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Continuing professional education is a way by which CPA's refresh their knowledge and acquire new skills to better address the challenges that keep coming up from time to time. There are many online CPE websites available in the cyberspace these days. Each website has its own distinct set of offerings but the one common reason why all the CPA's take online courses is to get the CPE credits, through which they can get the renewal of their licenses. Some of the websites allow CPAs to pilot test their courses so that the website can get accreditation for the course, as required by different State Boards and accreditation services. Usually if a CPA pilot tests a course, they will eventually get the CPE credits for the course, and usually they will get them for free. This can also be a great way for the CPA to test the usability of the website while learning about new topics in the accounting and taxation world.

How to Pilot Test a Course?

In order to pilot test a CPE course, the person has to be CPA and they must provide a short resume or bio along with the CPA license number. Typically the CPA will not know exactly how long in hours the course is supposed to take, and they may receive just a range of hours for the expected time commitment. The CPA will start the course, while taking note of any problems or errors in the course. Once completing the course, the CPA will provide an evaluation of the course, along with the total time that it took the CPA to complete the course. The CPE website will use this time estimate, along with time estimates from other CPA pilot testers, to determine the CPE credits allowable for the course. One the pilot test period is complete, the CPA will usually receive CPE CREDITS and a certificate.

CPAs can typically find a wide range of topics and courses, allowing them to select CPE COURSES that best match their interests or specialization. Courses ranging from accountancy, finance, computer software and auditing are all available on these online websites for the CPA needing CPE. CPA's working with specialized industries can also get their CPE concerning specialized industries like banking, GAAP and others.

CPAs and accountants provide an extremely valuable service by validating and verifying the financial and taxation information that is communicated in business today. Staying abreast of the latest changes in the financial world is critical for these professionals. There needs to be present a sense of control over compiling of this information, so that the chances of occurrences of any mismatch or omission of transactions in the financial statements could be minimized. Because this information is utilized for many purposes like sanctioning of loan and payment of taxes, the emphasis on correctness of this information is paramount. It is because of reasons like these that a CPA is asked to continually keep himself abreast of the recent changes and modifications that are introduced by the agencies and associations governing the CPA profession. CPE is a critical part of the CPE profession.

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