



FP Canada[®]

*Advancing Professional
Financial Planning*

QAFP[®] CERTIFICATION POLICIES

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QAFP[®]

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This document outlines the policies and guidelines related to prospective and current certificants seeking to obtain and/or maintain QUALIFIED ASSOCIATE FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification.

2 Paths to QAFP Certification

There are two paths to QAFP certification, the Direct Path and the Relevant Professional Qualifications Path.

2.1 Direct Path to QAFP Certification

Candidates wishing to obtain QAFP certification via the Direct Path must:

- a. Successfully complete the FP Canada Institute™ Technical Education – Fundamentals program *or* a Fundamentals program recognized by FP Canada;
- b. Successfully complete the FP Canada Institute QAFP Professional Education Program™¹;
- c. Pass the QAFP exam; and
- d. Hold a two-year post-secondary diploma or higher and have one year of qualifying work experience *or* have five (5) years of qualifying work experience.



¹ The CFP Professional Education Program is also an acceptable prerequisite for the QAFP exam.

2.2 Relevant Professional Qualifications Path to QAFP Certification

Candidates wishing to obtain QAFP certification via the Relevant Professional Qualifications Path to QAFP Certification must:

- a. Hold one of the following relevant professional qualifications in good standing in Canada:
 - Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA);
 - Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA);
 - Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (FCIA); or
 - Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) or Juris Doctor (J.D.);
- b. Successfully complete the FP Canada Institute QAFP Professional Education Program²;
- c. Pass the QAFP exam; and
- d. Complete one year of qualifying work experience.



2.2.1 Proof of Qualifying Credential

Candidates applying under the Relevant Professional Qualifications Path, must complete an Alternate Certification Path application and provide documentation from the applicable governing body confirming their qualifications and good standing. A non-refundable fee will apply to review the Alternate Certification Path application.

Candidates shall provide evidence of their professional certification by submitting documentation from the conferring institution/organization sufficient to show prerequisite qualifications (certification or license) in good standing within the prescribed timelines. Candidates may register for the QAFP Professional Education Program (or the CFP Professional Education Program), prior to submitting documentation; however, failure to deliver the required documentation within prescribed timelines will result in the candidate being deregistered from the education program or examination.

3 Obtaining QAFP Certification

The path to QAFP certification is structured to create proficiency sooner with new learning options and improved alignment between technical education and professional relationship development.

² The CFP Professional Education Program is also an acceptable prerequisite for the QAFP exam.

Candidates for QAFP certification must meet the following requirements:

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	PREREQUISITES *	PREREQUISITE TIME LIMITS
Successfully complete the FP Canada Institute™ Technical Education – Fundamentals program including the final Program Assessment OR Successfully complete a Fundamentals program Recognized by FP Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not applicable ▪ Candidates should refer to their Fundamentals education provider for any prerequisite requirements 	Not Applicable
Successfully complete the QAFP Professional Education Program**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FP Canada Institute Technical Education – Fundamentals program OR ▪ Fundamentals program recognized by FP Canada 	Within four years of completion of prerequisite education
Pass the QAFP exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ QAFP Professional Education Program** 	Within four years of completion of QAFP Professional Education Program
Complete one year of qualifying work experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not Applicable 	Qualifying work experience must be completed in the four years preceding the application for QAFP certification
Apply for QAFP certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pass the QAFP examination ▪ One year of qualifying work experience ▪ Hold a two-year post-secondary diploma, or higher, from an accredited college or university OR have five years of qualifying work experience 	Within four years of passing the QAFP examination

* Applications for FP Canada’s education programs and examinations may be submitted prior to completing a prerequisite, however successful completion of the applicable prerequisite is required for admission to the education program or examination.

** The CFP Professional Education Program is also an acceptable prerequisite for the QAFP examination.

3.1 Time Limits

Candidates who do not pass the QAFP exam within four years of completing the QAFP Professional Education Program must repeat the QAFP Professional Education Program to requalify for the QAFP exam.

Candidates who do not obtain QAFP certification within four years of passing the QAFP exam must restart the path the QAFP certification.

3.2 Technical Education

Candidates pursuing QAFP certification are required to complete Technical Education – Fundamentals through the FP Canada Institute or a Fundamentals program recognized by FP Canada.³ The Technical Education – Fundamentals program, offered by the FP Canada Institute, aligns to the [*FP Canada Standards Council Competency Profile for QAFP Certification*](#) and the knowledge requirements of a QAFP professional detailed in the Financial Planning Body of Knowledge.

As a condition for approval by FP Canada, Fundamentals program recognized by FP Canada must also align to the [*FP Canada Standards Council Competency Profile for QAFP Certification*](#) and the knowledge requirements of a QAFP professional detailed in the Financial Planning Body of Knowledge.

3.2.1 Education Exemptions

Candidates who hold certain designations and licenses in good standing may apply for education exemptions from components of FP Canada’s technical education requirements.

