2018 CPA PEP Update: Core Modules

The Winter 2018 offering of the core modules will reflect the first significant update to the CPA PEP since the program launched in 2013. The changes incorporate feedback from candidates and facilitators and include additional resources, changes to the module assignment structure and grading, and enhanced feedback for candidates.

As of January 2018, the following changes will be in effect:

Updated Module Interface

The Desire2Learn (D2L) will have a new dynamic interface that will allow candidates to access course content from their desktops, tablets or smartphones. While the appearance and layout of information will be different, the functionality of the available tools (email, discussion boards, Dropboxes, etc.) will not change.

Updated Resources

New CPA Canada Learning eBooks replace the Oracle

The Oracle will no longer be available and has been leveraged into Learning eBooks, which will consist of seven volumes—one for each of the six technical competency areas and one for the enabling competencies. The Learning eBooks will provide candidates with a technical knowledge resource that covers most of the CPA Competency Map.

Introduction to CPA PEP module replaces Module Zero

Module Zero was introduced as a supplemental resource for candidates entering CPA PEP using legacy prerequisites, which are no longer accepted. The new *Introduction to CPA PEP* module leverages the content from Module Zero and will include additional resources such as self-assessment tools, sub-modules containing readings and videos, and the *Core 1 Survival Guide*.

Certification Resource Centre (CRC)

The new Certification Resource Centre (CRC) will be a central resource repository for CPA certification program (education, practical experience, and evaluation) materials. Many candidate guidance documents (candidate guide, exam preparation documents, etc.) will move from the D2L homepage to the CRC.

Changes to Weekly Assignment Structure

For Core 1 only, all week 1 activities are due on Saturday at 11:55 p.m. PST. Facilitator feedback will be returned to candidates within 96 hours of the submission deadline.

Change	Description
Learning eBook Chapters	Suggested Learning eBook chapters will be listed in the module Survival Guide and, where possible, aligned with the materials in each week of the core modules. Each chapter will have a corresponding practice quiz for review.
Quizzes and Workshop Pre-work	Candidates will need to complete weekly, automatically-marked quizzes consisting of 25 questions from the assigned Learning eBook chapter quizzes. • Quiz grades are 50 percent completion and 50 percent performance. For example, achieving 75 percent on a quiz results in 1.75/2 (1 point for completion and 0.75 for the quiz mark). • Only one practice version of the quiz will be available after submission, with the questions in the same order as the original.
Assignment Problems	New assignment problems with a technical focus will replace the immersive case. • Each problem will be a scenario for candidates to address technical areas without time constraint. • All assignment problems will be worth points and marked by facilitators with feedback provided. • Revisions will no longer be part of the modules.
Weekly Practice Cases	Practice cases will be revised extensively to closely align with the exam blueprint. • Each week will have one 60-minute time-constrained practice case. • All practice cases will be worth points and marked by facilitators with feedback provided. • Peer-reviewed assignments will no longer be part of the core modules.
Weekly Webinars	• CPAWSB will hold weekly webinars including a 20-minute Learning eBook topic debrief and a Q&A of 20-40 minutes. • A link to the recording of the webinar will be available on the discussion board.

Changes to Module Exam Eligibility

Candidates will need to achieve an overall module grade of 75 percent or higher to be eligible to write the exam, which determines eligibility to proceed to the next module. Candidates who are deemed ineligible to attempt the exam will be contacted directly.

The overall module grade consists of:

- Quizzes and workshop pre-work: 30 percent
- Assignment problems: 35 percent
- Weekly practice cases: 30 percent
- Workshop participation: 5 percent
  - Workshop attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend any workshop may result in ineligibility to write the module-end exam regardless of the overall module grade.
  - Session leaders will evaluate candidates' participation and behaviour in module workshops.
  - The Orientation Workshop in Core 1 is not evaluated for participation.

Enhanced Feedback

Restructured feedback guides for the assignment problems and practice cases will have all assessment opportunities (AOs) appearing on a single tab.

Marks will be provided on the overall AO instead of the minimum proficiency indicators, which will be scored as N, P, or Y (no, partial, and yes, respectively). Facilitator feedback will be personal and tailored depending on the level achieved:

- NA: value-added comments to reduce number of NAs in the future
- NC/RC: focus on how to improve to the next level
- C/CD: confirmation feedback on why C/CD was achieved to reinforce a candidate's response

Overall Grading

- The maximum grade for each grade item will change from 4 to 2.
- Candidates must achieve an overall module grade of 75 percent or higher to be eligible to write the exam. The module exam determines eligibility to proceed to the next module.

More Information

In early January, candidates will be invited to attend webinars outlining the changes.