Your path to certification

How to earn a professional financial planning certification

To obtain and maintain a professional financial planning certification from FP Canada, students must:

- Complete a comprehensive education program
- Pass a certification exam
- Commit to ongoing professional development
- Demonstrate relevant work experience
- Adhere to a strict code of ethics

QAFP™ Qualified Associate Financial Planner™ Certification

Starting 2022, post-secondary diploma is a requirement for QAFP certification. QAFP certification can also be a stepping stone to CFP certification.

1. Technical Education (Core)
2. Introduction to Professional Ethics
3. QAFP Exam
4. One Year Work Experience*
5. QAFP Certification (Bridge to CFP)
6. QAFP Professional Education Program *(Completed Within One Year)*

CFP Certified Financial Planner® Certification

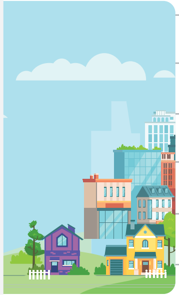
Starting 2022, post-secondary degree is a requirement for CFP certification.

1. Technical Education (Core, Advanced)
2. Introduction to Professional Ethics
3. CFP Professional Education Program
4. CFP Exam
5. Three Years Work Experience*
6. CFP Certification

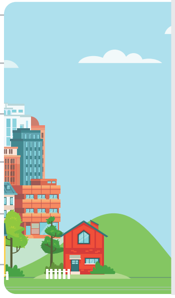
Annual Income for QAFP Professionals

> $ 200k	**7%**
> $ 100k	**41%**

Top Employers for Financial Planners



1. RBC
2. IG Wealth Management
3. TD
4. CIBC
5. BMO



Annual Income for CFP Professionals

> $ 200k	**26%**
> $ 100k	**55%**

Based on self-reported data for January 1 - December 31, 2020.

	QAFP™	CFP®
Degree of Expertise	**Great way to start your career in financial planning**	**Considered the gold standard for the financial planning profession**
Post-Secondary Education	**Diploma**	**Degree**
Technical Education	Core Curriculum	Core Curriculum and **Advanced Curriculum**
Examination	**Four-hour,** computer-based exam consisting of multiple-choice questions	**Six-hour,** computer-based exam consisting of a combination of standalone, multiple-choice and case-based questions
Work Experience Requirements	**One year,** full time	**Three years,** full time
Professional Education Earned from the FP Canada Institute™	• Introduction to Professional Ethics • **QAFP Professional Education Program leading to a Certificate in 3H Financial Planning**	• Introduction to Professional Ethics • **CFP Professional Education Program leading to a Advanced Certificate in 3H Financial Planning**
Type of Client Needs	Addresses **day-to-day** financial planning needs	Address **complex** financial planning needs
Services Offered	**Everyday** financial advice in the areas of: • Financial Management • Investment Planning • Insurance & Risk Management • Tax Planning • Retirement Planning • Estate Planning & Legal Aspects	**Complex** financial advice in the areas of: • Financial Management • Investment Planning • Insurance & Risk Management • Tax Planning • Retirement Planning • Estate Planning & Legal Aspects
Sample Job Titles	• **Financial planner** • **Financial planning representative** • **Associate financial planner** • **Investment/retirement/tax planner**	• **Senior financial planner** • **Manager, financial planning** • **Director, financial planning services** • **Vice president, wealth management**
Governing Standards	FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility	FP Canada Standards Council Standards of Professional Responsibility
Annual Continuing Education (CE) Requirements	**12 hours** of CE	**25 hours** of CE