This table provides education exemptions based on a review of the learning objectives and knowledge expectations for the licenses and designations relative to FP Canada Institute’s Technical Education courses. Exemptions are provided where most of the learning objectives and knowledge expectations are aligned. See the Fee Schedule for applicable exemption fees. These exemptions are subject to change based on changes to the education requirements leading to licensure and designations or changes made to FP Canada certification requirements.

³ Fundamentals programs recognized by FP Canada are offered by several institutions throughout Canada, both in person and online. While approved programs must meet FP Canada’s requirements, FP Canada neither dictates nor controls the duration or delivery format of these programs.⁴ To recognize successful completion of a Professional Education Program, individuals are exempt from CE requirements in all categories, including the category of Professional Responsibility, in the year they complete the Professional Education Program and the following calendar year.

LICENSE OR DESIGNATION	FUNDAMENTALS EXEMPTIONS ¹
Canadian Securities License	Investment Planning Course
Mutual Funds License	Investment Planning Course
Registered Retirement Consultant (RRC [®])	Retirement Planning Course Estate Planning and Law for Financial Planning Course Tax Planning Course
Professional Financial Advisor (PFA [™])	Financial Management Course Retirement Planning Course Investment Planning Course Tax Planning Course
Professional Financial Advisor (PFA [™])	Partial Program ²
Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU [®])	Entire Program
Designated Financial Services Advisor (DFSA [™]) ³	Financial Management Course Investment Planning Course Retirement Planning Course Tax Planning Course
Registered Financial and Retirement Advisor (RFRA [®])	Retirement Planning Course Estate Planning and Law for Financial Planning Course
Registered Retirement Advisor (RRA [®])	Retirement Planning Course

¹ Subject to change based on changes to the education requirements leading to licensure and designations or changes made to FP Canada certification and education requirements.

² Holders of the PFP in good standing are exempt from Technical Education - Fundamentals if they have successfully completed CSI's Lending, Retirement & Insurance Supplement (LRIS) course. See CSI's Qualified Associate Financial Planner / QAFP Certification page for more details.

³ Holders of the DFSA in good standing are exempt from components of the Technical Education – Fundamentals program if they have successfully completed Path 1 of CSI's Post-Designation Education Requirements. See CSI's DFSA Requirements page for details. Candidates who have completed any other path may submit a copy of their transcript to info@fpcanada.ca to review their eligibility for exemptions.

3.3 Professional Education Programs

3.3.1 FP Canada Institute QAFP Professional Education Program

The QAFP Professional Education Program is a unique program that ensures students are client-ready by helping them understand key behavioural factors that affect client decisions. It offers interactive exercises, real-life scenarios, and tests student knowledge through a live discovery process, giving students a marketplace advantage. The QAFP Professional Education Program consists of seven units (value proposition, terms of engagement, discovery, analysis, recommendations and financial plan, implementation, and monitoring). Each unit includes a financial planning, human behaviour, and professional responsibility section.

3.3.2 QAFP Certification to CFP Certification Professional Education Program

QAFP certificants who ultimately want to advance toward CFP certification can do so with a customized professional education program that bridges the QAFP Professional Education Program and the CFP Professional Education Program gap, to develop a deep understanding of the integrated, holistic nature of financial planning practice. The QAFP Certification to CFP Certification Professional Education Program consists of seven units (value proposition, terms of engagement, discovery, analysis, recommendations and financial plan, implementation, and monitoring). Each unit includes a financial planning, human behaviour, and professional responsibility section.

3.3.3 QAFP Professional Education Program Eligibility Requirements and Documentation

Candidates pursuing QAFP certification may enrol in the QAFP Professional Education Program if they:

- have successfully completed the FP Canada Institute Technical Education – Fundamentals program or a Fundamentals program recognized by FP Canada; or
- hold one or more [Relevant Professional Qualifications](#).

For candidates who do not complete the Technical Education – Fundamentals program, proof of completion of prerequisite education requirements, either by official transcripts (sent by mail, electronically by email or through the educator’s online student portal) or a letter from the conferring institute, are acceptable forms of documentation.

3.4 QAFP Examination

The QAFP exam is a three-hour, computer-based examination delivered at in-person test centres and via online proctoring up to three times annually. The exam consists of up to 100 multiple-choice questions, with stand-alone questions and case studies with related questions. The test specifications are published in the [FP Canada Blueprint: QAFP Examination](#). Each question on the QAFP exam assesses at least one specific element of the [FP Canada Blueprint: QAFP Examination](#) and may also require integration across several financial planning areas to

address the needs of clients with relatively less complex financial planning needs. FP Canada retains the right to prohibit any individual from writing an examination, at its sole discretion.

3.4.1 Exam Development and Administration

QAFP exam development, administration, scoring, reporting, appeals and complaints shall follow generally accepted testing principles consistent with ISO 17024 standards.

The QAFP exam administered to candidates must meet the specifications set out in the [FP Canada Blueprint: QAFP Examination](#), and in turn *the FP Canada Blueprint: QAFP Examination* must align with the [FP Canada Standards Council Competency Profile for QAFP Certification](#).

