

Are you reviewing for the CPA exam? Or are you preparing to pass? There's a big difference.

By Tom Rogowski, CPA

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A passing score on the CPA exam is no accident. While there are probably as many reasons for failure as there are disappointed candidates, one thing is clear—candidates who prepare with Becker CPA Review pass at double the rate of those who do not.* There are some clear reasons why.

Integration. Quality. Functionality.

Three key factors contribute to the consistently superior success of Becker students: 1) the integration of the review program components, 2) the quality of the content and instruction, and 3) the program's functionality.

Completely integrated methodology and materials

Unlike some review providers who cobble together a course using texts and tools from one source and lectures from another, the Becker approach was designed from the very start as a single, cohesive program. It has been this way since Becker pioneered formal exam review more than 50 years ago.

In a very real way Becker not only wrote the "book" on exam preparation, it also wrote all the lectures, software, and practice resources that go along with it. And they all work together seamlessly toward one goal—student success on the exam.

High quality content and expert instruction

The concepts and standards that guide accounting evolve constantly. Rather than simply add new content to reflect those changes, Becker's team of CPA exam and subject matter experts continuously "scrub" the content of its review program to ensure that outdated material is eliminated, and the material candidates study is only the most current and most likely to appear on the exam.

Then, Becker's expert instructors bring that content to life. Each has a genuine passion to help students master the content, hone test-taking skills, and gain the confidence needed to pass the exam the first time.

Software functionality and totally realistic simulations

Becker's simulations and final exam software mirror the actual exam more closely than any other review provider's. Simulations make up 30 percent of the overall exam grade, and only Becker offers complete simulations, almost 50 in all. Candidates can make a direct comparison of Becker's simulations (beckercpa.com/simulations) with the actual exam sample provided by the AICPA (cpa-exam.org).

High pass rates. And some very high scores.

For more than 50 years, Becker students have been outperforming others on the CPA exam. Bearing in mind that the vast majority of candidates do not pass all four parts of the exam on their first attempt, Becker students consistently rank among the highest scorers each year on all four parts of the exam. In the most recent award year, the ten top scorers—the winners of the coveted Watt Sells Award—prepared with Becker. In the two previous years, seven out of the ten winners were Becker students.

Of course, the ultimate goal for most candidates is a bit less lofty. Most simply want to achieve a passing score. Jenna Thomas, a former Becker student sums it up nicely, "After taking the CPA exam twice before, I knew that I couldn't do it alone. Becker prepared me for each individual exam, and I passed all four parts."

Transparency about pass rates.

Controversy always hovers around the claims that exam review providers make about their pass rates. Some quote specific numbers. Others report nothing, saying there's no way to calculate an unbiased pass rate.

While coming up with a specific pass rate for all students of a particular review provider is impossible (exam scores are provided to the individual candidates only), calculating an unbiased pass rate using statistical sampling

isn't. Becker does it every year by engaging a third-party research firm to conduct research to validate its pass rate claim of "*students who prepare with Becker CPA Review pass at double the rate of non-Becker candidates.*"

The research firm uses statistical sampling to determine Becker students' pass rates and then removes Becker's influence from the pass rates that the AICPA publishes. Based on an estimate of Becker's share of the exam review market, the pass rate of non-Becker candidates is calculated. When these figures are compared, the results have always shown that Becker students pass at double the rate—or more—of non-Becker students.

The ultimate decision is yours

Candidates who rely on pass rates to choose their exam review provider are encouraged also to understand the methodology behind those pass rates instead of just accepting them at face value.

But there's more to choosing a review provider than a pass rate claim. Earning the CPA credential can be a life and career altering accomplishment. The choice of a review provider to help in that effort should include a thoughtful, thorough assessment of methodology, course options, participant satisfaction, and of course the commitment of the provider to the individual candidate.

Tom Vucinic, President of Becker Professional Review says of Becker's approach to exam review, "If it's not good for the student, it's not good for Becker. And that commitment extends to each candidate. We truly care about their individual success. That's been the key to our own success for more than 50 years. It's what keeps us at the top of our field."

For more information visit beckercpa.com or call toll-free 877-CPA-EXAM.

*Becker students pass at twice the rate of all CPA Exam candidates who did not take a Becker review course based on averages of AICPA-published pass rates.



Choose Becker and prepare to succeed.

You have many choices if you just want to study for the CPA Exam. There's one clear choice if you want to pass it. No other review program comes close to matching the Becker advantage.

- ✓ **Highest pass rates**
Students who prepare with Becker pass at **double the rate** of non-Becker candidates.*
- ✓ **More experience**
Becker has been focused on student success on the CPA Exam for **more than 50 years**.
- ✓ **Greater success**
Over **400,000 candidates** have successfully passed the exam using Becker CPA Review, more than any other review provider.
- ✓ **Top scorers**
Perfect 10! The **top 10 scorers** on the most recent CPA Exam prepared with Becker.
- ✓ **Access anywhere/anytime**
Becker offers our live review course format in **more than 250 classroom locations** worldwide and virtually unlimited access through our online and self-study formats.
- ✓ **More partners**
1,500+ accounting firms, corporations, government agencies, and universities choose Becker for their candidates.
- ✓ **"Big" names**
96 of the top 100 accounting firms partner with Becker.
- ✓ **World-class review course**
Becker offers a completely integrated program that maximizes your study and replicates the exam in every way, giving you the **greatest chance of passing**.

“*I had heard about Becker at school, and I knew about the high pass rates for Becker students. Colleagues who had taken the course told me it could really set me up to pass the exam. I feel like I was as well prepared as I possibly could have been.*”

– Bryan Dean, Top 10 scorer on the CPA Exam

“*I was very impressed with Becker's ability to prepare me in areas I had never studied in school. The Becker course taught me those subjects from the ground up. Obviously, they did a good job.*”

– Walker Saik, Top 10 scorer on the CPA Exam

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