

## Accounting Certification Quick Guide

	CPA	CMA	CIA	CFE	EA	CGMA
<b>Accounting Courses Required to Sit for Exam</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
<b>Work Experience Needed to Sit for Exam</b>	No	No	No	Yes	No	2 years
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	Yes (150 credit hours)	Yes (can sit b/f graduated)	Yes	Yes*	No	Yes
<b>Estimated Cost of Exam</b>	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,500	\$ 400	\$ 1,000	\$ 325
<b>Estimated Total Costs**</b>	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,230	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,395	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,600
<b>Exam Dates Per Year</b>	4 Windows (9 Mo.)	4 Windows (6 Mo.)	Year Round	Year Round	May 1-Feb 28	3 Windows
<b>Exam Length</b>	16 Hours	8 Hours	6.5 Hours	8 Hours	12 Hours	3 Hours
<b>Work Experience Needed for Certification</b>	Yes*	2 Years	1 - 2 Years	Yes*	No	3 Years
<b>Number of Exams</b>	4	2	3	4	3	1
<b>Memberships Required to Sit for Exam</b>	None	IMA Member	None	ACFE Member	None	AICPA Member
	CFA	CGAP	CBA	CISA	CFSA	CITP
<b>Accounting Courses Required to Sit for Exam</b>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Work Experience Needed to Sit for Exam</b>	No*	1-5 Years*	No	No	No	No
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	Yes	No (associate)	Yes	No	No (associate)	Yes
<b>Estimated Cost of Exam</b>	\$ 2,500	\$ 855	\$ 498	\$ 670	\$ 2,000	\$ 500
<b>Estimated Total Costs**</b>	\$ 4,600	\$ 2,500	\$ 900	\$ 2,240	\$ 2,250	\$ 650
<b>Exam Dates Per Year</b>	1-2 Times/ Year	Year Round	3 Times/ Year	June 1-Sept 23	Year Round	3 Windows
<b>Exam Length</b>	18 Hours	3 Hours	4 Parts	4 Hours	3 Hours	4 Hours
<b>Work Experience Needed for Certification</b>	4 Years	1-5 Years	2 Years	3 Years*	1-5 Years	1,000 Hours
<b>Number of Exams</b>	3	1	4	1	1	1
<b>Memberships Required to Sit for Exam</b>	CFA Institute	None	None	None	None	AICPA Member
* Work experience varies by state						
**Includes study material, fees, test, etc.						

### Glossary

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>CPA</b> – Certified Public Accountant</li> <li>2. <b>CMA</b> – Certified Management Accountant</li> <li>3. <b>CIA</b> – Certified Internal Auditor</li> <li>4. <b>CFE</b> – Certified Fraud Examiner</li> <li>5. <b>EA</b> – Enrolled Agent</li> <li>6. <b>CGMA</b> – Chartered Global Management Accountant</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. <b>CFA</b> – Certified Financial Analyst</li> <li>8. <b>CGAP</b> – Certified Government Auditing Professional</li> <li>9. <b>CBA</b> – Certified Bank Auditor</li> <li>10. <b>CISA</b> – Certified Information System Auditor</li> <li>11. <b>CFSA</b> – Certified Financial Services Auditor</li> <li>12. <b>CITP</b> – Certified Information Technology Professional</li> </ol> |
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## **CPA – Certified Public Accountant**

A CPA is an individual who has passed the Uniform CPA Examination and has received his or her CPA certificate and/or CPA license (if required) from the State Board of Accountancy of the state in which that individual intends to practice. Each state has its own education and experience requirements that must be met before a candidate is given permission to take the exam and obtain a certificate/license. The Uniform CPA Examination is delivered in a computer-based format in authorized testing centers across the United States. For more information, visit [www.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org) or [www.cpa-exam.org](http://www.cpa-exam.org).

## **CMA – Certified Management Accountant**

Offered by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), the globally recognized CMA credential distinguishes those who have earned it as advanced accounting professionals qualified to work inside organizations where technical competence and a thorough understanding of the linkage between strategy and financial performance are critical. IMA's CMA program embodies an extensive curriculum covering accounting, finance and important related fields.

The two-part exam is designed to develop and measure critical thinking and decision-making skills. For more information, visit [www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org).

## **CIA – Certified Internal Auditor**

Offered in 17 languages in more than 95 countries, The IIA's premier certification is the only internationally accepted designation for internal auditors. The CIA exam is offered in four parts: the internal audit activity's role in governance, risk and control; conducting the internal audit engagement; business analysis and information technology; and business management skills. CIA candidates must meet eligibility requirements for education, character and work experience. For more information, visit [www.theiia.org](http://www.theiia.org).

