







CMA Study Tips


You can prepare for the CMA exam in many ways: in a live classroom, in a virtual classroom, or on your own. You can select the method and materials that best match the way you like to study. Here are some helpful tips from people who have studied and passed the CMA exam.


-  **Utilize practice tests on study software and make sure you are consistently scoring at least 85% before taking the exam.** Mike P., South Carolina


-  **I took two weeks off right before the exam and basically immersed myself in studying. I explained this to my family so they didn't expect much from me during those two weeks. But I rewarded them after the exam.** Diane K., Alabama

-  **Focus on studying for one part of the exam at a time.** Jon K., Washington

-  **Get into a study group on LinkedIn.** Karen B., Texas

-  **Find the relationships in your job with the exam content. Make the material relevant to your job.** Lynette P., Texas

-  **Create a study plan and try your best to stick to it. As life gets in the way, adjust the plan. Don't think you can just study as time permits because that is a sure way not to pass.** Rhonda F., Illinois

-  **Take a live review class if possible! Utilize a study review guide and use lots of practice tests to analyze where to focus your study time. Don't expect to cram and be able to pass.** Mike L., South Carolina

-
- ▶ **I took my time and focused on one section at a time. Study guides are helpful, but the best tool for me in preparing was the practice tests.** Jon F., Washington
-
- ▶ **Establish a routine (pick two to three nights a week to study), join a study group, or find an accounting partner. Make flash cards.** Tony C., South Carolina
-
- ▶ **I took the CMA right out of college. I was already in study mode.** Stacy M., Iowa
-
- ▶ **Take time to learn your own learning style and then apply that to your study program. Figure out your weaker areas on the exam content and focus on practicing them.** Stuart G., California
-
- ▶ **Don't put too much pressure on yourself. You can't master everything. Don't aim for the "perfect" score.** Tiffany D., Utah
-
- ▶ **Read the bold print over and over. Read the answers in study guides first (you will waste less time with wrong answers).** Bob K., New York
-
- ▶ **Create notecards—digital or good old-fashioned hard copies and take them with you everywhere.** Kym A., Idaho
-
- ▶ **Don't focus on just one study method—mix it up.** Lisa C., Ohio
-
- ▶ **Make sure to dedicate a couple of months of study time. Take a class on the subject; it definitely helps!** Leslie N., Georgia
-

-
- ▶ **Prepare a plan for studying that is attainable based on your personal and work responsibilities. Don't try to do all your studying at once.** Karen R., Texas
-
- ▶ **I would recommend taking the CMA after gaining some hands-on work experience.** Ashley G., Texas
-
- ▶ **Plan on studying daily for one to two hours. Treat it like a hobby or a workout routine—for your career. Failing to plan and work the plan is planning to fail.** Larry W., Florida
-
- ▶ **Know how you study best. I used Exam Matrix and scheduled time to study and took frequent breaks to keep my brain engaged.** Jerry H., California
-
- ▶ **After you learn a topic, reflect and think—what types of questions could I be asked about this topic? Don't focus on memorizing but think about why the topic is relevant and how it applies in a larger setting.** Sandy R., Ohio
-
- ▶ **To do: put time on your calendar and stick to it—do not waver—let family and friends know it is “hard and fast.” Not to do: rely on only one study resource—use multiple resources to prepare.** Darryl L., Oklahoma
-
- ▶ **Don't quit if you don't pass a section. Demonstrate grit until you are successful.** Nick L., Florida
-
- ▶ **The simulated computer exams are extremely valuable for practicing at the needed pace.** Jake A., Utah
-

▶ **Study at bookstores uninterrupted by family and motivated by other people studying.** Ilya G., Arkansas

▶ **Select a date and go for it—there are no excuses to procrastinate.** Pascal P., Austria