

Mansour Farhat

Professional Experience

The CEO and Founder of Farhat Accounting lectures.	<i>January 2015 - Present</i>
Assistant Professor of Accounting at Community College of Philadelphia.	<i>August 2015 - Present</i>
Associate Professor of Accounting at Northampton Community College.	<i>August 2004 - June 2015</i>
Accountant at Buckno Lisicky and Company.	<i>April 2007 - August 2009</i>

Education

Master of Accountancy , accounting from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	<i>2003 - 2004</i>
Certified Public Accountant (CPA)	
Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)	
Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA)	

Personal Details - *More a motivational message*

Holding a Master of Accountancy, Accounting, and becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), and Chartered Global Management Accountant, were not just an incident.

My journey studying and preparing for the exams was challenging and full of difficulties and roadblocks. However, **my commitment, dedication, and hard work have paid off.**

I know the struggles and challenges you may be facing when preparing for your exams and getting ready to dive into the professional world. Therefore, I am here to support you in successfully embarking on your journey.

I offer you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge in all the accounting concepts you need to succeed in your career.

My aim goes beyond helping you pass your exams, I want you to be successful in your jobs, to excel in your positions as accountants or Certified Public Accountants, and to be well prepared to assume all your responsibilities.

Passing your exams is just the start, your professional life is what matters most.

Offered services Farhatlectures.com offers you open instructional videos covering a wide variety of typical accounting courses.

The website includes college-level lectures including:

- Financial Accounting,
- Managerial Accounting,
- Intermediate Accounting,
- Advanced Accounting,
- Taxation,
- Auditing

In addition, it contains supplemental preparation materials for all of the following certifications:

- Enrolled Agent (EA),
- Certified Management Accountant (CMA),
- & Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

No matter what CPA materials you have chosen to use, we supplement those materials by customizing our resources to efficiently and effectively enhance your knowledge in the covered areas.

Moreover, to make your studying experience more interactive and enriching, **Farhatlectures will soon be offering customized individual and group tutoring sessions. STAY TUNED.**

College-level
Accounting
Courses

CPA
Preparation
Materials

Enrolled Agent
Preparation
Materials

CMA
Preparation
Materials

Mansour Farhat, the non-traditional CPA, the motivator, the influencer...

That is how students and colleagues call me...

And here is how everything started...

“Who said a CPA has to be an Accounting major student”

I was a finance major as an undergraduate at Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania .

I started my career as a loan officer at city financial. I spent six months there, and I moved afterward to Merrill Lynch, now it is Bank of America, where I got my Series 7 as a stockbroker...

At Merrill Lynch, I handled the employees' stock purchase plan and the employees' stock option plan... I used to receive plenty of questions related to the tax consequences of buying or selling stock, and exercising options... My answer to all the questions was the following “Please consult with your CPA or tax consultant in those matters”. But then I realized the market's emerging need for accountants and tax advisors. Customers were always eager to learn more about taxes.

That was the first trigger for my curiosity and interest in accounting.

In addition, when the financial crisis occurred in 1999 - 2000, it boosted my interest in accounting, namely in the areas of auditing and fraud. The collapse of Enron and WorldCom highlighted the importance of accounting when it comes to finance given that the fraud was committed by accounting people rather than finance people. Right after the dot-com bust, the division I was working at was sold to another company.

That is when I decided it is time for me to change.

**“Sometimes what seems to be a roadblock is nothing
but an opportunity for you to follow your passion...
Be flexible and do not fear the change”**

I picked up my prerequisite courses in accounting at various community colleges in New Jersey and Pennsylvania then I completed my Masters in accountancy. The Masters’ program consisted of ten courses, eight of them were in accounting, one in stat, and the last one in finance. Believe it or not, to my benefit, the finance teacher did not care about teaching and had never explained any of the materials he provided.

Being a finance major with three years of experience in the stock market, highly motivated, and seriously committed to getting my master’s degree, was enough not only to study the materials on my own, but also to lead the class and explain everything to my fellow students.

That is when I discovered how passionate I am about teaching and helping others on a personal level.

After I finished my masters’ degree, I couldn’t find a job immediately...

Accounting firms were not hiring, it was summertime, and I was not even the traditional profile they were looking to hire.

I Visited Northampton community college where I was a student a few years earlier, and I spoke to the dean asking him if I can be teaching there.

“Grab your opportunities and believe in yourself”

Three days before the school started for that fall, one of the adjuncts had a medical emergency and could not teach two courses, and I was asked to replace him.

Only three days to start an official job as a teacher for two different and unrelated courses... I had the courage and the confidence to say “Yes, I can do it”.
And that is how my teaching career started...

“Prioritize your interests and compromise when needed”

After two years of teaching on a part-time basis, I got a full-time job offer at that college. It was tempting but at that time, I had a priority to pass the CPA exam. I turned the job offer down and I prepared for the exams.

Once I passed the four parts of the CPA exam, it was the right time for me to start a full-time teaching job.

“It is not necessary to be part of the Big Four, opportunities in small to medium-sized accounting firms are as interesting”

The big four companies usually hire young traditional students from specific schools with no attachment to their social life. That is why it was difficult for me to get in. I started my career as a CPA in a medium-sized CPA firm in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

That is when I got the opportunity to work on everything. I gained experience in taxes, partnerships, corporations, S corporations, compilations, reviews, and audits, etc... and that is what I liked the most about working in a medium-sized CPA firm. **In two words, exposure and diversity.**

In parallel to my job in the CPA firm, I continued teaching and improving my teaching skills based on the students' feedback.

I used to read the class reviews written by my students, and I noticed that lots of them were complaining that there is not enough time to do exercises in class. I needed a way to save time in class for the exercises while providing the students with all the explanations they need to receive. I decided to start recording lectures. I began using voice over powerpoint and the students liked it, and then I moved to Youtube and my lectures became available to anyone, everywhere, any time.

And that was just the beginning in the tech world...

Once I was talking to a friend of mine, and he was amazed by my Youtube channel and the fact that I had 600 subscribers... and that was the first time I logged in my account and saw hundreds of questions and notes from users thanking me for the materials.

That is when I started putting more effort to make the lectures searchable on Youtube, and the number of subscribers started increasing day after day.

Afterward, I noticed that a lot of users are benefiting from my lectures to supplement their CPA courses materials. I recognized the CPA candidates' need for supplemental materials and that is when I decided to dig deeper into this industry by customizing my lectures and helping CPA students pass their exams.

Advices

- **Don't underestimate the importance of any introductory course or chapter.** Information build, to know B, you have to know A; and you need to know A and B in order to understand C.
- For accounting students, **don't give up, even if you don't like your jobs in the beginning**, especially if you get your foot in a CPA firm.
- Be very **persistent**.
- Be always reminded that success is not an immediate gratification, **success takes time**.
- **Try to choose a career that is scalable**, that gives you the opportunity to help a lot of people.