

51A Middle Street Newburyport MA 01950 Phone: 800-588-7039 Fax: 877-902-4284 contact@bhfe.com www.bhfe.com

### **Course Information**

Course Title: Payroll Management #3607

### Number of continuing education credit hours recommended for this course:

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

CPA: 14 (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 Board of Accountancy: 14003

New York State Board of Accountancy: 002146 Ohio State Board of Accountancy: M0021 Texas State Board of Accountancy: 009349

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

Subject Codes/Field of Study: Accounting

Level: Overview

Prerequisites: Basic familiarity with accounting practices.

Advance Preparation: None

### **Course Content**

Payroll Management describes how to properly manage the payroll department with a variety of efficiency techniques, procedures, and controls. It also shows how to comply with an array of payroll regulations, deposit taxes, account for payroll transactions, and issue payroll reports. It also addresses such special topics as payroll recordkeeping systems and whether to outsource payroll processing.

#### **Course Materials**

Publication/Revision date: 12/1/2014 (2015 ed.).

Course book: *Payroll Management* by Steven M. Bragg, CPA. Final exam (online): Seventy questions (multiple-choice).

### **Instructions for taking this course**

In order to receive CPE credit for this course, you must complete the course within one year of the date of purchase. This includes achieving a passing grade of at least 70% on the final exam. The exam for this course may be retaken if not passed on the first attempt (no charge).

Complete the course by following the learning assignments and objectives listed below and studying the review questions at the end of each chapter. Once you have completed each learning assignment and 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 courses.
- 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:**

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Cite the types of payroll systems, and note how payroll confidentiality is maintained.
- Note the circumstances under which someone is defined as an employee, and how an employee designation impacts the applicability of payroll taxes.
- Identify the circumstances under which different time tracking methodologies are most useful.
- Note the methods under which compensation is calculated for employees.
- Cite the tax treatment of various types of benefits.
- State the types of deductions from pay, and why they are used.
- Recognize the methods for paying payroll taxes.
- State the methods and related rules under which a business remits payroll taxes to the government.
- Note how unemployment taxes are calculated.
- Identify how payments to employees are made, and the forms used to do so.
- Note where payroll transactions are recorded in the accounting records, and how payroll accruals are used.
- Define the contents of the various payroll reports, and the circumstances under which these reports are issued.
- State the forms used to update payroll events, when these forms should be used, and where they are stored.
- Itemize the key steps involved in payroll activities.
- Cite the actions taken to maintain control over the payroll function, and note the types of controls that can be used.
- Identify the more common payroll measurements, and note how they can be calculated and why they are used.
- Note the responsibilities of the parties to an outsourcing arrangement, and the negotiation points for this arrangement.

## **About the Author**

**Steven Bragg, CPA,** has been the chief financial officer or controller of four companies, as well as a consulting manager at Ernst & Young. He received a master's degree in finance from Bentley College, an MBA from Babson College, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Maine. He has been the two-time President of the Colorado Mountain Club, and is an avid alpine skier, mountain biker, and certified master diver. Mr. Bragg resides in Centennial, Colorado. He has written the following books:

Accountants' Guidebook
Accounting Controls Guidebook
Accounting for Inventory
Accounting for Investments
Accounting for Managers

Accounting Procedures Guidebook

Bookkeeping Guidebook

Budgeting
Business Ratios
CFO Guidebook
Closing the Books
Constraint Management
Corporate Cash Management
Cost Accounting Fundamentals
Cost Management Guidebook
Credit & Collection Guidebook

Financial Analysis
Fixed Asset Accounting
GAAP Guidebook

Human Resources Guidebook

IFRS Guidebook
Inventory Management
Investor Relations Guidebook
Lean Accounting Guidebook
Mergers & Acquisitions
New Controller Guidebook
Nonprofit Accounting
Payables Management
Payroll Management
Payroll Management

Public Company Accounting Revenue Recognition

Published by AccountingTools LLC, Centennial, Colorado.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to Steven M. Bragg, 6727 E. Fremont Place, Centennial, CO 80112.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For more information about AccountingTools<sup>®</sup> products, visit our Web site at www.accountingtools.com. Copyright © 2015 by AccountingTools LLC. All rights reserved.