3.4.2 Examination Retakes

The QAFP exam must be successfully completed within four years of completion of the QAFP Professional Education Program. Candidates who are unsuccessful on the QAFP exam after four attempts or within four years of their first attempt must requalify by successfully completing or repeating the QAFP Professional Education Program, regardless of previous exemptions granted. Requalification will qualify the candidate for up to four more attempts of the QAFP exam and will reset the four-year time limit.

Regular application guidelines, including completion of the exam application and agreement to abide by all exam policies, remain in effect for all attempts.

3.4.3 Examination Results

The QAFP exam is a pass or fail exam only. The method used to set the passing standard and subsequent pass mark for FP Canada exams is in accordance with well-established certification best practices for pass-score procedures.

Except in the event of an exam misconduct investigation, FP Canada shall inform each candidate of their result (pass/fail) within two months of the exam date.

3.4.4 Appeals to Examination Results

Candidates may request a rescoring of the QAFP exam within 30 days of the date the exam results are released, as outlined in the [Guide to the QAFP Examination](#).

Although a change in the result from fail to pass is unlikely, the [rescoring fee](#) shall be refunded if rescoring results in a change in the candidate's exam result.

3.4.5 Examination Misconduct

FP Canada Standards Council shall investigate allegations of exam misconduct in accordance with the [FP Canada Standards Council Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Examination Misconduct](#).

Exam misconduct may be grounds for disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, withholding exam results and/or denying certification.

3.4.6 Testing Accommodations

FP Canada shall comply with all relevant legislation regarding accommodating persons with disabilities and strives to accommodate all requests to the extent that we are reasonably able to provide all candidates with equitable access to FP Canada's certification exams.

Candidates requesting an accommodation must submit a [Testing Accommodation Form](#) which outlines the nature of the disability or unique accessibility need, details on how the disability affects the candidate's ability to take the exam under standard conditions, the specific accommodation requested, and any previous accommodations received. Candidates must provide current (i.e., dated within five years of the date of submission to FP Canada) documentation providing a clear diagnosis and description of the medical or health issue from an appropriate medical practitioner whose credentials are appropriate to diagnose and treat the disability or unique accessibility need, results of any related assessments and details on how the diagnosis affects the candidate's ability to take the exam under standard conditions.

The deadline to request a testing accommodation is two months prior to the examination sitting.

The decision to grant an accommodation shall be made on a case-by-case basis by FP Canada staff and confidentiality of the submission is maintained. Requests received without the appropriate detail or information will be returned. Candidates shall be notified if the accommodation request is denied, or FP Canada is unable to accommodate the request. We cannot guarantee that requests received less than two months prior to the exam date will be assessed or granted.

Where an accommodation request is approved, the candidate must sign an approval letter acknowledging that the accommodation(s) provided meets their needs before the accommodation will be granted.

3.4.7 Examination Locations

Candidates may elect to write the QAFP exam at an in-person exam location or online using FP Canada's online proctoring option. The QAFP exam may be offered online only from time to time at FP Canada's discretion.

In-person exam locations shall be determined at the discretion of FP Canada staff. When selecting locations, staff will consider reasonable access for all candidates across Canada.

Candidates may elect to pay an [alternate location fee](#) to have a dedicated writing centre established, if feasible. FP Canada shall make every effort to meet such requests, provided it is feasible and so doing does not compromise exam security. Requests for an alternate exam location must be received by FP Canada no later than two months prior to the exam date. FP Canada does not administer its certification exams outside of Canada.

3.4.8 Score Reporting

Candidates who meet the passing standard shall receive notification of 'Pass', but diagnostic information shall not be provided. Candidates who receive a failing score shall receive a notification of 'Fail' and their scaled total score with diagnostic feedback shall be provided.

Results letters shall be released to each candidate's secure FP Canada portal and candidates shall be advised of this by email.

Education providers with more than 10 candidates for a particular exam administration will receive the average scaled score and average diagnostic feedback by competency area (of the [FP Canada Standards Council Competency Profile for QAFP Certification](#)) for the writers who were eligible for the QAFP exam through completion of their programs (as reported by exam candidates).

FP Canada may communicate aggregate pass rates for all candidates and for first time exam writers to consumer and/or trade media.

FP Canada may publish the names of successful candidates, at its sole discretion.

3.4.9 Administrative Examination Timelines

All deadlines may be abridged or extended at FP Canada's discretion as communicated in writing to candidates.

- The early bird application deadline is approximately two months prior to the exam date.
- The deadline for testing accommodation requests is two months prior to the exam date.
- The final registration deadline is one month prior to the exam date.

3.4.10 Examination Documentation

Candidates must provide proof of completion of all prerequisite education requirements. Education completed through the FP Canada Institute will be automatically tracked in the candidate's online account. For education by a recognized education provider that is not the FP Canada Institute, an official transcript (provided by mail, email or through the educator's online student portal) or an official letter from the conferring institute, are acceptable forms of documentation.

Documentary evidence of completion of the education prerequisites must be received by FP Canada at least one month prior to the scheduled exam sitting or such other date as established by FP Canada.

