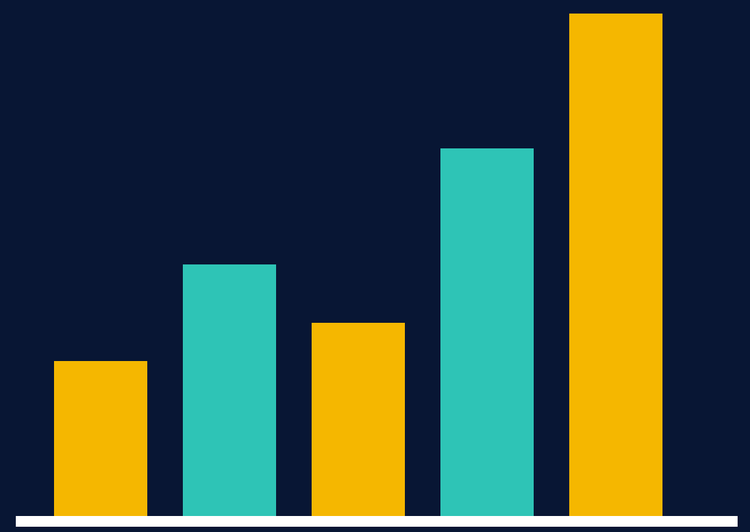
CFA & CPA

Chartered Financial Analyst • Certified Public Accountant

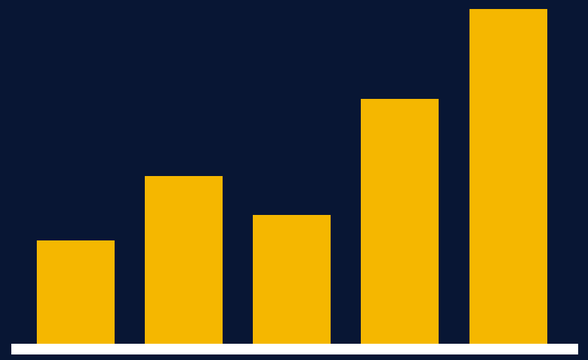
Your guide to two global finance certifications



01

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

A global credential for investment professionals.



Full form: Chartered Financial Analyst, a global investment and finance credential.

Awarded by: CFA Institute, USA, recognised in over 160 countries.

Focus: Investment analysis, portfolio management, equity, fixed income and ethics.

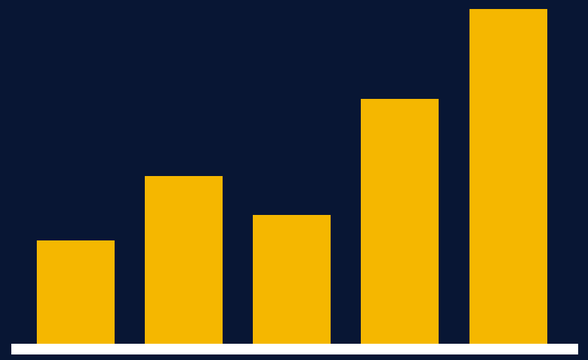
Best for: Students and graduates aiming for investment banking, equity research and asset management.

Open to: Final-year degree students and graduates from any stream.

01

CFA Exam & Eligibility

Three levels, one charter.



Three levels: Level I, Level II and Level III, taken in order.

Level I: Basic tools in ethics, economics, financial reporting, equity and quantitative methods.

Level II: Valuation of assets, based on case-study style questions.

Level III: Portfolio management and wealth planning.

Charter: Pass all three levels and complete about 4,000 hours of relevant work experience.

Tip: Candidates usually spend 300 or more hours of study on each level.

02

Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

The US licence for accounting professionals.



Full form: Certified Public Accountant, the licence for accounting professionals in the USA.

Awarded by: State boards of accountancy; the exam is set by AICPA.

Focus: Auditing, taxation, financial reporting and business law.

Best for: Commerce graduates and CAs wanting careers with global firms.

Note: US CPA is different from the Indian CA qualification offered by ICAI.

02

CPA Exam & Eligibility

Four sections to pass.



Core sections: FAR (Financial Accounting), AUD (Auditing) and REG (Taxation and Regulation).

Discipline section: Choose one of BAR, ISC or TCP.

Passing score: 75 out of 99 in each section.

Education: Usually 150 credit hours; rules differ by state board.

