

51A Middle Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 Phone: 800-588-7039 contact@bhfe.com <u>www.bhfe.com</u>

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Ethics for Washington CPAs 2025

Course Number: #595125

Recommended number of CPE credit hours for this course: 4

Approved by the Washington State Board of Accountancy for 2025 as meeting the minimum requirements of WAC 4-30-134 (1)(c)(ii) and WAC 4-30-132 (7), which requires four CPE hours in the subject area of professional ethics and regulations with specific application to the practice of public accounting in Washington State.

In accordance with the standards of the National Registry of CPE, CPE credits have been granted based on a 50-minute hour. National Registry of CPE Sponsors ID Number: 107615.

Course Description

This course must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Ethics for Washington CPAs 2025 meets the four-hour ethics CPE requirement for CPAs licensed in the state of Washington.

Section I covers the *Washington State Board of Accountancy Administrative Rules,* including the role of the Board, administrative policies, disciplinary policies, and requirements for the continued competency of licensees and firms.

Also covered are recent changes in the Board's rules and policies.

Section II covers the Washington State Board of Accountancy rules pertaining to ethics and prohibited practices and the current AICPA Code of Professional Conduct. Key comparisons are made between the AICPA Code and the Washington Rules and Statutes. Examples and case studies are used to illustrate the most important rules and interpretations.

Course Content

Publication/revision date: 1/1/2025

Course book: ©2025 by Beacon Hill Financial Educators, Inc.

Final exam (online): 20 questions (multiple-choice).

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

Subject Codes/Field of Study: Regulatory/Professional Ethics

Course Level, Prerequisites, and Advance Preparation Requirements

Level: Overview Prerequisites: None Preparation: None

Instructions for Taking This Course

Log in to your secure account at <u>www.bhfe.com</u>. Go to "My Account."

- You must complete this course by December 31, 2025.
- To retain the course-PDF after completion (for future reference) and to enable enhanced navigation: From "My Account," Download and save the course-PDF to your computer. This will enable the search function (Menu: Edit>Find) and bookmarks (icon on left side of document window).
- Complete the course by following the learning objectives listed for the course, studying the text, and, if included, studying the review questions at the end of each major section (or at the end of the course).
- Once you have completed studying the course and you are confident that the learning objectives have been met, answer the final exam questions (online).

Instructions for Taking the Online Exam

- Log in to your secure account at <u>www.bhfe.com</u>. Go to "My Account."
- A passing grade of at least 70% is required on the exam for this course.
- You will have three attempts to pass the exam (call or email us after three unsuccessful attempts for instructions).
- The exam is not timed, and it does not need to be completed in one session.
- For a printed copy of the exam questions, open the exam and press "Print Exam."
- Once you pass the exam, the results (correct/incorrect answers) and certificate of completion appear in "My Account." A confirmation email is also sent.
- CFP Board and IRS credit hours, if applicable, are reported on Tuesdays and at the end
 of the month.

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

LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

After studying the assignments, you should be able to meet the objectives listed below.

Assignment:

Section I Application to the Practice of Public Accounting in Washington State

Objectives:

- 1. Recognize the administrative responsibilities of the Board.
- 2. Define the requirements for initial and continued licensure.
- 3. Define the Requirements for Continuing Competency.

Assignment:

Section II Professional Conduct: Washington State and the AICPA and Section III Case Studies

Objectives:

- 1. Define ethics in the context of being ethical versus acting ethically.
- 2. Recognize the principles that serve as a framework of ethical guidance in the accounting profession.
- 3. Differentiate between the rules of professional conduct of Washington State and the AICPA.

Copyright © 2025 by Beacon Hill Financial Educators, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this course may be reproduced in any form or by any means, without permission in writing from the publisher. This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor the publisher is engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional service. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought. All numerical values in this course are examples subject to change. The current values may vary among different lenders depending on the type of loan and the lending institute's loan policies.

