

Introduction

Passing the CPA exams is hard. **Really hard.**

Success on the CPA exams isn't really about test day... It's about the *effectiveness of your daily study process* in the weeks leading up to test day.

If you have a [solid & strategic daily process](#), AND you execute it every single day... you will pass your exams.

There are a lot of people who are putting in the time and effort, but the way they spend their study time isn't as effective as it could be, and they go in and fail their exam, even though they are dedicated and are "putting in the work."

This guide will give you proven tips & strategies for the different parts of the CPA study process.

IMPORTANT:

The tips in this guide are a good overview of highly effective strategies that will help you develop a solid study process, [but for a FREE in-depth walkthrough of the SFCPA study process and how to combine the 5 "key ingredients" that every successful study process needs to have, watch one of our free webinars here...](#)

Make sure to register for a free session at the link above, and once you've done that, let's get to these 31 tips...

Problems with the Standard Study Method

Everyone taking the CPA exams has a master's degree, or close to the equivalent, so there are no "dummies" taking the CPA exams.

Yet... **the fail rates are 50%**, and sometimes higher.

So why is that?

It really boils down to 3 main reasons the standard study method is so ineffective.

So let's first define what I mean by the "standard" study method.

The "Standard Study Method": For each lesson, you watch the video lecture, then read or skim the chapter, then try the practice questions.

Each review course has their own variations or features, but in general, that is essentially what most people are doing with their CPA study.

Covering each lesson, one by one as the weeks go by: video lecture > textbook > practice questions, and then doing a final review.

This format creates 3 specific issues or problems, regardless of how "smart" the CPA candidate is...

Problem #1: Lack of time and/or consistency

Most CPA candidates are too busy with work and life to find 4–5 focused study hours every day.



When you generate your study schedule with your review course, it typically recommends that you'll need to study 4-5 hours a day.

That would be fine, **if you had nothing else to do every day.**

But... most candidates are working full-time, and so the only option is to try and fit in 4-5 hours of studying at night, when you're drained and tired from working all day. This format creates two issues:

- 1) If you stick to that routine every day, you're quickly miserable and burnt out.
- 2) If you break that routine, you're quickly far behind.

Solution to Problem #1

Like we mentioned above, working and fitting in 4-5hrs a day of studying means you have to cut out every other thing in your life: taking care of yourself, workouts, seeing friends & family, and any sort of “me time” to refresh and recharge.

Finding and executing 5hrs of study time every day is unrealistic and simply doesn't exist for most people, or if you somehow force yourself to do it, it means living like a robot. A robot that never has any fun and hates their life.

(btw, this would still be worth it IF it guaranteed you pass each exam, but for 50% of people, this still doesn't even work)

So what's the alternative?

The SuperfastCPA format is a 2hr main study session, plus “mini sessions” throughout your day.

On our [free strategy webinar](#), we walk through our 5 core study strategies, and these can be applied to any review course.

When you're using all 5 strategies, you will get more done, more effectively, in these 2hr sessions, than someone studying 5hrs following the standard approach.

When you see the full explanation on the webinar, you will see why the 5 strategies work so well, and how you're able to cut off 2-3hrs PER TOPIC, while learning it “better” for test day.

Needless to say, saving 2-3hrs per topic, saves you a LOT of time.

Problem #2: No Strategic Study Process

Most CPA candidates are handed a massive review course, but they are expected to cover too much material too quickly to truly learn how it works on exam questions.



Your review course DOES contain all the information you need to know to pass, BUT... it's also a literal library of information you're supposed to learn and retain over 7-8 weeks.

AND... it doesn't come with a set of strategic instructions about how to effectively do that.

One of the most common "tips" you'll hear about CPA study is something like "you just need to put in the time..."

While that's true in one sense - passing these exams will take a lot of time and hard work - there are also thousands of shattered CPA dreams where someone spent months or even years studying, and was never able to pass all 4 exams.

Solution to Problem #2

One of the biggest takeaways you should get from this guide, and our webinar, is that **not all study time is equal**... not even close.

You can spend one hour of study time watching a video lecture, zoning out several times, and/or re-watching several parts, and even then, try some of the practice questions and not be able to really answer any.

Or, you could spend that same hour strategically breaking down practice questions, extracting the “what and why”, re-performing the calculations, and putting the key takeaways on flashcards in your own words.

The effectiveness of those two versions of studying is WILDY different.

So the effectiveness of every hour you spend studying, compounded over the weeks and months, leads to WILDY different results on test day.

To take that even further, when your study process is highly efficient & effective, **you can pass each exam in much less overall study time than someone just following the standard approach.**

So again, this comes back to the [5 core strategies we cover on our free webinar](#). This is how you can get MUCH better results in our 2hr study sessions, than someone studying for 5hrs following the standard study approach.

Problem #3: Retention & Repetition

Because candidates must move so quickly through 7–8 weeks of material, they forget earlier topics and never get enough repetition for everything to truly stick.



So under the standard approach, you work through each lesson in your review course over 7-8 weeks or so, each lesson has a ton of dense & technical information, so you typically have to move on before you have a real grasp of each topic.

And... because each day you're covering a brand new topic (or topics), you are "recording over" a big portion of what you studied yesterday, or the day before, or from last week, etc.

So for most people, you get to your final review, realize how much you've forgotten, and so your final review becomes a desperate attempt to re-learn everything in just 1 or 2 weeks.

Another massive problem: **this also means you've only hit each topic TWICE**: your first time through, then in your final review.

Solution to Problem #3

Like we just mentioned, because of the nature of CPA exam topics - how most are dense, technical, and complicated - covering each topic only twice isn't enough exposure, practice, or repetition to 1) have a functional grasp of each one to execute the MCQs and simulations on test day, let alone 2) remember it all by the time you get to test day.

So the solution is: constant, ongoing "re-review".

With the SuperfastCPA study routine, a portion of your study time each day is dedicated to re-review.

So not only will you not forget previous topics, but you will continually be practicing and improving upon ALL TOPICS as the weeks go by.

Doesn't that just... make way more sense??

So instead of hitting each topic only twice, under our approach, you'll hit every topic 100x or more by the time you get to test day.

And, you're doing it repeatedly in "test day context", so you're improving on the version of each topic that you'll actually need to use on test day.

If you haven't guessed, [this is all part of the 5 strategies you'll learn on our free webinar.](#)

How to study *STRATEGICALLY*, so that every hour of your study time moves you closer to a passing score, with no time wasted.

Just understanding these 3 main problems will go a long way in helping you put together an effective study process.

But the real power is knowing, understanding, and following each of our extremely effective 5 core study strategies covered on our free webinar training.

When you're using all 5 strategies together, and doing them correctly, it is honestly hard to go wrong with your CPA study.

==> [Choose a Session Here...](#)

This one hour training will literally save you months (and maybe even YEARS) of time and frustration.

Getting an actual walkthrough of the 6 key strategies and how to use your materials much smarter will give you a cohesive understanding of how it all fits together, so that you can pass as quickly and painlessly as possible.

==> [Click Here to Choose a Session...](#)

I hope to see you on the training, and especially inside the member's area!

Best of luck with your CPA journey, and make sure to email me when you pass!

-Nate
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P.S. - [You can see some of the "I passed" messages we've received from our customers over the years here...](#)