licensure and educational learning models. Models evaluated ranged from the certification approaches used in the United States by legal, medical, and engineering fields to the certification approaches used for accountants internationally. The CPA Evolution core + discipline model is most similar to the model used for professional engineers in which a core exam and a specialty exam are taken and once passed, regardless of the specialty, all engineers receive the same Professional Engineer certification. On February 11, 2016, the AICPA initially published the first Uniform CPA Blueprints which are largely based on the revised *Bloom’s Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*. Given the increased need for new accountants to have strong critical thinking skills, advanced problem-solving skills, and sound professional judgment, this approach has proven useful in the design of the new CPA Exam (Yeaton).

Each of the four current CPA Exam sections consists of multiple-choice questions, written communication tasks, and task-based simulations. The cumulative pass rates for calendar year 2021 were: AUD = 47.98%; FAR = 44.54%; REG = 59.88%; BEC = 61.94%. The low passing rates are matched with a shortage of incoming accounting professionals in an industry that is constantly incorporating and adapting to changing accounting technologies (AICPA,

“Learn”). The NASBA and AICPA’s intent for CPA Evolution is to better prepare CPA candidates for modern and future accounting practices, while attracting more prospective CPAs.

### **Research Questions**

With the upcoming changes to the CPA Exam, it is not yet clear how professionals and students perceive these changes and whether these changes affect perceptions of the value of the CPA license. Therefore, my research questions are:

- What are professionals’ knowledge and perceptions of CPA Evolution?
- What are students’ knowledge and perceptions of CPA Evolution?

To answer these questions, I surveyed both professionals and students regarding their perceptions of the difficulty level of the old and new CPA Exam, skills needed for the accounting profession, and changes within the accounting profession. Additionally, my research inquires about participant knowledge regarding upcoming changes to the exam related to CPA Evolution.

### **Data and Analysis**

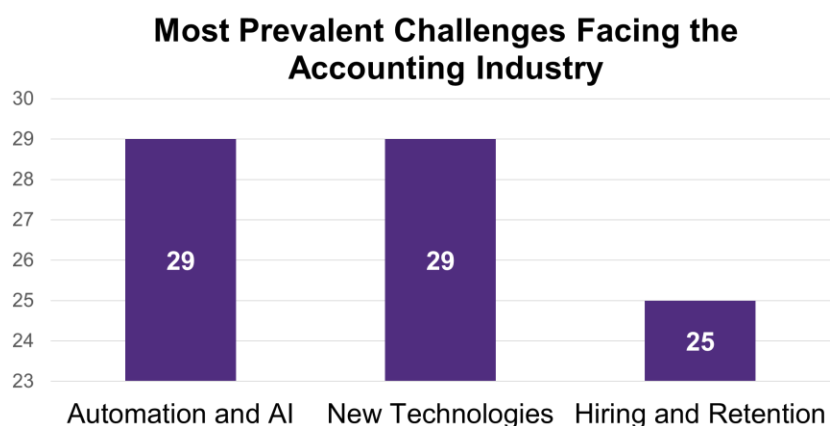
#### **Professionals**

The average professional participant received their CPA license in the years 2004-2010. Over half (51.7%) of participants stated that the most difficult section of the CPA Exam was the FAR section. Slightly less than half (41.4%) of participants stated that the easiest section of the CPA Exam was the BEC section. 34.5% of participants stated that the easiest section was the AUD section. Over half (51.7%) of participants would choose to take the new TCP section, 34.5% of participants would choose to take the new BAR section, and 24.1% of participants would choose to take the new ISC section. When asked if they would recommend the CPA license to those interested in accounting or finance, participants’ mean response was 4.52 on a

scale of 1 to 5. On a scale of 1 to 5, participants' mean rating of the importance of a CPA license when hiring a new employee was 3.90.

