LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (LPA)

Licensing Authority

Sylvia King

Accountancy Examining Board lowa Department of Commerce

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Legal Authority

Code of Iowa 542-C & 542-D

Job Description

Licensed public accountants (LPAs) prepare, analyze, and verify business records and financial reports; prepare profit and loss statements, balance sheets, cost studies, and tax reports; and may develop, install, and supervise accounting systems and operations. Using special computer software packages, they transform raw transaction data into a variety of specialized reports and tabulations. LPAs work in one of four major fields of accounting – public, management, government, or internal auditing. Licensed public accountants are not able to do audits, nor can they make a statement as to the accuracy of financial data.

Education & Experience Required

Applicants must meet one or more of the following requirements: 1) two years continuous experience as an accounting practitioner in the employ of a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or LPA; 2) a graduate of a four-year college or university accredited by the North Central Accreditation Association with a major in accounting; 3) a graduate in accounting from a business or correspondence school accredited by the accrediting commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools or the accrediting commission of the National Home Study Council.

Continuing Education

One hundred twenty hours of continuing education are required within a three-year wraparound period for license renewal.

Examination

The examination is given in May and November. Applicants wanting to be licensed as "public accountants" take a separate examination prepared by the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation.

Fees

Application: \$120 Duration: Two years Renewal: \$100

Exam: \$120 (initial exam fee)

\$60 (One-section re-exam) \$80 (Two-section re-exam)

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage

SOC Code, 13-2011 – Accountants and Auditors (\$22.49)

Title, & Avg. | 43-3031 – Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (\$12.25)

Number of Licenses | Total number of licenses active as of December 31, 2003: 261

| 2003: 261 | 2002: 232 | 2001: 225 | 2000: 217