

# APA Member Becomes First to Take (and Pass) Online Certification Exam

BY KERRY COLE

Haley Harper, FPC, had studied too long and too hard to be denied. So, when the coronavirus pandemic caused Pearson VUE test centers to close, she jumped at the chance for a proctored, online exam offered by the APA and OnVUE.

Harper, an Implementation Resource Coordinator for Small Business Services with ADP, not only passed the Fundamental Payroll Certification (FPC) exam but became the APA's first member to pass the test online.

At first, Harper had reservations about the online test because her peers had taken the exam at a testing center and that's what she expected when it came time for her to take the test.

"However, I was also much more excited to test in an environment that I was more comfortable with," she said. "Especially with the pandemic going on, it was much more of a relief to work in my own personal setting."

Harper, who works in ADP's office in Augusta, Georgia, found that the online test gave her more flexibility in scheduling the test without having to leave home.

"The availability of having a proctor monitor me while I took the online test was incredible," she said. "I could select a large number of time slots to work around my day instead of selecting a small-time window at a testing center."

Harper had no trouble completing the three-hour test, which included an optional 10-minute break. Even her pets cooperated, allowing her to take the test in a quiet environment free of interruptions.

The testing instructions even clearly provided the workstation set-up, which left Harper feeling prepared for success.

"Go for it" is her advice to anyone considering taking the online certification exam.

"Even if a test center was open, I would still choose the remote exam without a doubt," she said. "I stay pretty busy, so fitting the remote exam into my schedule was much more convenient."

## About OnVUE Exams

OnVUE exams are available to residents in North America only. Online proctored exams are not available for international candidates.

OnVUE leverages artificial intelligence, in combination with live monitoring, to ensure exams are protected using state-



of-the-art technology. All OnVUE exams should be treated like an exam at a physical test center. OnVUE exams require zero interruptions or the proctor may terminate the exam.

Candidates must review the OnVUE Frequently Asked Questions, the Step-by-Step Guide to Online Testing, and the APA OnVUE exam delivery page for information regarding system requirements and policies.

Eligibility and application requirements, and other policies stated in the FPC and Certified Payroll Professional (CPP) Candidate Handbook, still apply. To test online effectively, candidates must meet the minimum system requirements prior to scheduling the exam.

"It definitely helped me understand various parts of my own day-to-day responsibilities that I didn't comprehend before," Harper said of obtaining her new certification. "Any new knowledge helps us grow stronger and be a better tool for our clients. Plus, having that certification under my belt helps me achieve new heights in the professional community. I'm glad I was given the opportunity to test remotely." ■

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*Kerry Cole is Senior Editor of Membership Publications for the APA.*