3.5 Work Experience

Experience earned by working in roles that involve the application of the skills and competencies detailed in the [FP Canada Standards Council Competency Profile for QAFP Certification](#), is a cornerstone of QAFP certification, providing the opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their ability to serve clients in a real-world setting.

All candidates are required to complete one year of qualifying work experience to be eligible to apply for QAFP certification.

Only qualifying work experience completed within the four years prior to applying for QAFP certification will be considered. Work experience is not required to write the QAFP exam.

Candidates who do not complete their work experience requirement within the above time frame must successfully re-write the QAFP exam to qualify for QAFP certification.

3.5.1 Qualifying Work Experience

Qualifying work experience is based on a 35-hour work week and is defined as full-time (or equivalent part-time) financial planning related employment or self-employment.

Experience must involve application of the knowledge, skills and abilities described in [FP Canada Standards Council Competency Profile for QAFP Certification](#) and should help candidates in the application of financial planning processes to meet client needs. Experience may include performance of any or all the following financial planning competency areas:

- Financial Management
- Investment Planning
- Insurance and Risk Management
- Tax Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning and Law for Financial Planning

Roles that support the client-planner relationship, including assisting or supporting planners or advisors, shall qualify if they meet the above criteria.

Teaching financial planning courses at a post-secondary level qualifies as work experience where the courses include the application of the knowledge, skills and abilities described in the [FP Canada Standards Council Competency Profile for QAFP Certification](#). Financial planning research that incorporates real-world integrated financial planning situations may qualify as work experience, depending on the specific nature of the research.

Work experience gained outside Canada will be reviewed in accordance with section 3.5.2 “Verification of Experience” below, to ensure the key responsibilities and day-to-day tasks within the role meet the definition of qualifying work experience set out above.

3.5.2 Verification of Experience

FP Canada shall review all work experience to evaluate the key responsibilities and day-to-day tasks within a role to make a determination of qualifying work experience. At the time of application for QAFP certification, the candidate must:

- Provide an up-to-date work experience summary detailing previous work experience and specific start and completion dates.
- Provide a letter signed by their most recent or current supervisor, if applicable, providing details of the candidate's position, nature of activities, work start date (and end date if appropriate) and the signatory's contact information.
- Independent financial planners who are affiliated with financial institution(s) or fee-only planners with no financial institution affiliations must provide a letter from two personal financial planning clients that includes a detailed description of financial planning services provided, the length of time these services have been provided and the client's contact information.

All information supplied is subject to verification by FP Canada.

3.6 Post-Secondary Education Requirements

To be eligible for QAFP certification, applicants who do not have five years of qualifying work experience (as defined in section 3.5.1, above), must hold a two-year post-secondary diploma, or higher, from an accredited college or university.

3.6.1 Verification of Post-Secondary Education

FP Canada will review all post secondary diploma or degree transcripts. At the time of application for QAFP certification, the candidate must provide an electronic transcript released directly to FP Canada from the school where the diploma or degree was obtained. Scanned copies, email attachments or documents that have been release to the student will not be accepted.

FP Canada will accept international diplomas where there is supporting documentation establishing that the international diploma/degree is equivalent to a Canadian diploma/degree. Verification of international credentials is handled through [World Education Services](#).

All information supplied is subject to verification by FP Canada.

3.7 Applying for QAFP Certification

Candidates who have completed the requirements for QAFP certification may apply for QAFP certification. Candidates must agree to abide by and meet the obligations of the [FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility](#) and the [QAFP Marks Usage Guide](#).

All current QAFP professionals appear in the [Find a Financial Planner](#) online directory on the FP Canada website.

FP Canada retains the right to decline certification where candidates for certification:

- Do not meet one or more of FP Canada's application requirements;
- Do not meet the fitness for certification requirements pursuant to the Fitness Standards and/or FP Canada's good character requirements; and/or
- For any other reason, at its sole discretion.

3.7.1 FP Canada Dual Certification

An individual cannot hold QAFP certification and CFP certification concurrently.

3.7.2 Diploma, Digital Badge, and Certificate

Upon certification, candidates will receive a paper diploma and a digital badge that includes a printable annual certificate.

- QAFP professionals may receive their diploma in French or English.
- Replacement diplomas may be issued upon request.
- A digital badge and accompanying digital certificate are issued at the time of certification and are updated annually.

3.8 Transitioning Between Certification Paths

3.8.1 QAFP Certification Bridge Path to CFP Certification

Candidates wishing to obtain CFP certification via the QAFP Certification Bridge Path must:

- a. Hold QAFP certification in good standing;
- b. Successfully complete FP Canada Institute Technical Education – Advanced program or an Advanced program recognized by FP Canada;
- c. Successfully complete the FP Canada Institute QAFP Certification to CFP Professional Education Program or the CFP Professional Education Program;
- d. Pass the CFP exam;
- e. Demonstrate completion of three years of qualifying work experience; and
- f. Hold a post-secondary degree; have been a QAFP professional in good standing for at least five-years; or have ten-years of qualifying work experience.

