

Accounting
Course Number: 33:010:475
Course Title: CPA-Level Financial Accounting and Reporting

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certification is the preeminent license in the accounting profession and is a measure of professional achievement and a critical element to advancement in many areas of the profession. The CPA certification provides assurance to the public that they are dealing with a skilled and dedicated professional.

However, the CPA certification is not easy to achieve and requires passing the CPA Exam, which now covers three core areas plus one of three disciplines (four sections total). The three core sections are Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), and Taxation and Regulation (REG). Candidates will also choose from one of three disciplines for their fourth section: these are Business Analysis and Reporting (BAR), Information Systems and Controls (ISC), or Tax Compliance and Planning (TCP). Our course will focus on the FAR section, since that is a typical first section candidates may choose to tackle on the new exam.

The CPA Exam tests students' understanding of complex issues. As such, students are expected to identify issues, and propose potential solutions, as well as demonstrate the right problem-solving tools and techniques. The exam will test students on the relevant topics covered in the accounting program – a knowledge base required to be successful in the profession itself. Therefore, to successfully pass the CPA Exam, students will need to devote a significant amount of time to adequately prepare for each section of the test.

Success on the exam is not about memorization, but about deploying an applicable skill set for the situation. Therefore, student preparation should focus on ideas and appropriate skills, not simple memorization/repeating of facts. CPA-Level Financial Accounting and Reporting is designed to help prepare for the exam by introducing students to a semi-structured approach to help develop a sound understanding of the complex issues covered. Utilizing the Becker CPA Review study plan, students will have access to an array of tools and material developed to help students master the complex subject matters covered on the FAR section of the exam.

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with strategies to help successfully complete the Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) section of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam. This course will cover new financial accounting and

reporting material and techniques in relevant areas not addressed in our core accounting curriculum classes. In addition, the course will build on students' existing knowledge of financial accounting and reporting to provide a comprehensive review of the areas generally tested on the exam – integrating the material in a manner which students have not previously seen. Students will be required to spend significant time each week studying the assigned material and completing practice questions. At the completion of the course, students will be proficient in the key topics covered on the FAR section of the exam.

The course will be taught as an online course. On a weekly basis, students will be required to complete a section (or part of a section) from the Becker CPA Review course material prior to attending the live online class meeting. This involves watching concept videos as well as completing practice multiple-choice questions and task-based simulations. There are also other available resources such as a digital textbook, outlines, flash cards and a glossary. Assignment material will consist of weekly homework assignments, periodic mini exams, and two final simulated exams. In-class participation will also be a significant part of the overall grade.

ONLINE FORMAT

This is an online class consisting of all live (synchronous) sessions. **To help keep you organized, I will post a “checklist” of required material for each class – you can find this information under Modules in Canvas.**

Instructions for Students Activating your Zoom Account *Our learning management system will be Canvas and our live sessions will be held in Zoom* – the meeting link will be available in Canvas and emailed to you. To participate in these class sessions, all you need to do is click on the link. Zoom is integrated with Canvas, so if you click “Zoom” on our Canvas class menu, all the class meetings should be listed right there.

All class meetings will be recorded and posted to Canvas so you will always have the flexibility to watch/rewatch each one back at a later time. I will always post class recordings to their relevant modules – *however, you can also find the recordings at any time in Zoom within Canvas (go to the Cloud Recordings tab).*

During class meetings, I will keep everyone on mute to avoid any background noise. You can participate and ask questions via the chat window in Zoom, or feel free to unmute to ask a question if you feel comfortable. Participation is encouraged and expected!

General Student Expectations:

In this course you will be expected to complete a number of tasks including:

- participating in synchronous online discussions
- viewing online videos and completing practice questions online
- accessing documents online

- completing online homework assignments
- completing tests online

General Technology Requirements:

Please make sure you are using your RU Zoom account when logging in for our classes. Below are the instructions for students who have not activated/used their RU Zoom account in the past.

<https://it.rutgers.edu/zoom/knowledgebase/how-to-create-your-rutgers-zoom-account/>

Signing into your Rutgers Zoom Account

<https://it.rutgers.edu/zoom/knowledgebase/how-do-i-log-into-my-zoom-account/>

(If students already have a Zoom account and have trouble removing it before signing up for an RU Zoom account they can reach out to OTIS for assistance).

Below are the minimum hardware requirements recommended by OTIS. These specs should allow student systems to capably support a full Windows10 Professional environment with Office365, RBS course-specific applications and virtual computing environments).

