

Key Facts | Designations and Rankings Explained

Certified Financial Planner (CFP®)

Certified Financial Planner (CFP) is a professional designation awarded to financial advisors who have passed rigorous coursework and an examination to prove their fluency in all aspects of financial planning. CFPs must undergo years of training—4,000 to 6,000 hours in total—before they are eligible to place the letters CFP after their name. They're also obligated to continue their education even after receiving certification. To obtain more information, visit finra.org/investors/professional-designations. (Source: *Forbes.com*)

Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC®)

The Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) designation requires the same core curriculum needed for the CFP, plus additional coursework that further hones an applicant's skills as a professional wealth manager. To become a ChFC, a candidate needs to pass a total of eight courses covering all facets of financial planning. In addition, they need to have worked full-time for three of the last five years in a related field. An undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited institution counts toward one year of business experience. A ChFC primarily works in the financial services and insurance industries, providing financial planning advice covering topics including income tax, retirement, risk management, estate planning and investments. To obtain more information, visit finra.org/investors/professional-designations. (Source: *Forbes.com*)

Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU®)

The Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) is a certification for financial professionals who specialize in life insurance as it relates to estate planning and business planning. It involves an extensive educational program that covers topics such as insurance, annuities, risk management, and more. To obtain more information, visit finra.org/investors/professional-designations. (Source: *Wealthtender.com*)

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

CFA stands for Chartered Financial Analyst, a professional designation awarded by the CFA Institute to candidates with proven competence in investment analysis and wealth management. They excel in the competitive world of financial analysis and have put in the extra work required to earn the gold standard in their profession. To obtain more information, visit finra.org/investors/professional-designations. (Source: *Investopedia.com*)

Financial Advisor Magazine Top RIA Rankings

Financial Advisor Top RIA Rankings are based upon: Year End Assets, % of Growth in Assets (Year to Year), Assets Per Client, % Growth in Assets Per Client, and % Change in the Number of Clients. To obtain more information, visit fa-mag.com. (Source: *Financial Advisor*)