

Professional Designations – Approved for Use as of 3.31.26

Certified Exit Planning Advisor (CEPA®)

The Certified Exit Planning Advisor credential is owned by the Exit Planning Institute®. CEPAs learn to apply the Value Acceleration Methodology™ and guide business owners and their families in aligning personal, financial, and business goals. You may find more information about the CEPA® credential at <https://exit-planning-institute.org/program/certified-exit-planning-advisor> .

To become a CEPA and earn the right to use the CEPA® credential, an individual is required to successfully complete the executive MBA style program and pass the closed-book proctored exam.

The Certified Exit Planning Advisor credential must be renewed every three (3) years. An individual is required to complete (1) ongoing adherence to professional conduct requirements and (2) continual professional development activities and contributions to the profession; as outlined below:

- **Continuing Education** – Complete a minimum of 40 hours of exit planning related professional development. 20 of the hours need to be from the Exit Planning Institute in the form of programs, courses, and meetings.
- **Professional/Ethics** – Agree in writing that they will adhere to the Exit Planning Institute’s Professional Standards and Code of Ethics, and they must re-attest that they have not been convicted of a felony related to the practice of exit planning.

Certified Financial Analyst® (CFA®)

The Chartered Financial Analyst® designation is owned by the CFA Institute and is known for demonstrating superior competency in advanced portfolio management, financial expertise, and technical skills, underpinned by ethical conduct and the highest standards of practice. You may find more information about the CFA® designation at <https://www.cfainstitute.org/programs/cfa-program#overview>.

To become a CFA charterholder and earn the right to use the CFA® designation, an individual must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Education** – have one of the following:
 - Complete bachelor’s program or equivalent program and received a degree from the college/university
 - Be an undergraduate student. The selected exam window must be 23 months or fewer before your graduation month for your bachelor’s degree or equivalent program. To sit the Level II exam, the student must be within 11 months of graduation. For the Level III exam, the student must have completed their bachelor’s degree or accrued 4,000 hours of professional work experience.

- Have a combination of 4,000 hours of work experience and/or higher education that was acquired over a minimum of three sequential years and achieved by the date of registering for the Level 1 exam
- **Examination** – complete Level I, II and III examinations
- **Experience** –4,000 hours of work experience
- **Ethics** – Follow the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct (Code and Standards).

Individuals who become certified must complete the following membership and ethics requirements to remain certified and maintain the right to continue to use the CFA Institute’s designation.

- **Membership**- Satisfy CFA Institute annual membership requirements
- **Ethics** – Commitment to abide by the requirements of the Code and Standards and the CFA Institute’s Professional Conduct Program.

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional

The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional designation is issued by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (“CFP Board”) and certifies that the professional is certified for financial planning services in the United States.

Therefore, the professional may refer to themselves as a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional or a CFP® professional and may use these and CFP Board’s other certification marks (the “CFP Board Certification Marks”). The CFP® certification is voluntary. No federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold the CFP® certification. You may find more information about the CFP® certification at <https://www.cfp.net>.

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. The coursework covers the financial planning subject areas CFP Board has determined are necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, as well as a comprehensive financial plan development capstone course. A candidate may satisfy some of the coursework requirement through other qualifying credentials. CFP Board implemented the bachelor’s degree or higher requirement in 2007 and the financial planning development capstone course requirement in March 2012. Therefore, a CFP® professional who first became certified before those dates may not have earned a bachelor’s or higher degree or completed a financial planning development capstone course.

•**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** – Satisfy the *Fitness Standards for Candidates for CFP® Certification and Former CFP® Professionals Seeking Reinstatement and agree to be bound by CFP Board’s Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct (“Code and Standards”)*, which sets forth the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements to remain certified and maintain the right to continue to use the CFP Board Certification Marks:

•**Ethics** – Commit to complying with CFP Board’s *Code and Standards*. This includes a commitment to CFP Board, as part of the certification, to act as a fiduciary, and therefore, act in the best interests of the client, at all times when providing financial advice and financial planning. CFP Board may sanction a CFP® professional who does not abide by this commitment, but CFP Board does not guarantee a CFP® professional's services. A client who seeks a similar commitment should obtain a written engagement that includes a fiduciary obligation to the client.

•**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*.

Certified Investment Management Analyst® professional

Investments & Wealth Institute® (the Institute) is the owner of the certification marks “CIMA®,” and “Certified Investment Management Analyst®”. Use of CIMA® and/or Certified Investment Management Analyst® signifies that the user has successfully completed the Institute’s initial and ongoing credentialing requirements for investment management professionals. You may find more information about the CIMA® credential at <https://investmentsandwealth.org/certifications/cima-certification>

To become a CIMA® professional, an individual must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Education-** Complete executive education program with registered education provider. The coursework covers the investment industry’s specific, technical body of knowledge areas needed to navigate the entire portfolio construction and investment consulting process as determined by industry practitioners via a job task analysis study that is updated every five to seven years.
- **Examination-** Pass the comprehensive CIMA® Certification Examination. The examination is designed to test a candidate’s knowledge and skills in the areas of work performed by an investment management consultant/advisor.

- **Experience-** Demonstrate a minimum of three (3) full years of verified professional experience in financial services or related industry,
- **Ethics-** Pass the background check requirements, complete license agreement and agree to adhere to both the Institute's *Code of Professional Responsibility*, which was adopted to promote and maintain a high standard of professional conduct in the investment consulting and wealth management disciplines, and the *Rules and Guidelines for the Use of the Marks*.

•
 Certificants must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements every two years to remain certified and maintain the right to continue to use the Institute's Certification Marks.

- **Ethics-** Commit to complying with the Institute's *Code of Professional Responsibility*. This includes a commitment to acting in the best interest of the client. The Institute may discipline a CIMA[®] professional who does not abide by this commitment, but the Institute does not guarantee a CIMA[®] professional's services.
- **Continuing Education-** Complete and report a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education (CE), two of which must be ethics credits and one must be tax or regulatory credits.

Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA[®])

The Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst designation is owned by the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association[®] (CAIAA) and demonstrates that the professional has demonstrated a high level of training and expertise in the alternative investment industry. You may find more information about the CAIA[®] designation at <https://caia.org>.

To become a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst and earn the right to use the CAIA[®] designation, an individual must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Education** – have one of the following:
 - Holds a bachelor's degree (or the equivalent) and has one (1) year of professional experience in the field of alternative investment analyst or other regulatory, banking, financial, or related field, **OR**
 - Has four (4) years of professional experience in the field of alternative investment analysis or other regulatory, banking, financial, or related field, **OR**
 - Is a CFA charterholder in good standing
- **Examination** – complete Level 1 and Level II examinations

Individuals who become certified must complete the following membership and ethics requirements to remain certified and maintain the right to continue to use the CAIA[®]'s designation.

- **Membership-** Satisfy CAIAA's annual membership requirements
- **Ethics** – Commitment to abide by the requirements of the CAIAA's Member Policy Manual and Code of Ethics.