About CFP® Professionals

ALLODIUM®
INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS

Why work with a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professional?

Most people think all financial planners are "certified," but this isn't true. Anyone can call himself or herself a "financial planner." Only those who have fulfilled the certification and renewal requirements of the CFP Board can call themselves CFP® professionals. Individuals certified by the CFP Board have taken the extra steps to demonstrate their professionalism by voluntarily submitting to the rigorous CFP® certification process that includes demanding education, exam, experience and ethical requirements. These standards are reasons why you should consider a financial planning practitioner with the CFP® certification marks.

Education

CFP® Professionals are taught to deliver holistic financial planning services and must fulfill continuing education requirements. The education requirements help to provide the knowledge required to deliver professional, competent and ethical financial planning services to clients. There are two main parts to the requirement: completion of CFP Board-approved coursework, and a bachelor's degree in any discipline from an accredited college or university (***www.cfp.net/certification-process/education-requirement***).

Exam

CFP® Professionals must pass the CFP® exam, which tests their ability to apply financial planning knowledge to real-life situations and ensures that they are qualified to help you plan for your financial future. This comprehensive exam ensures that they are qualified to develop a holistic plan for their clients' finances. Test topics include the financial planning process and principles, investments, tax planning, income and retirement planning, estate planning, risk management and insurance, among other important topics (***www.cfp.net/certification-process/exam-requirement***).

Experience

CFP® Professionals have at least two years of real-life experience providing financial planning services to the public as a CFP® professional. There are many ways to satisfy this requirement, and experience may be gained before or after taking the CFP® exam. Ultimately, they must complete 6,000 hours of professional experience related to the financial planning process, or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship experience that meets additional requirements (***www.cfp.net/certification-process/experience-requirement***).

Ethics

The ethics requirement is an important step on the path to CFP® certification. CFP® Professionals must satisfy CFP Board's Fitness Standards, pass the background check, and commit to abiding by the Board's Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. These include a commitment to act as a fiduciary, acting in their client's best interest at all times when providing financial advice (***www.cfp.net/certification-process/ethics-requirement/ethics-declaration-and-background-check***).

*All information is sourced from the CFP® Let's Make a Plan website. Learn more at **www.letsmakeaplan.org/choosing-a-planner/why-choose-a-cfp-professional**.*