Participants' mean rating of how prepared current students are for the CPA Exam was 3.24 on a scale of 1 to 5. Similarly, participants' mean rating of the value of an MSA in preparing to take the CPA Exam was 3.21. Participants' mean rating of the value of an MSA in entering the accounting profession was slightly lower (2.93).

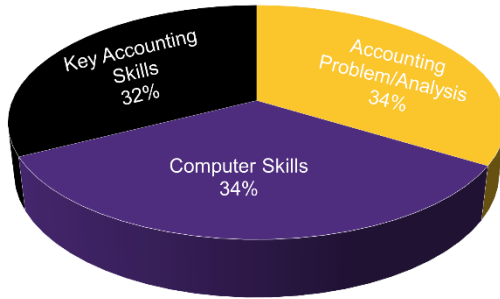
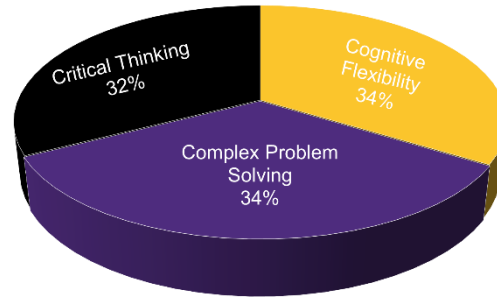
The most prevalent challenges professionals believe face the accounting industry are automation and AI and new technologies, followed closely by hiring and retention. The most desired technical skills professionals believe new CPAs should possess prior to beginning their career are accounting problem and analysis and computer skills, followed closely by key accounting skills. The most desired soft skills professionals believe new CPAs should possess prior to beginning their career are cognitive flexibility and complex problem solving, followed closely by critical thinking. On a scale of 1 to 5, participants' mean rating on the level of preparedness of new hires was 2.36.



On a scale of 1 to 4, participants' mean rating on how informed they were about the new CPA core + discipline model was 2.39. On average, participants' believed the new CPA core +

discipline model will make the exam more difficult, with a mean response of 3.11 on a 1 to 4 scale. In addition to increasing difficulty, participants' also believed the new CPA core + discipline model will make new CPAs more prepared for the accounting profession and will increase the value of the CPA license, with mean ratings of 3.39 and 3.21, respectively, on a scale of 1 to 4. Participants' mean rating of if they believe the new CPA core + discipline model is an accurate representation of the accounting industry is 3.32 on a scale of 1 to 5, and participants' mean rating of if they believe the new CPA core + discipline model is necessary is 3.04.

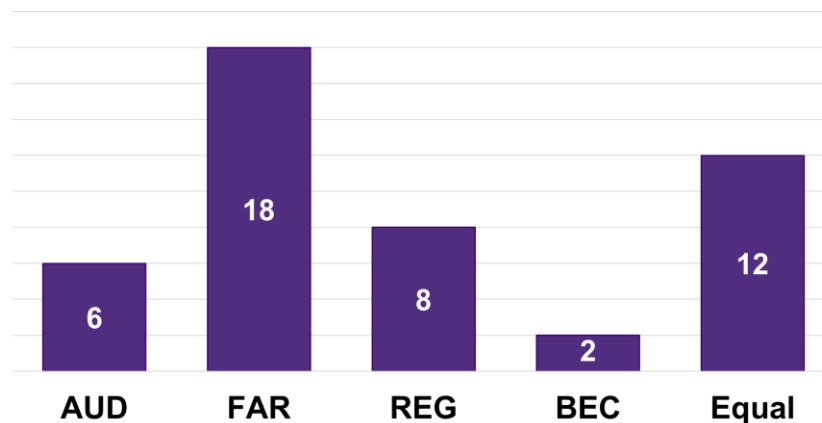
Participants who rated the importance of a CPA license when hiring new employees as higher also rated cognitive flexibility, complex problem solving, and judgment and decision making as important soft skills that newly licensed CPAs should possess ( $p = 0.0053, 0.0069$  and  $0.0276$  respectively). Participants who rated the new CPA core + discipline model as an accurate representation of the accounting industry also rated automation and AI and new technologies as the most significant challenges facing the accounting industry ( $p = 0.0104, 0.0037$  respectively). Participants who rated key accounting skills as an important technical skill newly licensed CPAs should possess prior to entering the accounting profession, also rated accounting problem analysis and computer skills as important technical skills ( $p = <0.0001$  for both). Participants who rated an increase in the value of the CPA license as a result of the new CPA core + discipline model also indicated an increase in the preparedness of newly licensed CPAs licensed under the new model and the necessity of the new model ( $p = 0.0026, 0.0234$  respectively).

