

CPA Exam Study Schedule

Your Personal Study Planner
2026 Edition — Updated for CPA Evolution Exam Structure

Your Information

Name: _____

Target Completion: _____

State Board: _____

Hours Available Per Week

- ☐ 10–15 hours (12+ months)
- ☐ 15–20 hours (9–12 months)
- ☐ 20–25 hours (6–9 months)
- ☐ 25+ hours (4–6 months intensive)

2026 CPA Exam Structure

3 Core Sections + 1 Discipline = CPA License

All candidates must pass FAR, AUD, and REG (core sections), plus one discipline of their choice. You have 30 months after passing your first section to complete all four.

Core Sections (Required)

FAR — Financial Accounting
120–150 hours | 42% pass rate

AUD — Auditing
80–100 hours | 48% pass rate

REG — Taxation & Regulation
80–110 hours | 63% pass rate

Disciplines (Choose 1)

BAR — Business Analysis
120–150 hours | 42% pass rate

ISC — Info Systems
60–100 hours | 66% pass rate

TCP — Tax Planning
60–80 hours | 77% pass rate

My Section Order

1st Section: _____

2nd Section: _____

3rd Section: _____

4th Section (Discipline): _____

Tip: Most candidates start with FAR to build a foundation. If you work in tax, consider starting with REG to leverage your experience.

Weekly Study Schedule

Plan your study blocks for consistent progress

Study Preferences

Preferred Study Time: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon ☐ Evening

Weekly Hour Target:

Rest Day:

Weekly Schedule Grid

Day	Time Block 1	Time Block 2	Focus Topic	Hours
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				
Weekly Total:				

Study Phase Breakdown

Allocate your study time across three phases for each section:

Learning Phase (30%)

Video lectures, textbook reading, note-taking

Focus: Understanding concepts before practice

Practice Phase (50%)

MCQs, Task-Based Simulations (TBS)

Focus: Apply knowledge, identify weak areas

Review Phase (20%)

Weak areas, cumulative review, mock exams

Focus: Reinforce and build exam stamina

Pro Tip: Schedule your hardest topics during your peak energy hours. Most candidates find 2–3 hour study blocks more effective than marathon sessions.

Section Study Tracker

Track progress for each CPA exam section

Section: ☐ FAR ☐ AUD ☐ REG ☐ BAR ☐ ISC ☐ TCP

Study Start Date:

Target Exam Date:

Total Hours Target:

Weekly Progress Log

Week	Phase	Content Focus	Hours	MCQs	Score	TBS
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

Practice Exam Scores

Exam #	Date	MCQ %	TBS %	Areas to Review
Practice 1				
Practice 2				
Practice 3				
Practice 4				

Target Score: Aim for 75%+ on practice exams before scheduling your real exam. Most review courses recommend being "exam ready" when you consistently score 70–80% on simulated exams.

Milestones & Key Dates

Track your CPA journey from application to license

Application & Testing Timeline

Milestone	Target Date	Actual Date	Done
Submit state board application			☐
Receive eligibility approval			☐
Register with NASBA/Prometric			☐
Receive NTS (Notice to Schedule)			☐
Schedule Section 1 exam			☐
Pass Section 1			☐
Schedule Section 2 exam			☐
Pass Section 2			☐
Schedule Section 3 exam			☐
Pass Section 3			☐
Schedule Discipline exam			☐
Pass Discipline section			☐
Submit license application			☐
Receive CPA license!			☐

30-Month Window Tracker

Critical: Your 30-month clock starts when you pass your first section

All four sections must be passed within 30 months of your first passing score, or you'll lose credit for expired sections.

First Section Passed: _____

30-Month Deadline: _____

Score Release Dates (2026)

NASBA releases CPA exam scores on a rolling basis. Scores are typically released 2–4 weeks after your testing window closes. Check [NASBA.org](https://www.nasba.org) for the official 2026 score release calendar.

Section 1 Score Expected: _____

Section 2 Score Expected: _____

Section 3 Score Expected: _____

Discipline Score Expected: _____

Study Tips & Resources

Expert strategies for CPA exam success

Time Management by Section

Section	Duration	MCQs	TBS	Time/MCQ	Strategy
FAR	4 hrs	50	7	2 min	Focus on journal entries
AUD	4 hrs	78	7	1.3 min	Think like an auditor
REG	4 hrs	72	8	1.5 min	Master tax forms
BAR	4 hrs	50	7	2 min	Data analysis focus
ISC	4 hrs	82	6	1.5 min	Know IT frameworks
TCP	4 hrs	68	7	1.5 min	Tax planning scenarios

Top Study Strategies

1. Active Recall

Test yourself constantly. Don't just re-read notes — close the book and try to recall concepts.

2. Spaced Repetition

Review material at increasing intervals. What you learned in Week 1 should be reviewed in Weeks 2, 4, and 6.

3. Practice Under Pressure

Take timed practice exams in exam-like conditions. No breaks, no notes, full 4 hours.

4. Focus on Weak Areas

Spend 70% of review time on topics where you score below 70%. Don't over-study what you already know.

5. Understand, Don't Memorize

The CPA exam tests application. Know WHY rules exist, not just what they are.

6. Take Care of Yourself

Sleep, exercise, and breaks improve retention. Burnout is the enemy of exam success.

Trusted Resources

- NASBA — [nasba.org](https://www.nasba.org) — Official exam info, score releases, state requirements
- AICPA — aicpa-cima.com — Exam blueprints, practice exams, ethics
- Your State Board — CPA requirements specific to your state
- Atlas CPA Index — atlascpaindex.com — Compare all CPA review courses

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