



Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy

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Professional Program Review Update

November 14, 2008

In mid-September, we advised you of significant changes to the ASCA Professional Program. This follow-up memo provides more detail on module timing and addresses some transitional matters of interest to many stakeholders. We suggest you share this information with your colleagues.

The ASCA Board of Directors appointed an Implementation Committee primarily to:

- oversee the design and development of the revised Professional Program modules, and,
- identify transitional issues and recommend how best to manage those issues.

The Implementation Committee presented its first series of recommendations to the Board this week. The Board approved the following:

1. Tax Technical

The ASCA Tax Technical course will start on Monday June 1 with the final evaluation on Saturday June 13.

As earlier announced, Tax Technical is now a Group 3 course. We are in discussions with various universities with respect to granting exemption for equivalent university course work. We expect as many as one-half of our new registrants will receive exemption for this course.

2. Module 1

Module 1 is being significantly re-designed.

- Module 1 begins with a 3-Day face-to-face Workshop June 15-17 in Halifax.
- Students then work through a 6-week Internet-based component beginning Monday June 22. This component of the module focuses on building and enhancing students' technical knowledge and skills. There will be a multiple-choice exam at the end of this component of the module worth 50 percent of the Module 1 grade.
- The face-to-face skill-building session begins in Halifax on Wednesday August 12. A multi-competency final will be written on Saturday August 22 worth 50 percent of the Module 1 grade.

3. Group 2 courses

Beginning May 2009, ASCA will no longer offer the Group 2 courses.

The Group 2 courses –Cost Accounting Planning & Budgeting, Management Information Systems, Finance and Intermediate Financial Accounting– are readily available in local and distance university programs.

4. Group 3 courses

ASCA will offer the Group 3 courses, other than Tax Technical addressed above, in May as follows:

Advanced Financial Accounting May 4 - 22

Accounting Theory May 11 - 22

Introductory Auditing May 11 - 22

(Note: These dates are tentative pending final arrangements with respect to access to university residence rooms.)

The Board confirmed our current policy of requiring students to have successfully completed all pre-professional courses before entering the Professional program. Moving the above Group 3 courses to May will allow students who do not have the exemption for Tax Technical and one other Group 3 course to enroll in the Professional Program in Summer 2009.

5. Closing

We will continue to keep you informed on the implementation process as we move forward. In the interim, feel free to contact our Registrar, Terry Arthur, if you have any questions. Terry can be reached by phone at 902-429-4462 and email at tarthur@asca.ns.ca.