3.8.2 Transitioning from CFP Certification Path

Candidates who were previously unsuccessful on the CFP examination may attempt the QAFP examination at any time, subject to QAFP examination prerequisites, education currency limits and number of examination attempt limits (maximum of four exam attempts).

4 Maintaining QAFP Certification

4.1 Renewals and Reinstatements

4.1.1 Renewals

QAFP professionals must renew their certification annually to retain the rights to use the QAFP marks. QAFP certification is valid from August 1 to July 31 each year. All QAFP professionals must renew their certification annually by July 31.

Renewing QAFP professionals must:

- a. Adhere to the [*FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility*](#);
- b. Complete 12 hours of Continuing Education (CE), including at least one-hour of professional responsibility CE (see section 4.3, Continuing Education for details);
- c. Use the QAFP marks in accordance with [*FP Canada's QAFP Marks Usage Guide*](#);
- d. Complete the application to renew QAFP certification;
- e. Pay the [QAFP certification renewal fee](#) in full;
- f. Not be subject to an Order by an FP Canada Standards Council Hearing Panel or Appeal Panel prohibiting renewal; and
- g. Be approved by FP Canada for renewal.

Upon renewal of QAFP certification, the digital badge and printable certificate will be updated to reflect the updated certification status and certification end date.

FP Canada reserves the right to decline to renew an individual's certification, at its sole discretion.

4.1.2 Failure to Renew by Renewal Date

Failure to renew by the renewal date will result in a forfeiture of rights to use the QAFP marks and removal from FP Canada's [Find Your Financial Planner](#) online directory until all requirements are met. The digital badge and printable certificate will reflect that the individual is no longer certified, based on the certification end date.

Upon renewal, status will return to "In Good Standing" and the right to use the QAFP marks will be reinstated along with reinstatement to FP Canada's [Find Your Financial Planner](#) online directory. The renewal will be effective August 1.

QAFP professionals who have not renewed within 90 days of the annual renewal date will have their certification cancelled. FP Canada shall send written confirmation of the cancellation. Individuals who wish to reinstate their QAFP certification will be subject to reinstatement policies and fees.

For QAFP professionals who have had their certification suspended, revoked or who are under investigation, the digital badge, printable certificate, and Find a Planner page shall be updated to reflect the appropriate certification status.

All deadlines may be abridged or extended at FP Canada's discretion as communicated in writing to certificants.

4.1.3 Fee Reduction

Fee reduction requests must be made at the time of recertification. Fee reductions of 50% of the current year's recertification fee may be granted for one of the following reasons:

- **Pregnancy/Parental Leave:** A fee reduction may be requested for the year in which a QAFP professional is on pregnancy/parental leave from the workforce, for a period of six months up to a maximum of one year. A copy of the child's birth certificate, health card or adoption papers must be included with the request.
- **Medical Leave:** Medical leave requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A medical report or medical professional's note substantiating the length of leave from the work force (minimum six months) and reason for the leave must be included with the request, along with an attestation that there has been or is likely to be a substantial loss in earnings.

All other fee reduction requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Applying for a fee reduction does not automatically result in a CE exemption. Individuals requesting a CE exemption must contact CSS at info@fpcanada.ca.

4.1.4 Reinstatement within Five Years of Certification Expiration

Former QAFP professionals are permitted to reinstate their certification within five years of their last certification expiration date, subject to the following reinstatement policies.

Individuals must have continued to adhere to the [FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility](#) and must:

- a. Not be subject to a presumptive bar to certification pursuant to the *Fitness Standards*;
- b. Not be subject to an Order by a Hearing Panel or Appeal Panel prohibiting reinstatement
- c. Have successfully completed the QAFP Professional Education Program or CFP Professional Education Program, within the last five (5) years;⁴
- d. Provide documentation of having met CE requirements for each year not certified; and
- e. Complete the certification reinstatement application and pay [applicable fees](#), including a:
 - Non-refundable reinstatement administrative fee; and
 - Reinstatement certification fee prorated until the end of the current certification year.

The effective date of the reinstatement will be the first day of the current month in which they are approved to be reinstated, with the term end being the final day of the annual certification period.

Upon approval of the reinstatement application, a digital badge and annual certificate with an expiry date will be issued. FP Canada reserves the right to decline to reinstate an individual's certification, at its sole discretion.

4.2 Complaints Handling

Complaints of alleged violations of the [FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility](#) are reviewed by the FP Canada Standards Council in accordance with the [FP Canada Standards Council Disciplinary Rules and Procedures](#).

Complaints of alleged contravention of the FP Canada Guide to Certification Examinations may be reviewed by the FP Canada Standards Council in accordance with its [FP Canada Standards Council Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Examination Misconduct](#).

