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FINANCIAL EDUCATORS

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Course Information

Course Title: *Annual Tax Season Update-2020* Course #292420

Recommended CPE credit hours recommended for this course

In accordance with the standards of the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. the National Registry of CPE Sponsors, and the Internal Revenue Service, CPE credits have been granted based on a 50-minute hour.

CPA: 9 (All states)

National Registry of CPE Sponsors ID Number: 107615.

Sponsor numbers for states requiring sponsor registration

Florida Division of Certified Public Accountancy: 4761 (Ethics #11467)

Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy 14003

New York State Board of Accountancy (ethics): 002146

Ohio State Board of Accountancy: M0021

Pennsylvania Board of Accountancy: PX 178025

Texas State Board of Accountancy: 009349

EA, OTRP, 9 (All States) IRS: Qualified Sponsor number: *FWKKO*.

CLU, ChFC Professional Recertification: 9

Course Description

Note: This course does not qualify for the Annual Filing Season Refresher Course (AFTR) requirement.

Each year, various limits affecting income tax return preparation and tax planning are changed to account for the effects of inflation. In addition, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 significantly affects tax planning and income tax liability for many taxpayers. This course will examine many of those changes.

The *Annual Tax Filing Season Update* course discusses new tax law and recent updates for the 2020 filing season, provides a general tax review, and examines important rules governing tax return preparer ethics, practices and procedures. The newly enacted Secure Act (Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019) is also covered.

Program Delivery Method: Self-Study (NASBA QAS Self-Study/Interactive)

Subject Codes/Field of Study

CFP Board of Standards, Inc., NAPFA: Taxes

NASBA (CPA): Taxes

IRS (EA, OTRP): Federal Tax Law Update

Course Level, Prerequisites, and Advance Preparation Requirements

Program Level: NASBA/CPA, IRS: Overview. This program is appropriate for professionals at all organizational levels.

Prerequisites: Basic familiarity with federal taxation

Advance Preparation: None

Course Content

Publication/Revision Date: 2/3/2020.

Author: Paul J. Winn, CLU, ChFC

Final exam (online): Fifty-nine questions (multiple-choice).

A passing grade of at least 70% is required on the final exam for this course. The exam may be retaken if not passed on the first attempt (no charge).

For best results, download the course-PDF to view. Complete the course by following the learning objectives listed below and studying the review questions after each major section (or chapter) in the text. Once you are confident that the learning objectives have been met, answer the final exam questions (online).

Instructions for Taking the Final Exam Online

- Login to your account online at www.bhfe.com.
- Go to "My Account" and view your course.
- Select "Take Exam" for this course and follow instructions.

Have a question? Call us at 800-588-7039 or email us at contact@bhfe.com.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify the principal individual income tax changes brought about by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017;
- Apply the inflation-adjusted and other limits to the proper preparation of taxpayers' income tax returns;
- Recognize the federal income tax filing statuses and the criteria for their use;
- Identify the types of income that must be recognized;
- Apply the tax rules to the various credits and adjustments to income that are available to taxpayers;
- Recognize the penalties that may be imposed on a preparer for failing to meet ethical and practice standards in preparing tax returns; and Identify the duties and restrictions imposed on tax preparers under Circular 230.

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Special Note Concerning Recent Legislation

In the closing days of 2019, two pieces of legislation titled "[Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019](#)" (SECURE Act) and "[Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2019](#)" became law. Although the laws' provisions are generally effective January 1, 2020 and principally address retirement plans, several provisions are effective before 2020 and may affect tax preparation clients. Those provisions are as follows:

- Reduction of the AGI threshold for deduction of unreimbursed medical expenses to 7.5% for years before 2021;
- Exclusion from gross income for the discharge of certain qualified principal residence indebtedness, effective from 2018 through 2020;
- Permitted deduction of mortgage insurance premiums effective from 2018 through 2020;
- Expansion of § 529 Plan definition of eligible education costs to include costs associated with apprenticeship programs and certain student loan repayments effective in 2019; and
- Effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, qualified tuition and related expenses are deductible subject to existing rules through December 31, 2020.