



Call for Bids: NSA's ACAT Preparatory Course - Tax Update

The National Society of Accountants (NSA) is seeking bids from qualified individuals to update the Tax Section of the ACAT Preparatory Course. This course is used by students / practitioners to prepare for the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation (ACAT) Accredited Business Accountant certification examination.

Scope of Work:

1. Review the current ACAT Preparatory Course tax section study material and the ABA Examination blueprint section on tax.
2. Using the applicable tax code for 2004, as of 12/31/04, identify and modify any material that is in conflict with the 2004 code.
3. Remove course material that has become irrelevant under current the current tax code.
4. Include as new course material, any new topics covered in the tax code.
5. For items 2 & 4 provide at least 5 multiple choice questions, each question will have four possible answers that will test the understanding of the material. Provide rationale for each answer – why it is wrong or right.
6. Review the existing questions at the end of each section and make modifications or deletions as appropriate. Provide rationale for each answer – why it is wrong or right.
7. All changes should be made under the following guidelines:
 - a. Make the material as evergreen/generic as possible.
 - b. Focus on application rather than memorization.
Examples of teaching application, not memorization:
 - i. Candidates need to be able to calculate the phase-out in itemized deduction, but shouldn't be required to memorize the phase-out threshold for a given year. Focus should be on calculating the correct total itemized deductions, given AGI and the current year phase-out threshold.
 - ii. Candidates should be able to correctly determine what types of expenses qualify for the child and dependent tax credit, and specific limitations applicable to the credit (i.e. lesser of amount paid, statutory maximum, or earned income; special rules for full-time students and/or disabled individuals). Candidates should not be required to have memorized the credit percentage for a specific AGI range, as these amounts are actually listed on the IRS form.
8. Successful bidder will receive the current tax section material in MS Word format. All changes / modifications will be red lined using Word's markup features.
9. The project must be completed by February 28, 2005.

If you are interested, please do the following by December 31:

- Email Susan Heisler at sheisler@nsacct.org for a copy of the current tax review material and current exam blueprint.
- Submit a 'Not to Exceed Dollar Amount Bid', based on an hourly rate, for which you will be willing to do this project.
- Submit your educational vitae or professional resume.
- This is not a low bid contract.
- The background and expertise of the bidder will be taken into consideration along with the fee and hourly rate.