- I5 Processor
- Windows 10 Professional
- 8gb of RAM
- 256gb hard drive
- 720p webcam
- Internal mic

Technology Resources:

Students on both campuses have access to in-person and virtual computer labs -

<https://it.rutgers.edu/virtual-computer-labs/>. Students should be able to download most needed software (including Microsoft Office) from the RU software portal:

<https://it.rutgers.edu/software-portal/>. For technology issues, please reach out to the OTIS helpdesk at helpdesk@business.rutgers.edu or go to <https://myrbs.business.rutgers.edu/otis>.

For tech help with Canvas, please visit <https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support>.

Course Website:

Course announcements, class materials and other information will be posted on the course website at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu> - use your Rutgers NETID and password to log in. **Please check Canvas and your school email often to ensure you are not missing any important class announcements.**

COURSE MATERIALS

Good news – the materials are free! You will have access to the FAR section of Becker’s CPA review course for the duration of the semester, as well as Becker’s AccountingMaster platform – these will be at no cost to you. Registration instructions will be provided separately.

LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This course will address the following relevant learning goals of the Rutgers Business School:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Gain an overview of techniques useful to prepare for the FAR section of the CPA Exam.
 - Develop in-depth knowledge and skills related to:
 - Financial reporting
 - Financial reporting and disclosures
 - Assets and related topics
 - Liabilities
 - Investments, statement of cash flows, and income taxes
 - Not-for-profit accounting and governmental accounting
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PREREQUISITES

33:010:326 (Intermediate Accounting II)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I do NOT tolerate cheating. Students are responsible for understanding the RU Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>). I will strongly enforce this Policy and pursue *all* violations. On all examinations and assignments, students must sign the RU Honor Pledge, which states, “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment.” [I will screen all written assignments through *SafeAssign* or *Turnitin*, plagiarism detection services that compare the work against a large database of past work.] Don’t let cheating or plagiarism destroy your hard-earned opportunity to learn and advance. See business.rutgers.edu/ai for more details.

You do not have permission to distribute my course materials to any other person or republish any of my content to a third-party platform like Course Hero, Quizlet, etc.

Guidance on the use of AI at Rutgers

As noted in [Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy 10.2.13](#), the principles of academic integrity require that students make sure that all submitted coursework be “the student’s own and created without the aid of impermissible technologies, materials, or collaborations.

PARTICIPATION

Your participation grade in the class will have three components:

1) Completion of a study plan (first week of class)

2) In class participation: You are expected to actively participate in the class. Active participation means showing up and being a part of the discussion each evening. Our classes will be much more interesting if students speak up – and you will learn and understand the material better if you ask questions. In addition, communication and discussion are valuable skills – and we will practice right them here in class! For our online classes, participation means joining the meeting and asking/answering questions (either by speaking up or typing in the chat). Each class will basically have three points assigned to it – one point for attending before the break, one point for attending after the break, and one point for actually speaking up in class. I will take attendance for each (Zoom provides an attendance report and I will keep track of participation). *Your grade will be based on your participation – we have 14 total classes and your grade will be calculated out of 12 classes (so basically you can miss two classes without hurting your grade).*

3) Videos and practice questions: You need to either watch at least 80% of the concept videos or correctly answer at least 80% of the multiple-choice and task-based simulations questions within the Becker review course for each section. I can see your progress on both of these and will give you participation credit once you have hit 80% on one or the other.

ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION POLICY

The general expectation is that you should attend the live sessions and come prepared having reviewed the material that was assigned before class. However, all sessions will be recorded so that you can access them at a later time if need be.

PLEASE BE PROACTIVE – personal issues arise during the course and I will do my best to try and accommodate you if I believe your situation is valid. **Please contact me as soon as possible if you have concerns about your performance in the class – don’t wait until after you have done poorly on an exam or received your final grade.** The Dean of Students is also a resource for students experiencing personal issues – you can find more information at <http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/> (New Brunswick) or

<https://studentaffairs.newark.rutgers.edu/about-us/directory/office-dean-students>
(Newark). **The best thing you can do to help yourself is to seek assistance early on.**

Inclement Weather:

In the case of inclement weather consult the University's 'Campus Operating Status' at <http://campusstatus.rutgers.edu>.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

* through Becker's AccountingMaster Platform (for Credit):

We'll be using Becker's AccountingMaster platform for online homework assignments. We'll discuss this more in class, and AccountingMaster is integrated right into our Canvas course – so no registration is required.

Regular online homework assignments will be due throughout the course to help you test your understanding of the material (see dates on page 11). These assignments will consist of multiple-choice questions and task-based simulations assigned in Becker's AccountingMaster platform. There will be approximately one assignment due each week (basically a week after we have completed the relevant material). ***Your three lowest assignment scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.***

There will be multiple versions of each homework assignment, so not all students will have the same questions. Discussing the homework assignments or working on them with other students is fine, because you are still thinking about the answers and learning (and realistically I know I can't prevent you from doing this). However, under no circumstances should you just directly copy answers from another student or elsewhere – this is cheating. You know the difference! If I receive evidence that a student has copied homework answers, then the student will not receive credit for that assignment, and I will write up the cheating under the University's Academic Integrity Policy (see section on Academic Integrity).