**Most Desired Technical Skills****Most Desired Soft Skills**

## Students

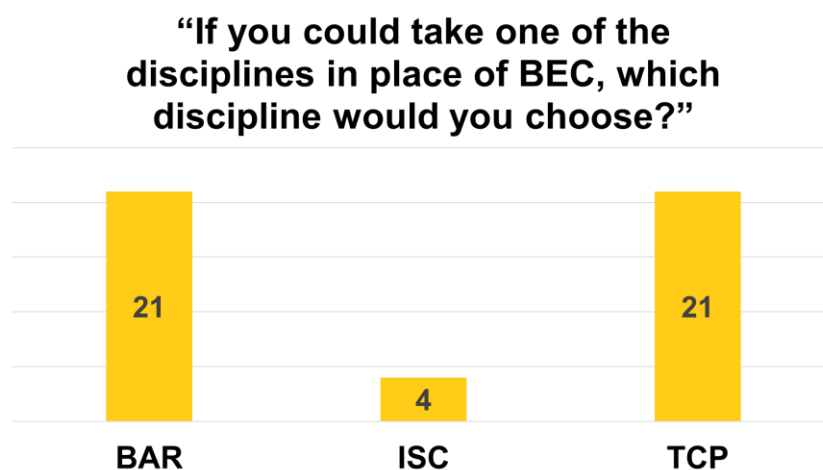
Of our student participants, 39.1% stated they were most concerned for the FAR section. However, 26.1% of participants stated they were equally concerned for all CPA Exam sections. Similar to professionals perception of the easiest section, 32.6% of participants stated they were least concerned for the BEC section. Additionally, 32.6% of participants stated they were least concerned for the REG section. On a scale of 1 to 3, participants' mean rating of if they believe the MSA program will adequately prepare them to take the CPA Exam was 1.38.

### “Which section of the CPA Exam are you most concerned about?”





When asked which of the new discipline sections they would be most likely to take, 45.6% of participants would choose to take the new BAR section, 45.6% of participants would choose to take the new TCP section, and 8.7% of participants would choose to take the new ISC section. On a scale of 1 to 5, participants' mean rating of if they believe the new CPA core + discipline model will make the exam more difficult was 3.04. The most important factors for student participants when making the decision to become a licensed CPA are job security, future income potential, job availability, advancement opportunity, starting salary, and prestige respectively. Of our sample, 76.1% of participants personally know a CPA and 23.9% of participants do not personally know a CPA.



On a scale of 1 to 3, participants' mean rating of if the implementation of the new CPA core + discipline model positively influences their interest in the accounting profession was 1.98. Participants' mean rating on how informed they were regarding the new CPA core + discipline model was 1.75 on a scale of 1 to 3. On a scale of 1 to 4, participants' mean rating of if they believe the new CPA core + discipline model will be much different than the older version was 2.68. On a scale of 1 to 5, participants' mean rating of if they would prepare differently for the new CPA core + discipline model was 3.09. Participants believe the new CPA core + discipline

model is an accurate representation of the accounting industry, with a mean rating of 3.48 on a 1 to 4 scale.

Participants who rated the importance of job security when making the decision to become a licensed CPA as higher also rated job availability, starting salary, future income potential, prestige, and advancement opportunity as important factors when making the decision to become a licensed CPA ( $p = <0.0001, 0.0226, 0.0006, 0.0012, \text{ and } 0.0108$  respectively).

