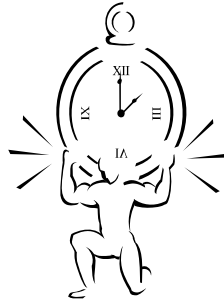


State Tax Commission February 17, 2011 Tip
Topic: Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer (3) Program



Dear STaCy,

I understand and certainly support better education for assessors. But seriously, I only have 2 classes left to get my Advanced Level (3) Certification and I don't want to start all over from scratch. Do I have any alternatives?

Thanks,
Wanda Wanna Advance

Dear Wanda:

We certainly understand. You will not be starting over from scratch; any of the old program classes that remain included in the new program (Level 3 - Principles of Appraising, Basic Income, Statistics, Personal Property or Level 4 - Personnel Relations/Management/Labor Relations, Budget Preparation/Government Financing) that you have already successfully completed will transfer as credit to the new program. We also have several alternatives that are available to assessors in process of completing the old program.

First, if you **have classes left to complete under the old program** you can still purchase and complete the STC home study courses. Since the announcement on Monday, the fine STC staff has talked to their even finer Commissioners and the deadline to complete home study courses (including completion of the commercial and industrial record cards) **has been extended to July 1, 2011**. The home study courses must be purchased by March 31, 2011. We are unable to offer extensions of the purchase date or completion date.

Second, financial assistance to enter the new program will be offered to students who have completed what we call the "big 4" courses (Principles of Appraising, Basic Income, Statistics, Personal Property). These individuals will still need to complete the Budget Preparation/Government Finance/Management and Equalization courses as part of the new program. Under the old program, a few assessors have completed all 5 of the classes and that credit will transfer to the new program. Allowances will be made for those assessors. Letters detailing options will be mailed in about a week to all assessors who fall into either one of these two categories.

Third, any MCAO certified assessor can take the Comprehensive Advanced Level (3) Exam. If you pass, we will refund the cost of the home studies that you have not completed. Prepare and study, the exam is hard.

Finally, the Commission does hope that you will enter the new MAAO program. It will offer quality instruction and will better prepare assessors to meet the varied challenges an Advanced level assessor faces in the "real" world. Please contact the STC office at (517) 335-3429 with any questions or contact Barb Duncanson at (517) 373-8320 for information about the home study courses or to schedule to take the Comprehensive Exam.

Sincerely,
STaCy