CFA PROGRAM: STAYING RELEVANT IN AN EVER-CHANGING PROFESSION

To keep up with the rapid pace of change in the investment management profession, CFA Institute continuously engages with practicing investment management professionals to determine the skills and competencies critical for success in the industry. By monitoring the trends most likely to influence the investment management industry over the next three to five years, practice analysis ensures that the CFA® Program prepares today’s—and tomorrow’s—investment professionals to better serve their clients, their employers, and society.

THE PRACTICE ANALYSIS PROCESS

- Identify emerging trends through CFA Institute Member survey, relationships with thought leaders, CFA Institute regional and divisional staff, regulators, university professors, third-party studies, etc.
- Reviews existing program coverage according to a rolling three-year plan
- Regional Expert Panels—in-depth conversations with investment management professionals about their job roles and professional practices
- Employer Advisor Panels—Discussions with employers about the challenges they face in recruiting and retaining competent investment professionals
- Panel results verified and refined by survey of 3,000+ EAC Working Body members
- Survey findings provided to curriculum advisors
- Practice Intensive Panels held to develop reading outlines
- Results validated through annual member survey and published as the Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK)

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE PRACTICE ANALYSIS PROCESS?

- Help to shape the future vision for the role of investment management professionals
- Contribute to the development of standards for professional competence in the investment management industry
- Network with other investment professionals

GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in participating in the practice analysis process or would like further information, contact Carey Hare (carey.hare@cfainstitute.org) or visit: cfa.is/Practice-Analysis.
PRACTICE ANALYSIS TO THE CURRICULUM: 2019 UPDATES

In addition to identifying the current set of competencies required by practitioners, the practice analysis process has been enhanced to capture trends likely to influence the investment management industry over the next three to five years. The new readings for 2019 described below indicate how these anticipated trends are reflected in the current CFA Program curriculum.

2019 KEY UPDATES
This year, we introduce the first reading-length coverage of financial technology (fintech) in the investment management industry, covering the landscape of big data and the use of artificial intelligence, including machine learning, in the analysis of big data as well as selected investment management applications such as robo-advisers or blockchain. A new reading examines the evolution of financial services into a profession, describes the expectations for investment management professionals, and outlines the challenges facing the profession. The reading will improve your understanding of ethical conduct, trust, and professionalism as the essential building blocks for a career in investment management. New cases in ethics will reinforce your understanding of ethical responsibilities in modern, fintech-affected work contexts.

LEVEL III OVERHAUL CONTINUES
The planned multi-year curriculum strategy to overhaul the Level III curriculum that began last year with new teachings about asset allocation and fixed-income portfolio management continues this year with the release of a series of four new readings in equity portfolio management. These readings replace the former single reading, with a major increase in scope, depth, and currency.

ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD
Professionalism is at the core of CFA Institute. With purpose and professionalism, we can—over time—rebuild trust among investors and investment management professionals. When we earn trust, we earn a sustainable future for our profession.