Participants who rated the new CPA core + discipline model as different from the current CPA Exam as higher also rated how they would prepare for the new CPA core + discipline model as different from how they would have prepared for the older version ( $p = 0.0066$ ).

## **Conclusion**

CPA Evolution, through the implementation of the core + discipline licensure model, will transform the CPA Exam. Professionals believe CPA Evolution will make newly licensed CPAs more prepared for the accounting profession, thus increasing the value of the CPA license.

Students believe the hardest section of the current CPA Exam is the FAR section, with the BEC section, which will be eliminated under the new model, being the easiest section. Most students surveyed in my study would choose to sit for the BAR or TCP discipline section with few choosing to sit for the ISC discipline section. Despite differences among individuals regarding knowledge and perceptions of CPA Evolution, the goal to incorporate new technologies while retaining the core professional pillars of accounting remains constant.

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## **Appendix I: Survey Instrument - Professionals**

Dear Participant,

Your participation is requested in a brief research study on CPA exam changes. The purpose of this research study is to gather information on perceptions of CPA exam changes.

You are being invited to take part in this research study because you work in the accounting profession. The decision to take part in this research study is yours to make. If you volunteer to take part in this research study, you will be one of about 300 individuals to do so.

### **Who are the Principal Investigators?**

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### **Are there reasons I should not take part in this research?**

You should not volunteer for this research if you are under 18 years of age.

### **Where is the research going to take place and how long will it last?**

The research will be completed online by individuals who agree to participate in the study. Completing the online questions is expected to take approximately 12 minutes.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to respond to several questions that concern your opinions on CPA exam changes and your background.

### **What risks do I incur if I take part in the research?**

We do not know of any risks (the chance of harm) or personal benefits that will accrue to you from participating in this research.

**Will I be paid for taking part in this research?**

You will not be paid for taking part in this research.

**Will it cost me to take part in this research?**

It will not cost you any money to be part of the research.

**Who will know that I took part in this research and learn personal information about me?**

The responses of participants in the study will be aggregated and individual responses will not be attributed to any individual. We will not know the names of individuals that participate in the study.

**How will you keep the information you collect about me secure? How long will you keep it?**

Your responses to the questions will be retained electronically on a secure laptop computer. Personal identifying information will not be collected. Responses will be retained for approximately seven years.

**What if I decide I do not want to continue in this research?**

You may choose not to answer any or all questions, and you may stop at any time. There is no penalty for not taking part in this research study.

**Who should I contact if I have questions?**

We are available to answer any questions concerning this research now or in the future. Our contact information is included at the top of this consent form.

If you have questions about your rights as someone taking part in research, you may contact the ECU University & Medical Center Institutional Review Board (UMCIRB) at phone number 252-744-2914 (weekdays, 8:00 am-5:00 pm).

**I have decided I want to take part in this research. What should I do now?**

By advancing to the survey questions, you are agreeing:

I have read the above information. I have had an opportunity to ask questions about things in this research I did not understand and have received satisfactory answers.

## **Introduction**

The Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam is the professional exam administered to individuals who wish to become a licensed CPA. The CPA Exam is comprised of four sections: Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Business Environment and Concepts (BEC), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), and Regulation (REG). However, rapidly changing skills and competencies required in the modern practice of accounting have led the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) to adopt the CPA Evolution Initiative. Through this initiative, NASBA and AICPA will develop a new core + discipline licensure model and implement a change to the Uniform CPA Exam in 2024. The new CPA licensure model will be comprised of three of the former sections, AUD, FAR, and REG, as well as the option to choose one of the following disciplines: Business Analysis and Reporting (BAR), Information Systems and Controls (ISC), or Tax Compliance and Planning (TCP). Questions regarding accounting technology will be infused throughout all exam sections.