4.3 Continuing Education Requirements

QAFP professionals have an obligation to ensure their knowledge and competence remains current and are required to complete 12 hours of continuing education (CE) credits annually including at least one-hour of CE accredited by FP Canada in the category of Professional Responsibility and 7 hours of CE accredited by FP Canada in the category of Financial Planning,

⁴ To recognize successful completion of a Professional Education Program, individuals are exempt from CE requirements in all categories, including the category of Professional Responsibility, in the year they complete the Professional Education Program and the following calendar year.

as outlined in the table below. QAFP professionals may also claim up to 4 CE credits in the category of General Ce including CE credits in the category of Giving Back. CE activities are subject to audit by FP Canada, at its sole discretion.

4.3.1 Annual Continuing Education Requirements

TWELVE (12) ANNUAL CREDITS REQUIRED (JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31)			
Breakdown by Category	Minimum Required Credits Annually	Maximum Claimable Credits Annually	Carry-Over Permitted to Next Calendar Year
Financial Planning including Professional Skills	7 ¹	Unlimited	11
Professional Responsibility	1	Unlimited	No ²
General CE including Giving Back	No minimum	4	No

¹ The sub-category of Professional Skills was added as a new CE category under Financial Planning, defined below, effective January 2025.

² If more than 1 credit in the category of Professional Responsibility is completed in a given year, the additional credit(s) may be applied under the Financial Planning category.

4.3.2 CE Credit Categories

FP Canada’s CE requirements go beyond maintaining technical competence. They are designed to support the maintenance and ongoing professional development required to continue meeting client needs. CE requirements include the following categories of Financial Planning including Professional Skills, Professional Responsibility and General CE including Giving Back.

Financial Planning

Qualifying CE must be related to one or more aspects of the competency profiles published by the FP Canada Standards Council, which serve as the foundation of FP Canada certification requirements. CE in this category must be accredited by FP Canada and may relate to one or more of the financial planning areas and related technical knowledge.

Professional Skills

Qualifying CE includes the knowledge and skills used in building and maintaining professional relationships and growing a professional practice. CE in this category may include activities focused on prospecting, business planning, business development, networking or sales skills. and supports financial planners in managing complex client scenarios through an understanding of key behavioural factors that affect client decisions, implementation of advice, and the development and maintenance of professional relationships. CE that focused on equality, diversity and inclusion will also qualify in this category.

Professional Responsibility

The Professional Responsibility requirement is for a pre-accredited Professional Responsibility CE course or program that is directly relevant to the standards of professional responsibility expected of a QAFP professional. Effective January 2025, Professional Responsibility courses or programs that have not been pre-accredited by FP Canada may count for Professional Skills or General CE credit if they meet the requirements for those categories; however, Professional Responsibility courses or programs that have not been reviewed and accredited by FP Canada in advance of the course or program offering will not satisfy FP Canada's Professional Responsibility CE requirement. Post-accreditation of Professional Responsibility CE credits is not available.

The Professional Responsibility requirement is designed to support and enhance certificants' understanding of their professional responsibilities and requirements and to support financial planners in identifying and addressing ethical dilemmas and challenges they may encounter in practice. Qualifying CE requires application of the principles, rules, and/or practice standards in the FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility. CE in this category should include the use of scenarios and/or practical examples. CE activities that focus on direct knowledge or rote recall of the Standards of Professional Responsibility without demonstrated understanding will not qualify.

General CE

Additional CE, not accredited by FP Canada in the category of Financial Planning or Professional Responsibility, completed during the year may be claimed in the General CE category. General CE activities must be related to financial planning; financial advice or services; or the financial industry. Activities in this category can include activities that relate to or support financial planning in a general manner such as: authoring articles or texts, teaching or completing CE related to a designation or license. In addition, CE which previously qualified in the category of "Practice Management" or "Product Knowledge" may qualify in the category of General CE.

Giving Back

Qualifying CE includes volunteering with FP Canada, community organizations, industry associations or charitable groups in a way that helps Canadians understand the importance of financial planning and/or enhances their financial well-being.

CE in this category may include involvement in pro bono activities that:

- support the work of the Canadian Foundation for Financial Planning™;
- involve teaching or the development of pre-certification education programs or continuing education programs designed for CFP professionals and/or QAFP professionals;
- support financial literacy programs;
- community involvement that leverages your skills as a financial planner;
- involve or support financial planning research; or
- involvement within financial planning-related committees, panels or boards.

4.4 Guidelines for Calculating CE Credits

For QAFP certificants, FP Canada's CE Approval Program provides automatic confirmation that a course or program meets FP Canada's requirement and validates the number of eligible CE credits in each CE category.

Refer to FP Canada's [continuing education requirements](#) web page for more information on the benefits of using the FP Canada-Approved CE search tool and steps for certificants to follow when pursuing other CE opportunities.

4.4.1 General Guidance

- a. CE credits are accumulated on a calendar year basis (January 1 to December 31).
- b. To qualify, the content of the activity must be related to the categories Financial Planning (including Professional Skills), Professional Responsibility or General CE (including Giving Back).
- c. One hour of qualifying activity is equivalent to one CE credit.
- d. A full day of instruction may qualify for a maximum of eight CE credits. Time spent for meal and coffee breaks must be subtracted from the total hours claimed for CE credits.
- e. Excess CE credits in the category of Professional Responsibility may qualify under the category of Financial Planning.
- f. Where carry-over is permitted, excess CE credits may not be carried over for more than one calendar year.