## **CFE – Certified Fraud Examiner**

A globally recognized credential offered by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), a CFE specializes in fraud prevention, detection and deterrence. The CFE exam covers four areas: financial transactions, legal elements of fraud, fraud investigation, and criminology and ethics. For more information, visit [www.acfe.com](http://www.acfe.com).

## **EA – Enrolled Agent**

An EA is a federally authorized tax practitioner who has technical expertise in the field of taxation and is empowered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to represent taxpayers before all administrative levels of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for audits, collections and appeals. The EA designation is earned by passing a three-part exam administered by the IRS or by being employed by the IRS for at least five years in a position in which the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations are interpreted regularly. A minimum of 24 hours of continuing education is required each year to maintain EA status with the IRS. Members of the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA), the professional association of EAs, must complete at least 30 hours of continuing education. For more information, visit [www.naea.org](http://www.naea.org).

## **CGMA – Chartered Global Management Accountant**

The Chartered Global Management Accountant "distinguishes professionals who have advanced proficiency in finance, operations, strategy and management". The Chartered Global Management Accountant's mission is to promote the science of management accounting on global stages.

Chartered Global Management Accountant, a proprietary designation for management accountants, is powered by two accounting bodies, and advances the global discipline of management accounting. The Chartered Global Management Accountant demonstrates management accounting expertise, determination and commitment to achieving sustainable business success. The issuing body is a joint venture owned

by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

The designation is available through either an AICPA or CIMA Pathway. The AICPA Pathway requires AICPA members to be Certified Public Accountants, pass the CGMA exam, have three years management accounting experience, and be a member of the AICPA. The CIMA Pathway requires CIMA members to pass the required CIMA examinations including the CIMA certificate in Business Accounting, have three years management accounting experience and be a member of the CIMA.

### **CFA – Certified Financial Analyst**

Awarded by the CFA Institute, the CFA's self-study curriculum develops and reinforces a fundamental knowledge of investment principles in the fields of portfolio management and investment analysis. Three levels of examination verify a candidate's ability to apply these principles across all areas of the investment decision-making process. Candidates must pass each level sequentially and fulfill other program requirements before earning the CFA designation. For more information, visit [www.cfainstitute.org](http://www.cfainstitute.org).

### **CGAP – Certified Government Auditing Professional**

A specialty certification program issued by The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA), the CGAP is designed for audit practitioners in the public sector. The certification exam tests a candidate's knowledge of public sector auditing, including certain features that are unique to the public sector (e.g., fund accounting, grants, and legislative oversight and confidentiality rights). Candidates also must meet educational requirements, submit a character reference and have at least two years of auditing experience in a government environment. For more information, visit [www.theiia.org](http://www.theiia.org).

### **CBA – Certified Bank Auditor**

Offered by the BAI Center for Certification, the CBA designation ensures candidates have knowledge in four bank-specific areas:

accounting, auditing principles and bank laws, regulations, and auditing practices and general business. To qualify for the CBA exam, candidates must possess a bachelor's degree and have a minimum of two years of bank auditing experience. Individuals must pass all four CBA exam areas within a three-year period. For more information, visit [www.bai.org](http://www.bai.org).

### **CISA – Certified Information System Auditor**

Awarded by ISACA, this internationally recognized credential signifies proficiency in information systems auditing, control and security. With the growing demand for professionals possessing information systems audit, control and security skills, and the ANSI-accredited CISA designation has become a preferred certification for individuals and organizations around the world. For more information, visit [www.isaca.org/cisa](http://www.isaca.org/cisa).

### **CFSA – Certified Financial Services Auditor**

The IIA confers this specialty credential on individuals who demonstrate their knowledge of current auditing principles and practices relating to the financial services industry. The exam format offers candidates a choice of three financial services disciplines: banking, insurance or securities. Candidates also must meet educational requirements, submit a character reference and have at least two years of auditing experience in a financial services environment. For more information, visit [www.theiia.org](http://www.theiia.org).

### **CITP – Certified Information Technology Professional**

The AICPA issues this credential to CPAs who demonstrate a broad range of technology skills and apply them to achieve business solutions. It is held by professionals who hold a variety of positions in business, technology and academia. To be awarded the CITP credential, a CPA must possess at least 2,000 hours of business technology experience and at least 200 hours of technology education, both earned within a five-year period. For more information, visit [www.aicpa.org/infotech](http://www.aicpa.org/infotech).