BAR, a continuation of FAR, has a data analytics focus and assesses topics such as financial risk management and financial planning techniques. BAR includes more advanced technical accounting and reporting topics, including assessment of revenue recognition and leases, business combinations, derivatives, and hedge accounting, as well as employee benefit plan financial statements. ISC, a continuation of AUD, has a technology and business controls focus. ISC includes IT and data governance, internal control testing, and information system security, including network security, software access, and endpoint security. TCP, a continuation of REG, covers taxation topics involving more advanced individual and entity tax compliance. TCP includes personal financial planning and entity planning, inclusions and exclusions to gross income, gift taxation compliance and planning, consolidated tax returns, multijurisdictional tax issues, transactions between an entity and its owners, and tax treatments of the formation and liquidation of business entities.

What is your current position?

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What positions have you held in the accounting field? Please note length of time in each position.

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Do you currently hold a CPA license?

- Yes; active license
- Inactive license
- No

What year did you earn your CPA license?

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When you sat for the CPA Exam, which section was the most difficult?

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Why was this particular section the most difficult?

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When you sat for the CPA Exam, which section was the least difficult?

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Why was this particular section the least difficult?

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If you had the option to take one of the following three sections in place of Business Law or BEC, which one would you have chosen to take?

BAR, a continuation of FAR, has a data analytics focus and assesses topics such as financial risk management and financial planning techniques. BAR includes more advanced technical accounting and reporting topics, including assessment of revenue recognition and leases, business combinations, derivatives, and hedge accounting, as well as employee benefit plan financial statements.

ISC, a continuation of AUD, has a technology and business controls focus. ISC includes IT and data governance, internal control testing, and information system security, including network security, software access, and endpoint security.

TCP, a continuation of REG, covers taxation topics involving more advanced individual and entity tax compliance. TCP includes personal financial planning and entity planning, inclusions and exclusions to gross income, gift taxation compliance and planning, consolidated tax returns, multijurisdictional tax issues, transactions between an entity and its owners, and tax treatments of the formation and liquidation of business entities.

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

Why would you have chosen to take this particular section?

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Would you recommend to individuals who are interested in accounting or finance that they sit for the CPA Exam?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Not sure
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes

How important is a CPA license to you when hiring a new employee?

- Not at all important
- Slightly important
- Moderately important
- Very important
- Extremely important

Do you believe students preparing to take the CPA Exam today are more or less prepared now versus when you sat for the exam?

- Much less prepared
- Slightly less prepared
- No change
- Slightly more prepared
- Much more prepared

Do you believe a master's degree program is valuable for taking the CPA Exam?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Not sure
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes

Do you believe a master's degree program is valuable for entering the accounting profession?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Not sure
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes

What do you believe are significant challenges facing the accounting industry (select all that apply)?

- Automation and AI
- New technologies
- Hiring and retention
- Tax law revisions
- New regulations
- Lack of internal controls
- Cybersecurity threats
- Employee fraud
- Competition
- Burnout
- Ethics
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above

Which of the following technical skills do you believe newly licensed CPAs should possess prior to beginning their career as opposed to learning “on the job” (select all that apply)?

- Accounting problem analysis
- Computer skills
- Key accounting skills
- Written communication
- AIS
- Oral expression
- Quantitative skills
- Financial modeling
- Knowledge of interaction of disciplines
- Awareness of social and ethical problems
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following soft skills do you believe newly licensed CPAs should possess prior to beginning their career as opposed to learning “on the job” (select all that apply)?

- Cognitive flexibility
- Complex problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Judgment and decision-making
- Coordinating with others
- Emotional intelligence
- Creativity
- People management
- Service orientation
- Negotiation
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Throughout your career, have you seen differences in the level of preparedness of new hires? New hires are:

- Much less prepared
- Slightly less prepared
- No change
- Slightly more prepared
- Much more prepared

How informed are you about the new CPA core + discipline model?

- Never heard of it before this survey
- Heard of it but not familiar with specific disciplines
- Somewhat informed
- Well informed

Do you believe the new CPA core + discipline model will make the exam more or less difficult?

