

CFA Designation

CFA® designates an international professional certificate that is offered by the CFA Institute. Candidates that pursue the certification have in - depth knowledge of securities types and investment vehicles. In order to qualify for a CFA®, candidates must meet standards for examination, education, experience, and ethics. First, candidates must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited school, or its equivalent. Second, candidates must have completed 48 months of qualified professional work experience, generally related to evaluating or applying financial, economic, and/or statistical data as part of the investment decision - making process involving securities or similar investment. Third, candidates must pass a series of three six-hour exams that covers ethics, quantitative methods, economics, corporate finance, financial reporting and analysis, security analysis, and portfolio management. Finally, candidates must meet and continue to adhere to a strict Code of Ethics and Standards governing their professional conduct, as reviewed by CFA Institute.

CFP Designation

CFP® professionals have met CFP Board's high standards for education, examination, experience, and ethics. To become a CFP® professional, an individual must fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Earn a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university and complete CFP Board-approved coursework at a college or university through a CFP Board Registered Program.
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination is designed to assess an individual's ability to integrate and apply a broad base of financial planning knowledge in the context of real-life financial planning situations.
- Experience – Complete 6,000 hours of professional experience related to the personal financial planning process, or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship experience that meets additional requirements.
- Ethics – Commit to complying with CFP Board's Code and Standards.
- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain competence, demonstrate specified levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities, and keep up with developments in financial planning. Two of the hours must address the Code and Standards.