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Basic CPE

The rule proposal adds two new options for obtaining the required ethics education that all CPAs licensed in Indiana must get every three years. The first new option is to take a competency-based course, with completion measured by participation, not ...

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The Indiana Board of Accountancy has approved competency-based education to count toward CPA license renewal. It marks the first time in U.S. CPA profession history that competency-based, and not hours-based, education has been permanently approved.

“Today is a watershed occasion for the CPA profession not only in Indiana, but nationally as well,” said Indiana CPA Society President & CEO Gary Bolinger, CAE. “While this is a significant first step in reforming the CPA license renewal process, we still have a lot to learn as we go forward to ensure relevant education options for CPAs and protection of the public. And make that education more useful, valuable and relevant not only for the CPAs themselves, but in serving their clients and employers.”

The rule proposal adds two new options for obtaining the required ethics education

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spent in a classroom. This method also offers other benefits such as flexibility, ability to work at one's own pace, and personalization. It is learner-focused and viewed as a more effective means of skill development. Continuing professional education in the CPA profession nationwide has been hours-based since becoming required nearly 50 years ago, meaning that education is measured by the number of hours spent in a classroom or webinar.

Indiana's rule proposal was originally introduced as a Notice of Intent in August 2015. It was approved by the Indiana Board of Accountancy in November 2015. After going through the rule promulgation process, it was adopted at today's Public Hearing. The final steps in the process are approval by the Attorney General's Office and signing by Gov. Mike Pence, which are likely to occur within the next 30-45 days.

"The Indiana Board of Accountancy is proud to be a leader in accepting competency-based education for CPA license renewal, and helping to lay the foundation for what we hope becomes a national movement in the profession," said John Kane, CPA, CGMA, the chair of the Indiana Board of Accountancy. "The transformation to a competency-based approach is being seen more frequently at the secondary and higher education levels, and now is the time to introduce it to the professional level as well.

"Using a competency-based approach to ethics education, CPAs will demonstrate that they have both acquired and applied the knowledge they have learned," Kane added. "This is an important step to ensure that CPAs are prepared to meet the challenges of today and the future that exist due to complexity and specialization, and will enable CPAs to both better serve clients and employers while expanding their roles to help make Indiana businesses more successful."

The CPA Center of Excellence®, which is powered by the Indiana CPA Society, has been a leader in creating online competency-based courses for CPAs and other

professionals since 2014. Previously, subject material has been focused on vital

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and for it to be recognized as the first competency-based course in the history of the CPA profession to officially count for credit.”

The rule change is transformative in many ways. Although the CPA Center of Excellence® specializes in competency-based learning, both the CPA Center of Excellence® and the Indiana CPA Society also strongly support experience in the forms of hands-on work, on-the-job training and mentoring as an effective form of education. Experience of this nature has also never counted as credit toward CPA license renewal in Indiana.

Accounting

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