

# Instructions for 2021 CPE Audit

## Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy

900 West Capitol, Suite 400 • Little Rock, AR 72201

phone (501) 682-1520 • fax (501) 682-5538 • [www.asbpa.arkansas.gov](http://www.asbpa.arkansas.gov)

Assemble documentation for all CPE courses used for your 2021 Annual License Renewal.

If you chose the 40-hour rule this will include all applicable courses from 2020 and all ethics from 2018-2020. If you chose the 120-hour rule this will include all applicable courses from 2018-2020.

Review your CPE certificates to verify that documents meet all requirements detailed on the CPE Documentation Requirements page.

If you are missing documentation or your documentation is insufficient, contact the CPE Sponsor to request the required information.

Copies of your CPE documents are acceptable **ONLY** if all information is legible.

For CPE obtained through the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (ARCPA), please contact the ARCPA for a transcript of attended CPE courses and credits earned.

For the Rules and Laws Ethics course obtained through the Arkansas State Board, you must go onto the WebCE website where you took the course and print off your certificate. The Board does not automatically receive this certificate or verification once you have finished this course. You are responsible for sending this documentation to the Board.

Scan & e-mail your documentation in a PDF format to:

**[mary.roberts@arkansas.gov](mailto:mary.roberts@arkansas.gov)**

**OR**

Mail to:

**ASBPA Attn: CPE Audit  
900 West Capitol Ave., Suite 400  
Little Rock, AR 72201**

CPE support documentation should be a form or certificate issued by the sponsor and should contain the following information:

Your name as a participant (see NOTE 1 below)

Name of sponsoring organization and contact information

NASBA registration number or “Exempt” if organization is exempt

Course title

Dates attended and/or completed

Number of hours obtained (based on 50-minute hour)

Field of study for which hours were granted

Type of instruction/delivery method (group or self-study)

Signature of sponsor representative (written or electronic is acceptable)

Documentation lacking any items detailed above may result in the CPE being unacceptable. Please make sure each document submitted has all the information we require.

**NOTE 1: Except for sponsor signatures, handwritten information is NOT acceptable.** If any information is written, please contact the sponsor and have them verify the information on letterhead or in an email and send to Mary at [mary.roberts@arkansas.gov](mailto:mary.roberts@arkansas.gov).

**NOTE 2:** Many “Exempt” sponsors do not include the field of study on their certificates. Please send additional information (agenda or outline) to corroborate the classification of the CPE hours, if this is the case.

## Summary of CPE Documentation Requirements

### Summary of In-Firm CPE Documentation Requirements

**If you work for a firm that IS registered with NASBA,** all in-firm CPE can be verified by sending a transcript of your CPE. This transcript must be given to you and signed by your firm’s CPE Administrator or your firm’s director. This transcript must have all required CPE certificate information. If you do not have a transcript, you may also send acceptable CPE certificates instead of normal in-firm documentation. Please note, all CPE not taken through your firm must be verified via a CPE certificate not the CPE transcript.

If you work for a firm NOT registered with NASBA and you are reporting in-firm CPE, please send a sign-in sheet or certificate of completion; an agenda and/or outline; and a biography of the instructor(s). Please note the sign-in sheet should have the following printed on it: name of the instructor(s), title of the course, the number of CPE hours, the field of study, and the date the course was taken.

NOTE 3: **Except for signatures, handwritten information is NOT acceptable.** If any of the information is written, please contact your firm's CPE Coordinator and have them verify the information on letterhead or in an email and sent to mary.roberts@arkansas.gov.

## Examples of Unacceptable Documentation

"Circle the Minutes" forms are **NOT** acceptable. These are forms where you circle the minutes, total up the minutes and divide by 50 to get the CPE hours. These are considered "self-reporting" documents and are **NOT** acceptable third-party documentation. ***You must contact the provider and request a certificate or a letter confirming the completion of the CPE.*** This includes "Circle the Minutes" forms provided by the AICPA.

CPE obtained from providers that are not NASBA registered or are not an exempt organization per Rule 13.4(f), is **NOT** acceptable. A provider's prior NASBA registration does not ensure current NASBA certification. Please check closely for a NASBA number on your documents.

In-firm documentation that does not have all the items required is **NOT** acceptable.

Unofficial transcripts – if you are claiming CPE from colleges or universities, a print-out of a transcript is **NOT** acceptable. We must have an official transcript sent to the Board from the university.

Plane ticket stubs, receipts for payment of CPE, rosters of attendees, confirmation letters or emails of registrations, etc., are **NOT** acceptable.

Any documentation that has handwritten notes that fill in missing information is **NOT** acceptable. For example, if the provider did not include the number of hours and you write that number in, it will not be acceptable. You must contact the provider for any missing information.

Certificates that do not have a name are **NOT** acceptable. You may have received a blank certificate from the sponsor. This document is **NOT** acceptable for audit purposes. Please contact the sponsor and have them verify your attendance on letterhead or in an email sent to mary.roberts@arkansas.gov

Screenshots of completed CPE courses are **NOT** acceptable. You must send verified CPE certificates from the sponsors.

1. **GROUP STUDY:** Minimum of 0 hours based on the 40-hour rule or 32 hours based on the 120-hour rule is required. **Note:** Group study was waived for the 2021 renewal period due to COVID-19. Those using the 120-hour rule **must** submit group hours earned for years 2018-2019.

2. **CONTENT:** For licensees engaged in the practice of public accountancy, a minimum of 16 hours based on the 40-hour rule or 48 hours based on the 120-hour rule shall be completed in the following: Accounting/Attest, Ethics, or Taxation. For those not engaged in the practice of public accountancy, the minimum is 8 hours under the 40-hour rule or 24 hours based on the 120-hour rule.

3. *ENGAGED IN ATTEST/COMPILATIONS*: If the licensee is engaged in attest or compilation functions, a minimum of 8 hours based on the 40-hour rule or 24 hours based on the 120-hour rule must be completed in Accounting/Attest.
4. *ETHICS*: All license holders must have at least 4 hours of Ethics in any 36-month reporting cycle. Beginning January 1, 2015, one of those hours must be Arkansas Board Laws and Rules course.
5. *NEW LICENSEES*: Licensees who receive their initial licensure during the current calendar year must obtain CPE hours prorated based upon the date of initial licensure. They are exempt from the ethics requirement until their first full year of licensure.
6. *120 HOUR RULE REPORTING CYCLE*: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.
7. *SPONSORS*: CPE sponsors must be registered with NASBA. The certificate of completion must include the sponsor's registration number. Professional accounting and legal organizations, accredited universities and colleges, firms, and government entities are exempt from the NASBA registry requirement.

### **Legal Requirement**

This CPE Summary is for supplemental purposes only and not the official source. Board Rule 13 and AR Code Annotated § 17-12-502 CPE Requirement should be reviewed for your official source. The Accountancy Law and Board Rules can be accessed at [www.asbpa.arkansas.gov](http://www.asbpa.arkansas.gov).

## **Summary of Rule 13-CPE Requirements**

### **New CPE Audit Policy**

Effective with the 2017 CPE Audit, those **CPAs who fail a CPE audit will be required to make up the hours disallowed in the audit in addition to paying a fine**. For several years the audits have resulted in fines only, but the Board believes that the profession and the public are better served by having CPAs who fail to meet the CPE standards make up the hours that were either not taken or disallowed.

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