

ACCREDITED RETIREMENT ADVISOR



Accredited Retirement Advisor (ARA) credential holders made a voluntary choice to earn them, showing their ongoing commitment to continuing professional education and quality client service. Professional credentials demonstrate higher national standards; a mastery of accounting and taxation, principles, procedures and practices; and professional knowledge.

The Accredited Retirement Advisor (ARA) credential recognizes professionals who have a thorough knowledge of topics relevant to retirement planning and special issues of senior citizens including tax planning and tax preparation for decedents, estates, and trusts; and applying your knowledge and skills in real-life situations when serving aging clients.

To earn the ARA credential, candidates must pass a rigorous exam.

ARA Credential Holders:

- Earned their credential(s) by examination
- Committed to ongoing professional education
- Adhere to a Code of Ethics

Choosing a Tax and Accounting Professional

Most people would never hire a doctor, dentist, or lawyer without proven credentials. It shouldn't be any different for tax preparers and accountants.

About ACAT

The Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation® (ACAT) is a non-profit independent testing, accrediting and monitoring organization. Professionals receive accreditation through examination and maintain their accreditation through commitment to a significant program of continuing professional education and adherence to the Council's Code of Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct.

ACAT programs are governed by a Board of Directors that includes practitioners, educators and a public member.



Tips for Hiring a Tax Professional

- Check the preparer's qualifications
- Check the preparer's history
- Ask about service fees
- Ask to e-file
- Make sure the preparer is available
- Provide records and receipts
- Never sign a blank return
- Review before signing
- Ensure the preparer signs and includes their PTIN
- Report abusive Tax Preparers to the IRS