- Much less difficult
- Slightly less difficult
- No change
- Slightly more difficult
- Much more difficult

Do you believe the new CPA core + discipline model will cause newly licensed CPAs to be more or less prepared for the accounting industry?

- Much less prepared
- Slightly less prepared
- No change
- Slightly more prepared
- Much more prepared

Do you believe the value of a CPA license will increase or decrease with the changes that are being implemented with the core + discipline model?

- Significantly decrease
- Somewhat decrease
- No change
- Somewhat increase
- Significantly increase

Do you believe the new CPA core + discipline model is an accurate representation of the accounting industry?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Not sure
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes

Do you believe the new CPA core + discipline model is necessary?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Not sure
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes

Scenario: You have 3 newly licensed CPAs interviewing for the same position: one took the BAR section, one took the AIS section, and one took the TCP section. Based on these qualities alone, who you would you hire (Rank the candidates from 1-3: 1 being most likely to hire and 3 being least likely to hire)?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Business Analysis and Reporting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Information Systems and Controls
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Compliance and Planning

Do you have any additional comments about the new CPA core + discipline model?

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## **Appendix II: Survey Instrument – Students**

Dear Participant,

Your participation is requested in a brief research study on CPA exam changes. The purpose of this research study is to gather information on perceptions of CPA exam changes.

You are being invited to take part in this research study because you are a student majoring in accounting. The decision to take part in this research study is yours to make. If you volunteer to take part in this research study, you will be one of about 300 individuals to do so.

### **Who are the Principal Investigators?**

Jordan Anderson, BSBA Student  
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Under the direction of:  
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(252) 328-6632  
[QuickL@ecu.edu](mailto:QuickL@ecu.edu)

### **Are there reasons I should not take part in this research?**

You should not volunteer for this research if you are under 18 years of age.

### **Where is the research going to take place and how long will it last?**

The research will be completed online by individuals who agree to participate in the study. Completing the online questions is expected to take approximately 12 minutes.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to respond to several questions that concern your opinions on CPA exam changes and your background.

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### **Will I be paid for taking part in this research?**

You will not be paid for taking part in this research.

**Will it cost me to take part in this research?**

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**Who will know that I took part in this research and learn personal information about me?**

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**I have decided I want to take part in this research. What should I do now?**

By advancing to the survey questions, you are agreeing:

I have read the above information. I have had an opportunity to ask questions about things in this research I did not understand and have received satisfactory answers.

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What are your career aspirations (select all that apply)?

- Accounting Education/Professor
- CEO
- CPA
- CFO
- Consulting
- Controller
- Corporate Accountant
- External Auditor
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Forensics Accountant
- Governmental Accountant
- Internal Auditor
- Nonprofit Accountant
- Personal Financial Planner
- Tax Accountant
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to sit for the CPA Exam?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

***For students who select “Unsure”:***

Are you currently enrolled or plan to enroll in the MSA program?

- Yes; currently enrolled
- Yes; plan to enroll
- No
- Not sure (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you unsure about sitting for the CPA Exam (select all that apply)?

- Too difficult
- Too time consuming
- Too expensive
- Not necessary for career goals
- Not a valuable credential
- Do not believe you will pass
- Plan to take exam later in accounting career
- Want different certification instead
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following factors do you see as being associated with a CPA license?

	Not at all associated	Somewhat associated	Strongly associated	Not Sure
Demonstrating knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Starting salary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future income potential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prestige	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advancement opportunity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Would the implementation of the new CPA core + discipline model make you more or less likely to sit for the CPA Exam?

- Much less likely
- Slightly less likely
- No change
- Slightly more likely
- Much more likely

***For students who select “No”:***

Are you currently enrolled or plan to enroll in the MSA program?

- Yes; currently enrolled
- Yes; plan to enroll
- No
- Not sure (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Why have you decided to not sit for the CPA Exam (select all that apply)?