# Table of Contents

Chapter 1 - Payroll Management	1
Payroll Cycle Duration	
Streamlined Timekeeping	3
Electronic Payments	4
Employee Self-Service	
Manager Self-Service	
Transaction Error Analysis	
Staff Training Program	
The Payroll Calendar	
Information Confidentiality	
Chapter 2 - Definition of an Employee	
The Employee Defined	
Employee Withholding Liability	
The Independent Contractor Designation	
The W-2 Contractor	
The Salesperson Designation	
Employees of Exempt Organizations	
Ministers	
Employee Scenarios	
People in Business for Themselves	
Family Employees	
Working off the Books	
Intern Rules	
Chapter 3 - Employee Time Tracking	
Time Tracking Scope	
Employee Exclusions	
Handwritten Time Sheets	
Time Cards	
Computerized Time Clocks	
Biometric Time Clocks	
Web-Based Time Tracking	
Smart Phone Time Tracking	
Time Keeping Methods Usage Grid	
Automated Time Tracking Reminders	
Chapter 4 - Employee Compensation	
The Difference between Salaries and Wages	
The Work Week	
Compensation Definition	
Supplemental Wages	
Commission Calculations	32
Commissions Based on Cash Receipts	34
Final Commission Calculations	
Employee Business Expense Reimbursements	
Golden Parachute Payments	35
Hourly Rate Plan	
Idle Time	
Overtime Pay	
Payments in Kind	
Piece Rate Pay	
Salaries Paid for Partial Periods	
Sick Pay Tips	
Vacation Pay	
The Minimum Wage	42

Chapter 5 - Employee Benefits	44
The Provider and Recipient of Benefits	44
Adoption Assistance	
Athletic Facilities	45
Cell Phones Provided by Employer	45
De Minimis Benefits	
Disability Insurance	46
Educational Assistance	46
Employee Discounts	47
Flexible Spending Accounts	47
Health Savings Account	51
Leaves of Absence	51
Life Insurance	
Lodging on Business Premises	54
Meals	54
Medical Insurance	
Medical Insurance - COBRA	
Moving Expense Reimbursement	
No-Additional-Cost Services	
Pension Plans	
Retirement Planning Services	
Stock Options	
Stock Purchase Plans	
Transportation Benefits	
Tuition Reduction	
Vacation Benefit Reporting	
Workers' Compensation Insurance	
Working Condition Benefits	
How to Value Benefits	
Rules for Withholding, Depositing, and Reporting Benefits	
Benefit Authorization Form	
Taxability of Benefits	
Chapter 6 - Payroll Deductions	
Deductions for the Corporate Benefits Package	
Deductions for Payments to Third Parties	
Deductions for Financing Repayments	
The Reduction of Deductions	
Garnishment Processing	
Deduction Management by Employees	
Chapter 7 - Payroll Taxes	
Income Tax Withholding	89
Social Security Tax	92
Medicare Tax	
Calculating Withholdings	
Earnings Not Subject to Payroll Taxes	
Employee Taxes Paid by the Employer	
The Earned Income Credit	
Tax Deductions for the Self-Employed Person	
The Common Paymaster Rule	
Payroll Taxes for a Successor Employer	
Payroll Taxes for Part-Time Employees	
State Payroll Taxes	
Totalization Agreements	
Chapter 8 - Tax Remittances	109
Types of Tax Deposit Schedules	109
Monthly Deposit Schedule	
Semiweekly Deposit Schedule	110
Federal Unemployment Deposit Schedule	111

