

Estate Tax Planning

Course Description

Estate Tax Planning examines the various aspects of planning for the estate tax liability. The course begins with a discussion of the genesis of estate taxation in English common law and continues with an examination of the estate and its administration.

The subjects discussed in the course are a) the estate and its administration, b) federal gift and estate taxes, c) common estate planning trusts, d) calculating federal estate taxes, e) state inheritance and estate taxation, and f) estate tax payment. The text serves as an introduction to the issues of estate settlement and includes a discussion of the probate estate and the federal gross estate.

Completion Deadline & Exam: This course, including the examination, must be completed within one year of the date of purchase.

Course Level: Overview. This program is appropriate for professionals at all organizational levels.

CPE Credits: 4 (CPA, EA)

Field of Study: Taxes

Prerequisite: None

Advanced Preparation: None

Course Learning Objectives

Chapter 1 - The Estate and Its Administration

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Identify the components of a decedent's probate estate;
2. Identify the assets that comprise a decedent's federal gross estate.

Chapter 2 - Federal Gift and Estate Taxes

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Recognize how the current annual gift tax exclusion permits the tax-free transfer of property ownership;
2. Identify the deductions allowed in calculating the federal estate tax liability.

Chapter 3 - Common Estate Planning Trusts

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Recognize how a credit shelter trust works to reduce federal estate tax liability in suitable estates.

Chapter 4 - Calculating Federal Estate Taxes

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Identify the components of the federal gross estate;
2. Calculate the value of adjusted taxable gifts that must be added to a decedent's taxable estate.

Chapter 5 - State Death Taxes

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Identify the principal differences between state estate taxes and inheritance taxes;
2. Identify the factors that affect the amount of state inheritance tax liability; and
3. Recognize how the familial relationship of a beneficiary to a decedent determines the applicable inheritance tax class.

Chapter 6 - Estate Tax Payment

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Identify the factors that need to be considered when evaluating the relative effectiveness of the various methods of paying estate settlement costs;
2. Recognize how life insurance death benefit proceeds payable to an irrevocable life insurance trust are used by a decedent's estate to pay estate taxes and settlement costs.