4.4.2 Guidance for Calculating CE Credits for Common CE Activities

Seminars/Conferences/Webinars

Seminars, conferences and webinars can be claimed for CE credits (one hour = one CE credit). When calculating the number of hours for CE credits, meals and breaks may not be included. The maximum amount allocated for one full day of education is eight CE credits.

In-House Training

In-house training can be claimed for CE credits (one hour = one CE credit). When calculating CE credits, time spent for meals and breaks may not be included. The maximum amount allocated for one full day of training is eight CE credits.

Self-Study/Online Courses with an Assessment

Self-study courses usually have a recommended number of study hours. The full number of study hours may be claimed as CE (if they meet FP Canada's CE requirements) upon successful completion of the course, up to a maximum of 50 credits.

College/University Courses

University or college credit courses for one full semester may qualify for CE credits, if the curriculum meets FP Canada's CE requirements. A maximum of 50 CE credits may be claimed for each full semester course.

Prep Courses

Courses that are completed to prepare for a relevant professional license or designation may qualify for CE upon completion, up to a maximum of 50 credits.

Writing

Writing articles, technical newsletters, books, and course materials qualifies for CE credits provided such activities meet FP Canada's CE requirements and have a target audience of professionals engaged in financial planning; or post-secondary students preparing for a career in financial planning. A maximum of 15 CE credits may be claimed for the time spent researching and writing. Re-releases of existing documents with revision are eligible for a maximum of 10 CE credits.

Please note that content written for marketing purposes will not qualify for CE credits.

Teaching/Presenting

Teaching or acting as an instructor, discussion leader, or speaker to financial planning professionals or post-secondary students qualifies for a maximum of 15 CE credits. Two credits per hour of actual teaching/presenting time can be claimed for the first time the class or session is conducted, up to a maximum of 15 credits. For second and subsequent offerings of the same course or session, only in-class time or session time can be counted, up to a maximum of 10 credits per year.

Please note that teaching or presenting seminars/courses designed for marketing purposes will not qualify for CE credits.

Volunteer Service

CE credits may be awarded for volunteering with FP Canada, supporting the work of the Canadian Foundation for Financial Planning, community organizations, industry associations, charitable groups, or others where a CFP professional is using their financial planning skills in a volunteer capacity to support an organization and/or in a way that assists Canadians in understanding the importance of financial planning or enhances their financial well-being. In addition, CE credits may be awarded in instances where a CFP professional is using their financial planning skills in a volunteer capacity to support an organization. Hours of volunteer service may qualify for a maximum of five credits per year under the 'Giving Back' subcategory.

Other Educational Activities

Other activities may qualify for CE credits, including, teaching or the development of pre-certification education programs or continuing education programs designed for QAFP professionals and/or CFP professionals, at FP Canada's sole discretion.

4.5 Supporting Documentation for CE Credits

QAFP professionals subject to audit must demonstrate compliance by providing supporting documentation to confirm the completion of their CE requirements.

Supporting documentation may include:

- A certificate of attendance issued by the granting institution. The certificate must include the participant's name, the date of the activity, the name of the activity,

and a signature and/or stamp of the education provider;

- A transcript from the education provider. The transcript must include the participant's name, date of enrolment and/or date of completion, and name of the course;
- Written confirmation from the education provider. The letter must be on letterhead and must include the participant's name, date of the activity, duration of activity, signature and/or stamp of the education provider, and signatory's contact information;
- Written confirmation from the Training or HR department offering in-house training. The letter must include the participant's name, date of the activity, duration of activity, signature of department head or representative, and signatory's contact information;
- Written confirmation from the volunteer organization. The letter must include the participant's name, date of volunteer service and a description of the nature of the volunteer activity;
- A contract for teaching engagement. The contract must include the instructor's name, duration of the course, and year/semester of the course; or
- A contract for writing assignment. The contract must include the writer's name, copy of the article, and year written (must be written in the year reported).

4.5.1 Supporting Documentation for Non-FP Canada Accredited CE Credits

CE activities that have not been accredited through FP Canada's CE Approval Program must be supported by documentation to verify the educational content of the activities completed. Supporting documentation could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Course descriptions;
- Content agendas indicating the duration of the program and summary of the content;
- PowerPoint presentations;
- Course syllabi;
- Tables of contents; or
- Articles.

Other forms of supporting documentation may be accepted at the discretion of FP Canada staff.

Please note that, in the case of an FP Canada audit, missing documentation will result in the CE activity being denied.

4.6 Recognition of the FP Canada Institute's Professional Education Programs

To recognize the extent of and currency of learning resulting from successful completion of a Professional Education Program, individuals are exempt from CE requirements in all categories, including the category of Professional Responsibility, in the year they pass the QAFP exam and the following calendar year.