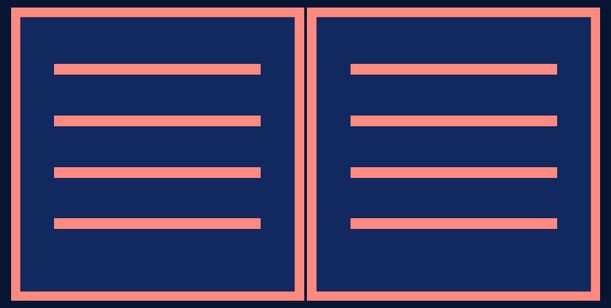
Time limit: All four sections must be passed within a rolling window of 18 to 30 months.

In India: Exam can be taken at Prometric test centres in Indian cities.

03

CFA vs CPA: Quick Comparison

Two paths, two strengths.



Field: CFA is for investment and finance; CPA is for accounting and audit.

Body: CFA Institute for CFA; AICPA and state boards for CPA.

Structure: CFA has 3 levels; CPA has 4 sections.

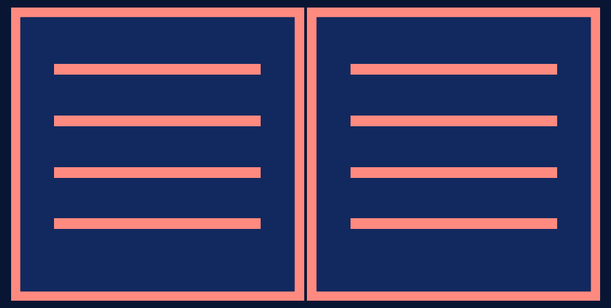
Experience: CFA needs about 4,000 hours; CPA licence needs experience as per the state.

Study time: CFA is a multi-year journey; CPA can be finished faster with focus.

03

Which One Should You Choose?

Match the credential to your interest.



Choose CFA if: You enjoy markets, valuation, investing and research.

Choose CPA if: You enjoy accounting, audit, tax and compliance.

Choose both: Many professionals combine them for leadership roles in finance.

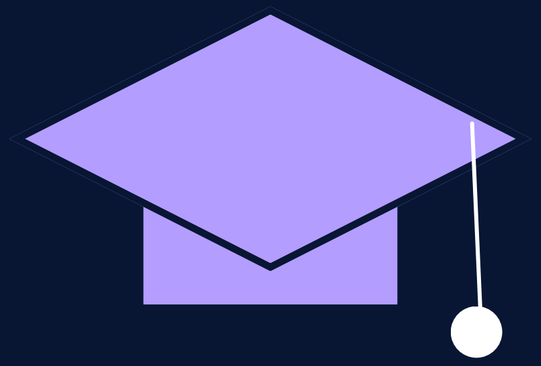
Check first: Fees, eligibility and exam windows on the official websites.

Plan early: Start preparation alongside your degree to save time.

04

Career Options

Where each credential can take you.



CFA careers: Investment analyst, equity research analyst, portfolio manager and risk analyst.

CFA employers: Banks, asset managers, hedge funds and consulting firms.

CPA careers: Auditor, tax consultant, financial controller and forensic accountant.

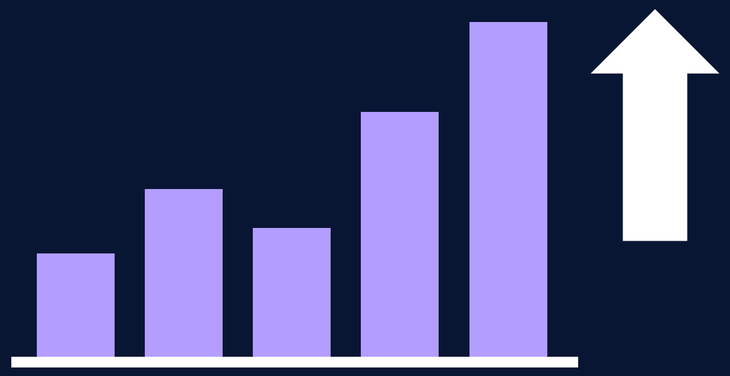
CPA employers: Big 4 firms, MNCs, GCCs (global capability centres) and accounting firms.

Leadership: Both can lead to CFO, director and advisory roles.

04

Scope & Future Growth

A growing field with global reach.



Global value: Both are respected worldwide and open overseas job options.

India demand: Growth of GCCs and global firms in Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad is raising demand.

Skills gained: Analysis, ethics, reporting, tax knowledge and decision-making.

Emerging areas: Fintech, ESG reporting, data analytics and sustainable finance.

Pay growth: Salaries rise with experience, role and certification level.

DB VEDU+

Don Bosco Vazhikaatti,
46, Siruvallur Road,
Perambur, Chennai - 600 011.
+91 7401568042, +91 8925839478