

Why Earn an ACAT Credential?

“My clients know ACAT credentials mean that, as a professional, I have made an ongoing commitment to maintain a higher level of education and a high standard of ethics.

This is very important to them and to me.”

“When my clients and potential clients look at my business card, they are very impressed with my credentials.”

The IRS recognizes ACAT credentials in the Annual Filing Season Program (AFSP).

Certain ACAT credentials holders are exempt from the Annual Federal Tax Refresher Course and exam and also qualify for the AFSP—Record of Completion.

Credentials are about **IMAGE**.

***“A credential is a diamond on
your professional resume.”***

Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation® (ACAT) Credentials

Recognized nationally; earned voluntarily

- **Accredited Tax Advisor (ATA)**
- **Accredited Tax Preparer (ATP)**
Exempt from IRS Annual Tax Refresher Course & Exam!
- **Accredited Business Accountant/Advisor (ABA)**
Exempt from IRS Annual Tax Refresher Course & Exam!
- **Accredited Retirement Advisor (ARA)**

*ACAT credentials enhance your reputation as a trusted
accounting or tax professional*



ACAT Tax and Accounting Credentials

Well-established credentials held by thousands of tax preparers and accountants that:

- **demonstrate competency & mastery of tax procedures and practices, and**
- **provide a strong assurance of quality tax preparation and accounting services to taxpayers who hire them.**

Who should earn an ACAT Credential?

ACAT credentials are for tax preparers and accountants who want to gain a competitive edge in their business or career.

- You want to grow your practice
- You are starting a new practice
- You are making a career change
- You are new to the industry
- You want the exemption for the IRS AFSP
- You want to stand out and show your professionalism
- You are a student breaking into the industry



Accreditation Council
for Accountancy and Taxation

Put one or all of these ACAT credentials after your name and open the door to new opportunities.

ACAT credentials show your clients, potential clients and employers you have the tax and accounting expertise they need.

“I tell my clients that accounting and tax professionals must make a commitment to serve the public interest and that the commitment requires a life-long learning discipline.

Maintenance of credentials is tangible evidence of both the commitment and the discipline.”



Accredited Tax Preparer (ATP)

The credential for 1040 preparation and individual tax planning

The ATP is a leading national credential for tax practitioners who have a thorough knowledge of tax code and the preparation of individual tax returns with an expertise in comprehensive 1040 issues (including supporting schedules, self-employed returns, etc.), tax planning, and more.

ATPs are exempt from taking an Annual Tax Refresher Course & exam and automatically qualify for the



Accredited Tax Advisor (ATA)

The credential for individual and business returns; tax planning and consulting.

ATAs handle sophisticated tax planning issues, including planning for owners of closely held businesses, planning for the highly compensated, choosing qualified retirement plans and performing estate tax planning.

Their expertise covers tax returns for individuals, business entities, fiduciaries, trusts and estates, as well as tax planning, and tax consulting.



Accredited Business Accountant/Advisor (ABA)

ACAT's prestigious professional accounting credential

ABAs specialize in accounting & tax services for individuals and small- to medium-size businesses.

ABAs have a thorough, tested knowledge and technical proficiency in financial accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, taxation, managerial accounting, business consulting services, and business law.

ABAs are exempt from taking an Annual Tax Refresher Course & exam and automatically qualify for the



Accredited Business Accountant/Advisor (ABA)

Being an ABA in DE, IA & MN meets state regulatory requirements to practice public accounting.

The ABA is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), an independent resource recognized as the authority on accreditation standards for professional certification organizations and programs.



Accredited Retirement Advisor (ARA)

The credential for tax preparers and accountants who specialize in retirement planning and the financial needs of seniors.

The Accredited Retirement Advisor is the only national credential exclusively for tax and accounting professionals that meets the needs of this market.

ARAs have expertise in preparing clients for retirement; financial aspects of aging; estate and trust planning; choosing retirement plans; financial planning and government assistance programs.

“There is no doubt that ACAT accreditations made the difference for me in getting my job.

“ACAT certifications were a great addition to my resume and experience.”

How to Earn an ACAT Credential

Get started on the path to accreditation!

1. Register for an ACAT exam. Exams are offered at testing sites around the U.S. in the spring and fall each year.
2. Pass the exam and meet the experience requirements, and you can activate your ACAT credential.

For details on exam registration fees, study materials, experience requirements, exam blueprints, testing locations and more, go to www.acatcredentials.org.

About ACAT

ACAT is a non-profit, independent, testing, accrediting and monitoring organization. It takes real-life experience and subject mastery to pass any ACAT exam.

Since 1973 the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation® has accredited professionals who have demonstrated knowledge of the principles, practices, and ethical standards of accounting, taxation, and related financial services in order to maintain the highest level of service to the public.

Professionals receive ACAT accreditation through examination and maintain accreditation by committing to continuing professional education and adhering to the *ACAT Code of Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct*.

Contact ACAT



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