

# CPA Bound



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
BLACK ACCOUNTANTS, INC.**



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# CPA Bound Initiative

Those of you who have attained the CPA certification have joined an exclusive club of accounting, finance and information technology professionals. According to a study issued by the American Institute of CPA (AICPA) only 3% of all CPAs are African American. To increase the membership in this club, NABA along with the Howard University School of Business Center for Accounting Education (HUSB-CAE) developed the CPA Bound Initiative with four program components:

## **Advocacy**

A focus on information gathering and sharing. NABA will provide its membership and the general public information on resources and requirements to attain the CPA certification, including links to peer organizations on the NABA website.

## **CPA Examination Summit**

The summit was held at the 2008 and 2009 national conventions to discuss barriers to passing the CPA exam. Summit participants included representatives from public accounting, industry, academia, CPA examination preparation companies, state societies, NABA and the AICPA. Strategies to assist NABA members in passing the exam were discussed. See the CPA Exam Summit white papers on NABA's website.

## **Ambassador Program**

Outreach should begin early. Through NABA's Accounting Careers Awareness Program (ACAP), local and regional student and professional meetings and the HUSB-CAE Leadership Skills Development Program for College Accounting Seniors, NABA will raise the awareness of the need for more African American CPAs and the rewards that having the certification can bring.

## **Social Networking**

NABA encourages members studying for the exam to network to share success strategies. Coming soon to the NABA website is the CPA Bound Forum to provide opportunities for members to discuss the sections of the exam, link to helpful websites and obtain key exam dates and other information.



# Benefits of Becoming a CPA

There are many benefits of becoming a CPA. A CPA certification opens the doors to many exciting and rewarding careers opportunities as a business professional.

## **Outstanding Career Opportunities**

CPAs work in many exciting fields such as public accounting, financial accounting, internal auditing, information technology, forensic auditing and academia. They audit and analyze financial information for individual clients, companies and the government. Specific job duties vary widely and offer the opportunity to work in any field domestically and internationally. CPAs travel the globe and work in entertainment, professional sports, and private and public industries.

## **Job Security**

Although estimates state that in excess of a million jobs have been lost in the United States since the country began a recession in 2007, accounting is consistently ranked one of the top professions for college graduates and professionals seeking employment and is an essential function in all companies and organizations.

## **Career Advancement**

CPAs are in demand. The US Department of Labor predicts that between 2006 and 2016 accounting jobs will increase by 18%. The CPA provides a distinct advantage in the job market. Certification can attest to professional competence in a specialized field of accounting and auditing.



# How Can You Become A CPA

## Certification Requirements

Any accountant who passes the four part uniform CPA examination prepared by the American Institute of CPAs and meets requirements of the States where they practice can become a CPA. Also, most states require CPA candidates to complete 150 semesters of college course work, an additional 30 hours beyond the usual 4 year bachelor degree, and require applicants to have some accounting experience, which varies by state. Link to the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, to determine requirements for your state.

## To Become A CPA

- ✓ Prepare and take the exam prior to employment
- ✓ Take a CPA review course as early as your senior year in college
- ✓ Join NABA and attend conferences and events
- ✓ Join an exam study group
- ✓ Apply for review course scholarships
- ✓ Master technical skills and pursue excellence
- ✓ Network with other professionals who are studying for the exam or who have passed the exam
- ✓ Meet and complete requirements for certification in your state
- ✓ Actively manage your career by passing the exam

**Most importantly, Don't Give UP!**

**If you dedicate four to six months or even several years, you will be a CPA for the rest of your life!**



# Promoting the CPA Certification

To ensure that the value of becoming a CPA is understood, NABA professionals should spread the word about the benefits of becoming a CPA and recognize those members who pass the exam and become certified.

## **In Your Chapter**

- ✓ Provide information on your chapters website
- ✓ Feature articles on CPAs in your chapter communications to the membership
- ✓ Survey your members to identify CPAs and their strategies for success
- ✓ Recognize members passing the exam at a chapter event
- ✓ Network with members studying for the exam
- ✓ Host an exam study group
- ✓ Conduct a seminar at your local Accounting Careers Awareness Program (ACAP)

## **In Your Region**

- ✓ Recognize members passing the exam
- ✓ Hold a panel discussion on the CPA's roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Conduct a seminar on becoming a CPA at the regional student conference
- ✓ Provide scholarships for CPA review courses

## **In Your Community**

- ✓ Speak to local high schools and colleges to increase awareness about CPA career opportunities
- ✓ Participate in career fairs
- ✓ Advertise in local publications
- ✓ Mentor a high school or college accounting student



# Available Resources

The following links and organizations can help you find the information you need!

**National Association of Black Accountants, Inc.**

[www.nabainc.org](http://www.nabainc.org)

**National Association of Black Accountants, Inc.  
(Coming Soon)**

[www.nabacpaforum-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:www.nabacpaforum-subscribe@yahoo.com)

**AICPA**

[www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org)

**National Association of State Boards of Accountancy**

[www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org)