



Senior Accounting Officer (Specialist)

Exam Code: 0PBAK

Department: State of California

Exam Type: Servicewide, Open

Final Filing Date: Continuous

CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

If you have tested for the Senior Accounting Officer (Specialist) classification as part of the Senior Accounting Officer (Specialist) & (Supervisor) exam in the previous twelve (12) months, it may be too early for you to take this exam. Please check your CalCareer account for the retake date on your exam results notification for this classification BEFORE continuing this exam process.

Retaking this exam under another or a new User I.D. and password, Social Security Number (voluntary, not required, information), or name is not allowed.

Senior Accounting Officer (Specialist) – \$5,518.00 - \$6,907.00 per month

[View the Senior Accounting Officer \(Specialist\) classification specification](#)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

Who Should Apply:

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this examination.

Once you have taken this examination, you may not retake it for **twelve (12) months**.

How To Apply:

The link to connect to the Training and Experience Evaluation is located farther down on this bulletin in the “Taking the Exam” section.

Special Testing Arrangements:

If you require special testing arrangements due to a verified disability or medical condition, please contact:

California Department of Human Resources
CalCareer Service Center
1810 16th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (866) 844-8671
Email: CalCareer@CalHR.CA.GOV

California Relay Service: 7-1-1 (TTY and voice)

TTY is a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf, and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TTY Device.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements as stated on this exam bulletin to be accepted into the examination. Part-time or full-time jobs, regardless of whether paid or volunteer positions, and inside or outside California state service will count toward experience.

Senior Accounting Officer (Specialist)

Either 1

One year of experience in the California state service performing the duties of a professional accounting class equivalent in level to Accounting Officer (Specialist) or Accounting Officer (Supervisor).

Or 2

Experience: Three years of increasingly responsible professional accounting or auditing experience in a governmental or private setting. For at least one year, this responsibility must have included the reporting and analyses of accounts, records, funds and financial operations of the entity. [Experience in the California state service applied toward this requirement must include at least one year performing the duties of a class at a level of responsibility not less than that of Accounting Officer (Specialist) or Accounting Officer (Supervisor).] **and**

Education: Same as Accountant Trainee.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Senior Accounting Officer (Specialist)

This is the second journey person level in the series. Incumbents, under general direction of an Accounting Administrator, independently perform the more difficult accounting duties which require an understanding of the entire accounting process, such as coordinate implementation of accounting for new programs/functions; review proposals to change accounting procedures; prepare cash analysis reports for management; coordinate completion of year-end reports. Assignments at this level may involve responsibilities which impact the entire accounting operation and may be given broad discretion in the solution of problems.

Incumbents may have considerable contact with the accounting administrators or the chief accounting officer for the department, departmental management, budget section, State control agencies.

Incumbents in this class have no supervisory responsibilities, but may serve as a lead for lower level accounting personnel.

EXAMINATION SCOPE

This examination consists of the following components:

Training and Experience Evaluation – Weighted 100% of the final score.

The examination consists solely of a **Training and Experience Evaluation**. To obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum score of 70% must be received. Applicants will receive their score upon completion of the Training and Experience Evaluation process.

In addition to evaluating applicants' relative knowledge, skills, and ability, as demonstrated by quality and breadth of education and/or experience, emphasis in each exam component will be measuring competitively, relative job demands, each applicant's:

Knowledge of:

1. Accounting principles and procedures
2. Governmental accounting and budgeting
3. The uniform accounting system and financial organization and procedures of the State of California and related laws, rules, and regulations
4. Principles of business management, including office methods and procedures
5. Principles of public finance
6. Business law

Ability to:

1. Apply accounting principles and procedures
2. Analyze data and draw sound conclusions
3. Analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action
4. Prepare clear, complete, and concise reports
5. Make sound decisions and recommendations in regard to the professional accounting problems in maintaining control of a departmental budget
6. Establish and maintain cooperative relations with those contacted in the work
7. Speak and write effectively

ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

A servicewide, open eligible list for the **Senior Accounting Officer (Specialist)** classification will be established for the State of California (all State of California departments, statewide).

The names of successful competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of exam date. Eligibility expires **twelve (12) months** after it is established. Applicants must then retake the examination to reestablish eligibility.

Veterans' Preference will be granted for this examination. In accordance with Government Codes 18973.1 and 18973.5, whenever any veteran, or widow or widower of a veteran achieves a passing score on an open examination, he or she shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligible list.

Veterans status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Information on this program and [the Veterans' Preference Application](#) (Std. form 1093) is available online. Additional information on veteran benefits is available at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

[Preview of the Senior Accounting Officer \(Specialist\) Training and Experience Evaluation](#)

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Here is a list of suggested resources to have available prior to taking the exam.

Employment History: Employment dates, job titles, organization names and addresses, names of supervisors or persons who can verify your job responsibilities, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

Education: School names and addresses, degrees earned, dates attended, courses taken (verifiable on a transcript), persons or office who can verify education, and phone numbers of persons or offices listed above.

Training: Class titles, certifications received, names of persons who can verify your training, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION

We recommend using Chrome, Firefox, or Edge for optimal performance when accessing the examination.

Note: This examination is being given online and you are able to take the examination at any time on any day of the week. Once you click [Take the Senior Accounting Officer \(Specialist\) examination](#) classification button, your time will begin. There is no way to pause, stop, or reset the timer once you start. A stable internet connection is recommended as no additional time will be provided for internet loss, power loss, or computer/browser issues. At this time, if you are unable to complete the timed examination, it is recommended you do not continue until you are able to do so.

TESTING DEPARTMENTS

State of California (all State of California departments)

CONTACT INFORMATION

California Department of Human Resources
CalCareer Service Center
1810 16th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Bulletin Date: 10/20/2023

Phone: (866) 844-8671

Email: CalCareer@CalHR.CA.GOV

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right of family care and

medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

DRUG-FREE STATEMENT

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free State work place. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective, because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Examination and/or Employment Application (STD 678) forms are available at the California Department of Human Resources, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and through your [CalCareer Account](#).

If you meet the requirements stated on this examination bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described in this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined job-related rating, and all applicants who pass will be ranked according to their score.

The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all applicants will be notified.

General Qualifications: Applicants must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgement, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

Eligible Lists: Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

High School Equivalence: Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.