	\$100,000 Next-Day Deposit Rule	111
	Accuracy of Deposits Rule	
	Deposits not on Business Days	112
	Remittance Method	113
	The Form 941 Quarterly Federal Tax Return	114
	Form 941 Discrepancies	
	Prior Period Adjustments	119
	Federal Tax Deposit Penalties	120
	Trust Fund Recovery Penalty	121
	State Tax Remittances	121
	Local Tax Remittances	122
C	hapter 9 - Unemployment Taxes1	24
	Responsibility for Unemployment Tax Payments	124
	FUTA Tax Calculation	
	FUTA Tax Deposits	125
	FUTA Tax Payment Timing	125
	FUTA Tax Reporting	126
	State Unemployment Taxes	
	Unemployment Benefit Claims	
	Calculation of the State Unemployment Tax Rate	
	Voluntary Unemployment Contributions	
	Transferring an Unemployment Experience Rating	133
C	hapter 10 - Payments to Employees1	36
	Payments with Cash	136
	Payments by Check	
	Payments by Direct Deposit	139
	Payments by Pay Card	
	Flexible Spending Account Debit Cards	
	Unclaimed Wages	
	IRS Letter Forwarding	142
C	hapter 11 - Accounting for Payroll1	46
	The Accounting Journal Entry	146
	The Chart of Accounts	
	The General Ledger	
	The Payroll Journal	
	Where to Record Payroll Transactions	
	Types of Payroll Journal Entries	
	Primary Payroll Journal Entry	
	Accrued Wages	
	Accrued Bonuses	
	Accrued Commissions.	
	Benefit Payments	
	Accrued Benefits	
	Stock Subscriptions	
	Manual Paycheck Entry	156
	Employee Advances	
	Assumed Manathan David	156
	Accrued Vacation Pay	156 157
	Tax Deposits	156 157 158
	Tax Deposits	156 157 158 159
_	Tax Deposits	156 157 158 159 159
С	Tax Deposits Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Wages Payroll Information in the Financial Statements – Payroll Taxes Payroll Reports	156 157 158 159 159 <b>62</b>
С	Tax Deposits Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Wages Payroll Information in the Financial Statements – Payroll Taxes  hapter 12 - Payroll Reports Payroll Register	156 157 158 159 159 <b>62</b> 162
С	Tax Deposits Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Wages. Payroll Information in the Financial Statements – Payroll Taxes.  hapter 12 - Payroll Reports Payroll Register Internal Management Reports	156 157 158 159 159 <b>62</b> 162
С	Tax Deposits Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Wages. Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Payroll Taxes.  hapter 12 - Payroll Reports Payroll Register Internal Management Reports Form W-2	156 157 158 159 159 <b>62</b> 162 164
С	Tax Deposits Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Wages. Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Payroll Taxes.  hapter 12 - Payroll Reports Payroll Register Internal Management Reports Form W-2 Form W-3	156 157 158 159 159 <b>62</b> 162 164 168
С	Tax Deposits Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Wages. Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Payroll Taxes  hapter 12 - Payroll Reports  Payroll Register Internal Management Reports Form W-2 Form W-3 Corrections to Forms W-2 and W-3	156 157 158 159 159 162 164 165 168
С	Tax Deposits Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Wages. Payroll Information in the Financial Statements - Payroll Taxes  hapter 12 - Payroll Reports  Payroll Register Internal Management Reports Form W-2 Form W-3 Corrections to Forms W-2 and W-3 Form 1099-MISC	156 157 158 159 159 162 164 165 168

Chapter 13 - Payroll Recordkeeping	
The Employment Application	176
The Employer Identification Number	
The Social Security Number	177
Employment Eligibility Verification	179
The Withholding Allowance	179
The Personnel File	
Mandated Document Retention	
Chapter 14 - Payroll Procedures	187
Forms: The Timecard	187
Forms: The Paycheck and Remittance Advice	190
Procedure: Add an Employee	
Procedure: Timecard Data Collection	
Procedure: Commission Calculation	
Procedure: Process Payroll	
Procedure: Issue Payments to Employees	
Chapter 15 - Payroll Controls	196
General Controls	
Payroll Calculation Controls	
Cash Payment Controls	
Check Payment Controls	
Direct Deposit Controls	
Self-Service Controls	
Garnishment Controls	
Employee Advances Controls	
Vacation Pay Controls	
Chapter 16 - Payroll Measurements	
Payroll Entries to Headcount Ratio	
Payroll Transaction Error Rate	
Form W-2c to Form W-2 Ratio	
Proportion of Manual Checks	
Outsourced Payroll Cost per Employee	
Annualized Compensation per Employee	
Net Benefits Cost per Employee	
Sales per Person	
Profit per Employee	
·	
Chapter 17 - The Outsourcing Option	
Overview of Payroll Outsourcing	
Reasons to Outsource Payroll	
Reasons not to Outsource Payroll	
The Outsourced Payroll Contract  The Transition to Payroll Outsourcing	
Managing Outsourced Payroll	
Measuring Outsourced Payroll	
Terminating an Outsourcing Arrangement	
Appendix - Federal Payroll Tax Calendar	
Answers to Chapter Questions	
Glossary	
Index	243

### **Preface**

The payroll department has one of the most difficult jobs in business – it must comply with a maze of payroll regulations, volumes of paperwork, and an array of disjointed systems to somehow pay employees the correct amounts, remit taxes to the government on time, and issue accurate and timely reports to the government and management.

*Payroll Management* makes the payroll department's job easier by clearly defining the most efficient and effective means for running the department, while also addressing the following topics:

- Whether an individual is an employee
- How to track employee time worked
- How to calculate all types of employee earnings
- How to process tax withholdings and other deductions
- How and when to remit taxes to the government
- How to select the best method for paying employees
- How to complete and submit government forms
- How to set up a payroll recordkeeping system
- Which procedures, forms, and controls to install for payroll processes
- How to measure the performance of the department

An appendix contains the due dates for key filings and remittances to the federal government.

*Payroll Management* is designed for both professional accountants and students, since both can benefit from its detailed descriptions of payroll systems, controls, procedures, and regulations.

Payroll Management gives you the basis for operating a payroll department. It is also updated annually to incorporate the latest payroll regulations. As such, it may earn a place on your book shelf as a reference tool for years to come.

Centennial, Colorado November, 2014