

800-020-0015 Application for Examination

(1) Application to take the examination for a tax preparer or tax consultant must be filed with the Board on forms prescribed and furnished by the Board, together with the examination fee. The application must be signed.

(2) The application and examination fee shall be filed with the Board no later than one month prior to the examination date, except when the Board sets tighter deadlines due to time constraints.

(3) Tax preparer applicants may file an application before completing the basic tax course. Applicants who have completed a course of study which has not received prior approval of the Board shall furnish the Board a brief outline of courses completed, together with a transcript from the educational institution. If, in the judgment of the Board, the courses completed are comparable to those described in OAR 800-015-0005, the applicant shall be eligible to take the examination.

(4) Basic course certification forms as required under OAR 800-015-0005(6) shall be submitted to the Board by the student together with application to take the tax preparer's examination. If the student has not completed the tax course prior to filing the examination application, the basic course certification shall be submitted with application for license.

(5) A tax consultant applicant who is a licensed tax preparer shall submit verification by the applicant's employer or employers, on forms prescribed and furnished by the Board, that the applicant has worked in the capacity of a tax preparer for not less than a cumulative total of 780 hours during at least two of the last five years.

(6) A tax consultant applicant who is claiming equivalent tax preparer experience shall submit on forms prescribed and furnished by the Board:

(a) Verification by the applicant's employer or employers that the applicant has worked in the capacity of a tax preparer for not less than a cumulative total of 780 hours during at least two of the last five years.

(i) The Board will accept employment as an income tax auditor or taxpayer service representative with the Internal Revenue Service or State Department of Revenue as being equivalent experience.

(ii) For the purpose of meeting the work experience requirement for tax consultants, one hour of experience gained through volunteer tax preparation programs such as VITA and AARP-TCE will be accepted for each five hours spent preparing, advising or assisting in the preparation of tax returns through the volunteer program, up to a maximum of 150 hours credited. To qualify for the one to five hour experience credit, total hours worked in the volunteer program must be verified in writing by a supervisor.

(b) To claim experience under this section, the applicant must submit a petition signed under penalty of perjury that the work experience claimed is true, correct and complete.

(7) Applicants for the tax consultant examination must have completed, within a year prior to submitting application, a minimum of 15 hours of acceptable continuing education in personal income taxation to meet the requirements of OAR 800-015-0010 to 800-015-0030. This requirement is in addition to the required 780 hours of work experience earned during at least two of the last five years.

[(7)] **(8)** A tax consultant applicant claiming tax consulting experience in another state shall:

(a) Submit, on form prescribed and furnished by the Board, a petition signed under penalty of perjury, claiming self-employment as a tax consultant for no less than two of the last five years; and

(b) Furnish documented proof of self-employment as a tax consultant.

[(8)] **(9)** A tax preparer or tax consultant applicant who has worked in the capacity of a tax preparer or tax consultant in another state or in an exempt status may request Board approval to substitute work experience for up to two-thirds of the classroom hours of basic income tax education otherwise required to qualify as a tax preparer or tax consultant. Approval may be granted to substitute experience for education only if:

(a) The applicant was actively engaged in a tax preparation business within two years prior to the date of application;

(b) The applicant has at least three years experience in a tax preparation business;

(c) In the opinion of the Board, the applicant has gained a competency level through work experience that is equal to those applicants who have successfully completed the basic income tax course; and

(d) The applicant submits verification by the applicant's employer(s) or evidence of self-employment regarding the work experience.

[(9)] **(10)** The Board may accept education credit for courses completed by a tax consultant applicant to substitute for up to 260 hours of work experience at the rate of one classroom hour of education for five hours of experience if:

(a) The subject matter of the course was related to taxation;

(b) The applicant completed the course within one year of applying to become a tax consultant; and

(c) Credit for the course is not claimed to fulfill continuing education requirements.

[(10)] **(11)** Information required of the applicant and on the application forms shall be completed before an applicant may be admitted to an examination.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 673.625

Hist.: TSE 8, f. & ef. 5-19-76; TSE 1-1979, f. 6-14-79, ef. 6-15-79; TSE 2-1979, f. 9-28-79, ef. 10-1-79; TSE 2-1980, f. & ef. 5-30-80; TSE 2-1982, f. & ef. 5-10-82; TSE 3-1982, f. & ef. 11-19-82; TSE 1-1985, f. & ef. 1-15-85; TSE 3-1985, f. & ef. 12-5-85; TSE 4-1988, f. & cert. ef. 11-2-88; TSE 5-1990, f. & cert. ef. 5-3-90; TSE 9-1992, f. & cert. ef. 12-22-92; BTSE 1-2001, f. & cert. ef. 4-19-01; BTP 1-2003, f. & cert. ef. 9-23-03