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## **ACAT Accepting Registrations for Spring 2011 Accountancy and Taxation Accreditation Exams**

### ***New computer-based exams introduced for Accredited Tax Advisors and Accredited Retirement Advisors***

WASHINGTON, DC, March 25, 2011 — The Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation<sup>®</sup> (ACAT) is now accepting exam applications for the May 23 – June 13, 2011 testing period from industry professionals seeking to earn any of the following four credentials:

- ABA Accredited Business Accountant/Advisor<sup>®</sup>
- Accredited Tax Preparer<sup>®</sup> (ATP)
- Accredited Tax Advisor<sup>®</sup> (ATA)
- Accredited Retirement Advisor<sup>®</sup> (ARA)

The ATA and ARA exams are being offered at computer-based testing centers throughout the United States this year for the first time.

The ABA is a national credential that verifies the technical proficiency of practitioners in financial accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, taxation, business consulting services, business law and ethics. The emphasis is on a practical approach to public accounting. The ABA is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), an independent

resource recognized as the authority on accreditation standards for professional certification organizations and programs.

The ATP is a credential for tax practitioners who demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the existing tax code and the preparation of individual tax returns with an expertise in comprehensive 1040 issues including supporting schedules, self-employed returns, and ethics.

The ATA is a premier national tax credential for practitioners who handle sophisticated tax planning issues, including planning for owners of closely held businesses, planning for the highly compensated, choosing qualified retirement plans and performing estate tax planning. Their expertise covers tax returns for individuals, business entities, fiduciaries, trusts and estates, as well as tax planning, tax consulting and ethics.

The ARA recognizes professionals who have a thorough knowledge of topics relevant to retirement planning and special issues of senior citizens including tax planning; preparing clients for retirement; tax preparation for decedents, the essentials of estates and trusts; financial planning; and applying your knowledge and skills in real-life situations when serving aging clients.

ACAT accreditation provides evidence to clients, prospective clients, employers, and the public that the accredited professional has met national standards and has a mastery of accounting and taxation procedures and practices. These credentials demonstrate a mastery of accounting and tax procedures and practices that far exceed the proposed IRS registered tax return preparer standard.

Candidate information with topic blueprints for each exam, credential information and exam registration, is available at [www.acatcredentials.org](http://www.acatcredentials.org).

The National Society of Accountants (NSA) offers preparatory course study guides for some of the exams. For more information, visit [www.nsacct.org](http://www.nsacct.org) or call 800-966-6679.

For more information about the exams and ACAT credentials, visit [www.acatcredentials.org](http://www.acatcredentials.org) or call 888-289-7763.

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ACAT is an independent accrediting and monitoring organization affiliated with the National Society of Accountants. ACAT accredits professionals in independent practice who have demonstrated measurable knowledge of the principles, practices, and ethical standards of accounting, taxation, information technology and related financial services. For more information, visit [www.acatcredentials.org](http://www.acatcredentials.org).