



To help you write the September 2020 CFE, CPA Alberta's Employer Relations team reached out to recent successful writers to get their tips on how candidates can prepare to write under unprecedented circumstances.

See what they had to say:

Greg Rideout CPA
Senior Finance Advisor
Shell Canada Limited

"Familiarize yourself with the exam conditions and format. If you are using an exam tool outside of your typical spreadsheet, practice and become confident in it. This will provide you with more time to spend on the critical thinking the exam requires."

Dustin Degenstein CPA
Manager, Finance Controls & Business
Process Improvements
AltaGas

"The exam is still the exam and the material is still the material. For example, revenue recognition hasn't changed because of how you're writing the exam. As long as you do your prep work, there is no need to stress."

Marshall Lang CPA

Manager, Billings and
Accounts Receivable
Long View Systems

“The true secret to succeeding on this year’s CFE is going to be getting used to the environment. The experience will likely be quiet, with no one coughing or shuffling papers beside you. This might throw some people off. Get in the groove now. Simulate the experience by isolating yourself in an unused room in your home, turning down the lights, and practicing a case. Remember to debrief, debrief, debrief.”

Ellisha Sharma CPA

Financial Reporting Consultant
City of Calgary

“You know more than you think. Now is the time to believe in yourself. You got this!”

Caleb Hagemeister CPA

Manager
MNP

“Roll with the situation as best you can. If you’re feeling uncomfortable, remember that no one else has experienced these conditions, so the playing field is level. Study hard and practice your cases under exam conditions. Good things generally result from hard work and solid effort.”

Erin Schwartz CPA, MPAcc

Manager, Employer Relations
CPA Alberta

“If you can, practice using different keyboards and mice since the computer you will be using for the exam may be different from your usual computer.”

Christine Leung CPA

Senior Consultant, Management Consulting
KPMG Canada

“Congrats on making it to the final step towards achieving your CPA designation! This is a significant milestone in your professional journey. Set aside time in your schedule to recharge and reward yourself for all your hard work. Leading up to my CFE, I was extra motivated to make my study time more effective and efficient when I had activities planned, especially with friends and family.”