



CFA Institute

# WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Find out which of our investment education programs best fits your career goals.

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## **CFA® PROGRAM** Professional/graduate level

The CFA charter sets the standard as the most highly respected designation in the investment management profession.

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## **CIPM® PROGRAM** Professional/graduate level

The CIPM Program offers career distinction for all investment professionals charged with appraising and selecting portfolio managers, evaluating portfolio performance, and communicating with clients.

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## **INVESTMENT FOUNDATIONS™ PROGRAM** Foundational level

The CFA Institute Investment Foundations™ Program gives those working with investment decision makers a clear understanding of the investment industry, roles and responsibilities, and the vital importance of ethical conduct.

## CFA PROGRAM

## CIPM PROGRAM

## INVESTMENT FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

Professional/  
graduate level

Professional/  
graduate level

Foundational level

### Who is it for?

Portfolio and wealth managers, investment and research analysts, professionals involved in the investment decision-making process, and finance students who want to work in the investment management profession

Portfolio managers, investment consultants, financial advisers, sales and client service professionals, and other investment professionals involved in selecting portfolio managers, evaluating portfolio performance, or communicating with clients

Anyone who works with or supports investment decision makers in the investment management profession

### How long does it take?

A minimum of three years to complete three exams (Levels I, II, and III), assuming four-year work experience requirement is already met

A minimum of one year to complete two exams (Principles and Expert)

Up to six months to prepare for one exam

### Are there prerequisites?

Yes. You must have **one** of the following:

- A bachelor's (or equivalent) degree (or be in the final year of a bachelor's degree program)
- Four years of professional work experience
- A combination of professional work experience or teaching experience that totals at least four years

No

No

### How do I complete the program?

- Successfully pass the three exams
- Have four years of professional work experience in the investment decision-making process (accrued before, during, or after passing the CFA exams)
- Join CFA Institute as a regular member

- Successfully pass the two exams (Principles and Expert)
- Have two years of specific professional experience in investment performance-related activities or four years in the investment decision-making process (professional experience may be accrued before, during, or after passing the CIPM exams)
- Join the CIPM Association

- Successfully pass the exam

### What will I earn upon completing the program?

CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst®) charter  
[www.cfainstitute.org/cfaprogram](http://www.cfainstitute.org/cfaprogram)

CIPM designation  
[www.cfainstitute.org/cipm](http://www.cfainstitute.org/cipm)

CFA Institute Investment Foundations certificate  
[www.cfainstitute.org/investmentfoundations](http://www.cfainstitute.org/investmentfoundations)