



## **May 2009 Administration Report: *UPPCC Releases Key Performance Data***

July 28, 2009 -The Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO) and Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) are globally recognized credentials offered exclusively by the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC). The certification programs systematically raise the level of professionalism within the public procurement profession by offering recognition to those individuals who meet an established standard of competency for public procurement demonstrated through a rigorous application process and superior examination performance.

In June, the UPPCC announced that 230 individuals successfully completed the May 2009 certification exams, including 149 who earned the CPPB certification and 81 who earned the CPPO. To date, 8,758 CPPB and 1,748 CPPO certifications have been awarded by the UPPCC.

Obtaining either UPPCC certification requires the candidate to demonstrate, through an application process, that they meet specific requisites, which includes education, procurement related coursework/training and public purchasing employment experience. A comprehensive written examination (specific to each certification) is required to confirm the candidate's mastery of a variety of public procurement concepts found in the UPPCC Body of Knowledge.

The UPPCC recently released key performance data from the May 2009 examinations:

### **Overall Scoring/Passing Rates**

The UPPCC reports that 82% of the 99 total candidates who tested for the CPPO passed while 62% of the 241 candidates who tested for the CPPB passed. Although demonstrating a significantly higher rate of passing, CPPO candidates' mean passing scores were 24 points lower than for CPPB.

### **Testing Time**

The total testing time permitted for both examinations is 3.5 hours. This includes time for candidates to comment on individual test questions. This equates to a total of 210 minutes for 175 questions or on average 1 minute and 23 seconds for each test question.

The UPPCC reported that for CPPO, the average completion time was 2.69 hours with a range from 3.5 hours maximum to 1.36 hours minimum. For the CPPB, the average completion time was 2.61 hours with a range from 3.5 hours maximum to 1.01 hours minimum.

### **Exam Content & Candidate Preparation**

Content for both the CPPO and CPPB examinations are dictated by the 2008 UPPCC Body of Knowledge (BOK). A total of 10 domain areas comprise the BOK and areas follows:

1. Administration Aspects of Purchasing
2. Procurement Requests
3. Solicitation and Evaluation of Bids/Proposals
4. Supplier Analysis
5. Negotiation Process
6. Contract Award and Administration

7. External/Internal Relationships
8. Materials Management
9. Human Resources/Personnel
10. Forecasting and Strategies

The UPPCC reports that for the CPPO, candidates performed the best in Domain 2: Procurement Requests and performed the poorest in Domain 10: Forecasting & Strategies. Conversely for CPPB candidates, the strongest performance area was Domain 6: Contract Award and Administration while performing the poorest in Domain 10: Forecasting & Strategies (see Table 1).

*Table 1*

	STRENGTHS		WEAKNESSES	
	CPPO	CPPB	CPPO	CPPB
<b>Overall</b>	Domain 2	Domain 6	Domain 10	Domain 10
<b>City</b>	n/a	Domain 6	n/a	Domain 10
<b>Counties</b>	Domain 2	Domains 5&6	Domain 10	Domain 10
<b>State</b>	Domain 6	Domain 1	8	Domain 10

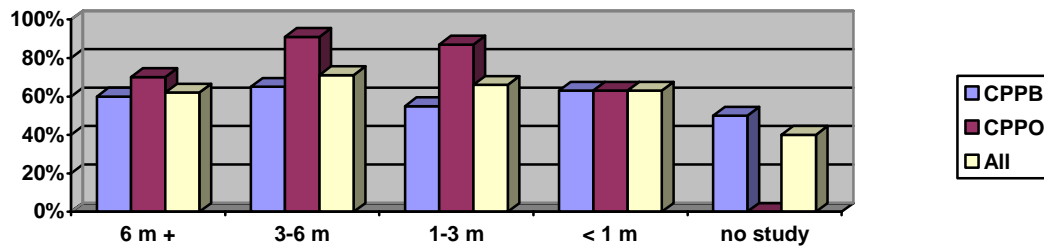
UPPCC reports that most candidates indicated, via a post examination survey, spending between one and three months preparing for their respective examinations (see Table 2).

*Table 2*

Exam	6 months +	3-6 months	1-3 months	< 1 month	no study
<b>All</b>	14.74%	31.01%	<b>37.82%</b>	14.74%	1.69%
<b>CPPO</b>	11.58%	24.21%	<b>43.16%</b>	20.00%	1.05%
<b>CPPB</b>	16.13%	34.15%	<b>35.48%</b>	12.44%	1.85%

The organization also reports that candidate groups who indicated spending between one and six months preparing experienced the highest rates of passing compared to other timeframes of preparation or no preparation at all. Preparing between three and six months, as indicated by high passing rates, appeared to be the optimal timeframe for both CPPO and CPPB candidates (see Graph 1).

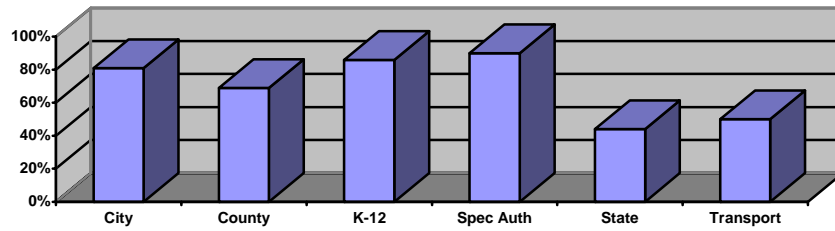
*Graph 1*



### Passing Rates and Public Entity Types

UPPCC reports that when comparing passing rates for both examinations with various entity types; special authorities experienced the highest rates at 90% while state agencies experienced the lowest rates at 44% (see Graph 2).

*Graph 2*



Testing for both credentials is offered via a network of nearly 400 professional testing centers twice annually in May and October. ***The UPPCC is currently accepting applications for the October 26-31, 2009 testing window through July 27, 2009.***

*The Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC) is an independent entity formed to govern and administer the Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO) and Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) certification programs. The CPPO and CPPB programs are highly regarded and respected among procurement professionals and employers involved in the public sector. To date, the UPPCC has certified well over 10,000 professionals primarily within the US and Canada as well as in other nations around the globe.*

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