Candidates who do not obtain certification within two calendar years following the year they pass the QAFP examination are not eligible for this CE exemption.

4.7 Reporting CE Activities

QAFP professionals are required to attest to the completion of their CE requirements for the calendar year specified on the annual renewal application.

QAFP professionals are not required to submit CE supporting documentation at time of certification renewal but must have supporting documentation available in the event of an FP Canada CE audit. Any excess credits carried over from the previous year may also be subject to audit. It is recommended that QAFP professionals keep all CE supporting documentation for at least three years.

FP Canada offers an online tool to track completed CE credits. This online tool must be used by those who are selected for audit. The online CE Tracker tool can be found in a QAFP professional's secure account on FPCanada.ca.

4.8 CE Audit Requirements

To maintain the integrity of the QAFP certification, a percentage of QAFP professionals are selected randomly for CE audit each year. Individuals who are selected for audit will be requested to submit supporting documentation for their CE credits taken in the previous calendar year. QAFP professionals whose certification has lapsed and then been reinstated are automatically subject to audit.

Individuals who are found to have falsified their CE attestation are in breach of the FP Canada Standards Council Code of Ethics, as outlined in the [FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility](#). These cases are forwarded to FP Canada's Enforcement department for further action under the [FP Canada Standards Council Disciplinary Rules and Procedures](#).

FP Canada reserves the right to audit any QAFP professional at any time and for any reason.

4.8.1 Failure to Comply with CE and/or CE Audit Requirements

QAFP professionals who fail to comply with the CE requirements or CE audit requirements within the stipulated period may be subject to disciplinary action by FP Canada.

Misstated or fraudulent reporting of CE credits will be reported to the FP Canada Standards and Enforcement department as a violation of the [FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility](#).

4.9 Continuing Education Exemptions

QAFP professionals may request an exemption from CE requirements for the calendar year in which they take a leave of absence from employment/practice in the event of a parental or medical leave.

Any other requests for CE exemption will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.9.1 Pregnancy/Parental leave

QAFP professionals will be exempt from the annual CE requirement for the calendar year coinciding with the birth/adoption of a child. Upon request, the exemption of the annual CE requirement may be split evenly across two consecutive years. A CE Exemption Request Form must be submitted to FP Canada with a copy of the child's birth certificate and/or adoption papers.

The CE exemption for pregnancy/parental leave is limited to one calendar year, even though QAFP professionals may choose to take an extended leave to care for their child. In the event of subsequent births/adoptions, a birth certificate and/or adoption papers for each child must be submitted to CSS at info@fpcanada.ca.

4.9.2 Medical leave

QAFP professionals will be exempt from the annual CE requirement in the calendar year coinciding with an approved medical/disability leave of at least six months. A current medical report and/or doctor's note must be submitted to CSS at info@fpcanada.ca.

If a CE exemption is required for consecutive years, QAFP professionals must re-apply for the CE exemption annually and provide an up-to-date medical report and/or medical professional's note that explains the reason for the extended medical/disability leave. Consecutive CE exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

5 Personal Information

It is the responsibility of QAFP professionals to ensure that their information with FP Canada is current.

Changes to address or employment information can be made in the QAFP's professional secure account at fpcanada.ca or submitted in writing to FP Canada at info@fpcanada.ca.

Requests for name changes resulting from marriage, divorce or other personal reasons must be submitted in writing to info@fpcanada.ca along with supporting documentation.


6 Policy Exception Requests

The FP Canada Standards Council establishes and administers standards for FP Canada certificants for the benefit of the public. FP Canada has established policies and requirements for QAFP professionals in accordance with those standards and enforces those policies and requirements in a consistent manner.

Exceptions to established policies and guidelines may be granted at FP Canada’s sole discretion. FP Canada shall review only those policy exception requests that are submitted with a [Policy Exception Request Form](#) to info@fpcanada.ca.

Revision History

NAME	CHANGE	APPROVED BY	DATE APPROVED
1.0 Policy Overhaul	Revised to reflect the introduction of QAFP certification and distinct paths to each certification	Damienne Lebrun-Reid	December 2019
1.1 Policy Changes	Minor updates	Damienne Lebrun-Reid	June 2020
1.2 New Path to QAFP Certification	Introduced new alternate pathway to QAFP certification	Damienne Lebrun-Reid	July 2020
1.2 AODA compliance and policy changes	- AODA compliant format; - Introduced Degree Requirement with exception provisions; and - Removed Canadian work experience requirement	Damienne Lebrun-Reid	June 2022
1.3 QAFP certification relaunch	- alignment to new path requirements, new exam blueprint and competency profile	Damienne Lebrun-Reid	April 3, 2023
1.4 QAFP certification path changes effective April 2024	- work experience exemption - changes to the QAFP PEP - changes to the QAFP exam blueprint	Damienne Lebrun-Reid	November 1, 2023
1.5 Updates to reflect the availability of technical education through the FP Canada Institute.	- education requirements and prerequisites - changes to CE requirements and categories	Damienne Lebrun-Reid	October 1, 2024 November 7, 2024

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