AICPA section: Copyright © 2024, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Inc. All Rights reserved.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Course Information Learning Assignments and Objectives Table of Contents Section I. Application to the Practice of Public Accounting in Washington State			
		Washington State Board of Accountancy	1
		Introduction	
		Administration of the Board	
WAC 4-30-020 Authority and Purpose of the Board's Rules			
WAC 4-30-026 How can I contact the board?	2		
WAC 4-30-028 Formal adjudicative proceedings and brief adjudicative proceedings before the			
WAC 4-30-030 Communicating with the board and staff			
WAC 4-30-032 Change of address.			
WAC 4-30-034 Responding to board inquiries.			
WAC 4-30-034 Responding to board inquiries.			
Firm Changes	1 7		
WAC 4-30-038 Fees			
WAC 4-30-000 Fees. WAC 4-30-084 Converting from certificate to license.			
WAC 4-30-142 Disciplinary actions.			
Examples of Prohibited Acts			
Common Disciplinary Violations			
Requirements for Continuing Competency			
WAC 4-30-130 Quality assurance review (QAR) requirements for licensed CPA firms			
WAC 4-30-132 Qualifying continuing professional education (CPE) activities			
WAC 4-30-132 Qualifying continuing professional education (of E) activities			
education (CPE) credit.			
WAC 4-30-134 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Requirements			
WAC 4-30-134 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Requirements			
WAC 4-30-138 Continuing professional education (CPE) to the board			
Recent Changes and Upcoming Proposed Changes in Board Rules and Policies	23		
2024 Recently Updated Rules			
2024 New Rule(s)			
2024 Rule(s) Repealed			
Board Rule Making 2024: Rules Alignment for HB 1920 RCW Revisions (October Rules Hearing)			
2024 Potential New Rules(s)			
2024 Recently Updated Board Policies			
2024 Retired Board Policies			
2024 Potential Board Policy Update			
Review Questions	28		
Section II. Professional Conduct: Washington State and the AICPA	29		
Introduction	29		
A Definition of Ethics	29		
How Do You Act When No One Is Looking?	29		
Principles of Professional Conduct: Washington State and the AICPA			
Independence, Integrity, and Objectivity: The Core Values of the Accounting Profession			
Principles Underlying Washington State Board of Accountancy Rules			
Using Principles in Practice			
Preamble			
Responsibilities Principle			
The Public Interest Principle			
The Fubility interest Filliopie	52		

Integrity Principle	32
Objectivity and Independence Principle	32
Due Care Principle	
Scope and Nature of Services Principle	
Rules of Professional Conduct: Washington State and the AICPA	33
Conceptual Framework Approach for Members in Public Practice	33
Ethical Conflicts	
Integrity and Objectivity	
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC Rule 4-30-040 Integrity and Objectivity?	
AICPA 1.100 Integrity and Objectivity Rule	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations under the Integrity and Objectivity Rule	
From the Washington Board: The Subtle and Evolving Nature of Conflicts of Interest	
Conflicts of Interest for Members in Public Practice	37
Knowing Misrepresentation in Preparation of Financial Statements or Records	
Case Study: Is This Misrepresentation?	
Subordination of Judgment by a Covered Member	
Other threats to the AICPA Integrity and Objectivity Rule	40
Case Study: Ethical Issue Relating to Integrity and Objectivity	
Independence	
What Is Independence?	
When Independence is Required	
When Independence is not required	
When Independence is Impaired	
AICPA Conceptual Framework for Analyzing Threats to Independence	
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC 4-30-042 Independence	
AICPA 1.200 Independence Rule	
AICPA Independence Rules as They Apply to Covered Members	
AICPA Independence Rules as They Apply to Non-Covered Members	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations under the Independence Rule	
Accounting Firms and Independence	
Financial Interests in Attest Clients by Covered Members	
Case Study: Is Independence Impaired?	
Case Study: Is Independence Impaired?	
Case Study: Is Independence Impaired?	
Covered Members' Family Relationships with Attest Clients	53
Case Study: Is Independence Impaired?	53
Current, Former, or Subsequent Employment or Association of a Covered Member with an A	
Case Study: Is Independence Impaired?	
Memberships of Covered Members and Attest Clients	
Gifts and Entertainment Received from an Attest Client	
Actual or Threatened Litigation Between a Covered Member and an Attest Client Nonattest Services Preformed for an Attest Client	
Case Study: Is Independence Impaired?	
Breach of an Independence Interpretation	
Commissions, Referral Fees, Contingent Fees	61
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC 4-30-044 Contingent Fees	
AICPA 1.500 Fees and Other Types of Remuneration	
AICPA Contingent Fees Rule	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Contingent Fees Rule	
AICPA Commissions and Referral Fees Rule	64
Case Study: Contingent Fees	64
Disclosure of Permitted Commissions	64
Disclosure of Referral Fees	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Fees and Other Types of Remuneration Rule	
Professional Competence	65

Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	65
WAC 4-30-046 General Standards	65
AICPA 1.300 General Standards Rule	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the General Standards Rule	66
Professional Competence	67
Case Study: Oops! The Case of the Harmless Mistakes	67
Supervision of a Specialist on Consulting Engagements	
Use of Third-Party Service Provider	67
Case Study: Competence and Other General Standards	68
Professional Standards	68
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC 4-30-048 Compliance with Standards	
WAC 4-30-049 Accounting principles.	
Case Study: Do You Have What it Takes? The Case of the Inadequate Accountant	69
AICPA Compliance with Standards Rule	70
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Compliance with Standards Rule	70
AICPA Accounting Principles Rule	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Accounting Principles Rule	
Affirming that Financial Statements are in Conformity with Applicable Financial Reporting Framev	
Examples of circumstances that may justify a departure from GAAP:	701137 1
Examples of circumstances that would not ordinarily justify a departure from GAAP:	
Departures from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles	71
Financial Reporting Frameworks other than GAAP	
Confidential Client Information	
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC 4-30-050 Confidential Client Information	
Case Study: Cloud Storage of Client Data	73
AICPA Confidential Client Information Rule	73
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Confidential Client Information Rule	
Selected AICPA Interpretations and Ethical Rulings	
Disclosing Client Information in Connection with a Review or Acquisition of the Member's Practice	2 75
Case Study: Confidential Client Information Rule	
Discreditable Acts	
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC 4-30-052 Acts Discreditable	76
AICPA Acts Discreditable Rule	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Acts Discreditable Rule	
Response to Requests by Clients and Former Clients for Records	70 77
Transfer of Files and Return of Client Records in Sale, Transfer, Discontinuance or Acquisition of	a Practice
Transier of the and Neturn of Orient Necolds in Gale, Transier, Discontinuance of Acquisition of	
Case Study: Failure to Return Client Records	_
Advertising and Solicitation	
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC 4-30-054 Advertising and Other Forms of Solicitation	
Case Study: Stop Thief! The Case of the Almost Stolen Clients	Ω1
AICPA Advertising and Other Forms of Solicitation Rule	01 Q1
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Advertising and Other Forms of Solicitation F	
False, Misleading, or Deceptive Acts in Advertising or Solicitation	
Individual and Firm Names	
Rule Comparison: Washington State and AICPA	
WAC 4-30-056 Form of Organization and Name	
WAC 4-30-058 Other Authorized Titles	
WAC 4-30-110 What are the allowable legal forms of organization and ownership requireme	
CPA firm?	
AICPA Form of Organization and Name Rule	
Summary of AICPA Interpretations for the Form of Organization and Name Rule	
Owners of a Separate Business	
Case Study: Usage of Individual and Firm Names	87

Review Questions	88
Section III. Case Studies	90
Oops! The Case of the Harmless Mistakes Do You Have What It Takes? The Case of the Inadequate Accountant	91
Section IV. Glossaries	96
Washington State Board of Accountancy AICPA ET Section 92: Definitions	
Section V. Answers and Explanations to Review Questions	124
Section I. Application to the Practice of Public Accounting in Washington State	
Appendix I: Recently Updated Rules (not covered in course)	134
Appendix II: Board Policies	140
Appendix III: Public Accountancy Act	141
Index	180
Fndnotes	180