EXAMINATIONS

You will have several mini exams as well as two simulated (final) exams throughout the course (see dates on page 11). All of these will have a flexible window in which you can complete the test. **You are expected to complete each exam honestly, without any outside discussion.** Only a simple calculator may be used – the idea behind all the assessments is to help you practice for the actual CPA Exam. Any type of dishonesty during our course exams will only hurt your progress toward actually passing the CPA Exam itself!

There are three total mini exams and I will drop your lowest score. For the simulated final exam, you have two attempts (if you are not happy with your score the first time, you can retake a second simulated exam if you choose).

If you have a disability that influences testing procedures, please provide me an official letter from the Office of Disability Services at the start of the class (see the Support Services section of the syllabus).

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade is determined as follows:

2%	Syllabus quiz (easy points!)
15%	In-class participation
35%	Weekly assignments
18%	Mini exams
30%	Simulated (final) exam

Final Grade:

The following grading scale will be used:

90+	A
85-89	B+
80-84	B
75-79	C+
65-74	C
60-64	D
Below 60	F

In general, grades will be available upon completion of the assignment or after the assignment due date passes (depending on the nature of the assignment). Warning grades as well as final grades will be posted in REGIS. I issue warning grades when I have a concern that a student may be on a path to not passing the class.

Your final grade is not subject to negotiation. If you feel I have made an error, submit your written argument to me within one week of receiving your final grade. I am happy to correct any grades that resulted from an error on my part. However, I cannot and will not adjust grades based on potential consequences for the student such as lost scholarships, lost tuition reimbursement, lost job opportunities, or dismissals. Do not ask me to do so. It is dishonest to attempt to influence faculty in an effort to obtain a grade that you did not earn, and it will not work.

In addition, there is no extra credit in the class – your grade will be determined as outlined in the section on grading above.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class #	Section	Topic/Assignments Due
1		Discuss syllabus and course overview Course overview with Becker and CPA Exam Q&A Brainstorming and planning session – exam approach, concerns, success strategies
2	F1	Financial Reporting (all modules M1-M4) Study plan due (note all assignments are due at 11:59 pm)
		Online syllabus quiz due (Sunday) at 11:59 pm
3	F2	Financial Reporting and Disclosures (modules M1-M4 only) F1 assignment due (note all assignments are due at 11:59 pm)
4	F2	Financial Reporting and Disclosures (modules M5-M8 only) F2 first assignment due
5	F3	Assets and Related Topics (all modules M1-M6) F2 second assignment due
6		Catch up, review, get back on track F1, F2 mini exam due
7	F4	Liabilities (M1-M4 only) F3 assignment due
8	F4	Liabilities (M5-M7 only) F4 first assignment due
		NO CLASS –
9	F5	Investments, Statement of Cash Flows, and Income Taxes (M1-M3 only) F4 second assignment due
10	F5	Investments, Statement of Cash Flows, and Income Taxes (M4-M7 only) F3, F4 mini exam due
11	F6	NFP Accounting and Governmental Accounting (M1-M3 only) F5 first assignment due F5 second assignment due
12	F6	NFP Accounting and Governmental Accounting (M4-M6 only) F6 first assignment due
13		Catch up, review, get back on track F6 second assignment due
14		Final review F5, F6 mini exam due
		Simulated exam (your best of two scores) due by 12 PM (noon)

This class schedule is an estimate of the dates we will cover each section – I will adjust throughout the course as necessary.

SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need accommodation for a ***disability***, obtain a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides student-centered and student-inclusive programming in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick ODS phone (848)445-6800 or email dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark ODS phone (973)353-5375 or email ods@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you are ***pregnant***, the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Title IX Coordinator phone (848)932-8200 or email jackie.moran@rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance phone (973)353-1906 or email TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you seek ***religious accommodations***, the Office of the Dean of Students is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Dean of Students phone (848)932-2300 or email deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark Dean of Students phone (973)353-5063 or email DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you have experienced any form of ***gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment***, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides help and support. More information can be found at <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/>.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick incident report link:

<http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/concern/>. You may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (848)932-1181]

[Rutgers University-Newark incident report link:

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?RutgersUniv&layout_id=7 . You may also contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973)353-1906 or email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **not** have a reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)353-1918 or email run.vpva@rutgers.edu]

Bias incidents: an act – either verbal, written, physical, or psychological that threatens or harms a person or group on the basis of actual or perceived race, religion, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status,

civil union status, domestic partnership status, atypical heredity or cellular blood trait, military service or veteran status.