- Too difficult
- Too time consuming
- Too expensive
- Not necessary for career goals
- Not a valuable credential
- Do not believe you will pass
- Plan to take exam later in accounting career
- Want different certification instead
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following factors do you see as being associated with a CPA license?

	Not at all associated	Somewhat associated	Strongly associated	Not Sure
Demonstrating knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Starting salary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future income potential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prestige	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advancement opportunity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Would the implementation of the new CPA core + discipline model make you more or less likely to sit for the CPA Exam?

- Much less likely
- Slightly less likely
- No change
- Slightly more likely
- Much more likely



***For students who select “Yes”:***

When do you plan to sit for the CPA Exam?

- Before the year 2024
- The year 2024 or after
- Not sure

Are you currently enrolled or plan to enroll in the MSA program?

- Yes; currently enrolled
- Yes; plan to enroll
- No
- Not sure (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe the MSA program will adequately prepare you to take the CPA Exam?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Might or might not
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes

Which section of the current CPA Exam are you most concerned about?

- AUD
- BEC
- FAR
- REG
- Equally concerned about all sections
- Not sure

Why are you most concerned about this particular section?

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Which section of the current CPA Exam are you least concerned about?

- AUD
- BEC
- FAR
- REG
- Equally concerned about all sections
- Not sure

Why are you least concerned about this particular section?

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If you had the option to take one of the following three sections in place of BEC, which one would you choose to take?

BAR, a continuation of FAR, has a data analytics focus and assesses topics such as financial risk management and financial planning techniques. BAR includes more advanced technical accounting and reporting topics, including assessment of revenue recognition and leases, business combinations, derivatives, and hedge accounting, as well as employee benefit plan financial statements.

ISC, a continuation of AUD, has a technology and business controls focus. ISC includes IT and data governance, internal control testing, and information system security, including network security, software access, and endpoint security.

TCP, a continuation of REG, covers taxation topics involving more advanced individual and entity tax compliance. TCP includes personal financial planning and entity planning, inclusions and exclusions to gross income, gift taxation compliance and planning, consolidated tax returns, multijurisdictional tax issues, transactions between an entity and its owners, and tax treatments of the formation and liquidation of business entities.

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

Why would you choose to take this particular section?

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Do you believe the new CPA core + discipline model will make the exam more or less difficult?

- Much less difficult
- Slightly less difficult
- No change
- Slightly more difficult
- Much more difficult

How important are the following factors to you choosing to become a licensed CPA?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Demonstrating knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Starting salary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future income potential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prestige	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advancement opportunity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***All participants see the following questions:***

Do you plan to earn any additional accounting-related certifications (check all that apply)?

- Certified Financial Planner (CFP)
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)
- Certified Management Accountant (CMA)
- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A

Do you personally know a CPA?

- Yes
- No

*Display This Question:*

*If Do you personally know a CPA? = Yes*

Who do you know that is a CPA?

- Family member
- Professor
- Employer
- Coworker
- Friend
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Who encouraged you to sit for the CPA Exam?

- Family member
- Professor
- Employer
- Coworker
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above

Does the implementation of the new CPA core + discipline model positively or negatively influence your interest in the accounting profession?

- Extremely negatively influence
- Slightly negatively influence
- No influence
- Slightly positively influence
- Extremely positively influence

How informed are you about the new CPA core + discipline model?

- Not informed at all
- Somewhat informed
- Well informed

How different do you believe the new CPA core + discipline model will be compared to the current CPA Exam?

- Not at all different
- Slightly different
- Moderately different
- Extremely different

Would you prepare for the new CPA core + discipline model differently than you would have prepared for the older version?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Might or might not
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes

Please describe how you would prepare for the new CPA Exam differently.

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Do you believe the new CPA core + discipline model is an accurate representation of the accounting industry?

- Definitely not
- Probably not
- Not sure
- Probably yes
- Definitely yes



What is your current class?

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Graduate
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your current GPA? (approximate)

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