Bias incidents can be reported online at:

[New Brunswick Bias Incident Report Form](#)

[Newark Bias Incident Report Form](#)

If students who have experienced a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate, you should submit a request via

<https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

If you are a military **veteran** or are on active military duty, you can obtain support through the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services. <http://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

If you are in need of **mental health** services, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center: <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>]

[Rutgers Counseling and Psychological Services–New Brunswick: <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of **physical health** services, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers Health Services – Newark: <http://health.newark.rutgers.edu/>]

[Rutgers Health Services – New Brunswick: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of **legal** services, please use our readily available services:

<http://rusls.rutgers.edu/>

Students experiencing difficulty in courses due to **English as a second language (ESL)** should contact the Program in American Language Studies for supports.

[Rutgers–Newark: PALs@newark.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers–New Brunswick: eslpals@english.rutgers.edu]

If you are in need of additional **academic assistance**, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers University-Newark Learning Center: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>]

[Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>]

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Learning Center: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>]

[Optional items that many faculty include:

- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand the RU Academic Integrity Policy.

- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand this syllabus.]

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

[If you prefer to direct students to the conduct policy online instead, please use the following link and place it beneath the header above:

<https://myrbs.business.rutgers.edu/students/code-professional-conduct>]

Rutgers Business School is recognized for its high-quality education. To that end, maintaining the caliber of classroom excellence, whether in person or online, requires students to adhere to the same behaviors expected in professional career environments. These include the following principles:

Discussion and Correspondence

- Each student is encouraged to participate actively in class discussions and exercises. Substantive dialogue requires a degree of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. Disagreement and the challenging of ideas must happen in a supportive and sensitive manner. Hostility and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
- In correspondence and in the classroom, students should demonstrate respect in how they address instructors. Students should use proper titles unless there is an explicit understanding that the instructor accepts less formal alternatives. Similarly, appropriate formatting in electronic communication and timely responsiveness are all expectations in every professional interaction, including with instructors. Everything said and written should demonstrate respect and goodwill.

Punctuality and Disruption

- Class starts and ends promptly at the assigned periods. Students are expected to be in their seats or present online and ready to begin class on time.
 - Take your responsibility to attend class seriously. Your attendance is a critical element of the learning experience for in-person classes. Failure to show up disrupts your learning and signals disrespect to your peers and instructors. (Of course, illness is a legitimate exception requiring advanced reporting to the [University](#) and your instructors.)
 - Barring emergencies and within reason, students are expected to remain in their seats for the class duration. In person, packing belongings before the end of class disturbs both other students and the instructor. Online, attending to other tasks is distracting. In addition, even if webcams are not required in your course, your attention is fundamentally lacking if you are engaged in multiple tasks simultaneously.

Technology

- The use of technology is sanctioned only as permitted by the course instructor. As research on learning shows, peripheral use of technology in classes negatively impacts the learning environment in three ways:
 1. Individual learning and performance directly suffer, resulting in the systemic lowering of grades earned.

2. In the classroom, one student's use of technology automatically diverts and captures other people's attention, thus impeding their learning and performance. Moreover, even minor infractions have a spillover effect and result in others doing the same.
 3. Subverting this policy (e.g., using a phone during class, even if hidden below the table or out of sight from your webcam; tapping on a smartwatch; using a laptop for non-course related matters) is evident to the course instructor and offensive to the principles of decorum in a learning environment.
- Networking, computing, and associated resources in the trading rooms, advanced technology rooms, and general classrooms are to be used in the manner intended.
 - Sharing links to private online classes, attempting to join an online class you are not enrolled in, or posting disruptive content during these sessions are strictly prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action.
 - For more instructions on information technology resources at Rutgers University, please refer to the [Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology Resources](#).

Misappropriating Intellectual Property

- Almost all original work is the intellectual property of its authors. These works may include syllabi, lecture slides, recorded lectures, homework problems, exams, and other materials, in either printed or electronic form. The authors may hold copyrights in these works, which U.S. statutes protect. Copying this work or posting it online (on sites such as Chegg or Course Hero) without the author's permission may violate the author's rights. More importantly, these works are the product of the author's efforts; respect for these efforts and the author's intellectual property rights are important values that members of the university community take seriously.
- For more instructions on copyright protections at Rutgers University, please refer to the [Rutgers Libraries](#).

Rutgers Business School is committed to the highest standards of integrity. We value mutual respect and responsibility, as these are fundamental to our educational excellence inside and outside the classroom.