



Candidates looking at the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Level I of the CFA Exam

If you have considered sitting for CFA level I exam, you probably have questions. You're always welcome to reach out to our knowledgeable Student Support team with any questions you have about preparing for the exam. We've also created this FAQ to answer some of the most common questions we receive from people preparing to take the first step toward becoming a CFA charter holder.

What is the CFA® charter?

Let's start with the basics. The Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA) charter is a professional designation administered by CFA Institute. According to CFA Institute, it's the most respected and recognized investment management designation in the world.

Classes at MAT ABACUS

Classes are both online and face to face. Recordings are available for candidates to review content earlier taught (through the Learning Management System)

How do I earn the CFA charter?

To earn the CFA charter, you must pass three levels of the exam in order: Level I, Level II, and Level III. Each exam builds on the mastery demonstrated by achieving a passing score on the previous exams.

Is the CFA charter a degree?

It is not a degree. It's a professional credential that demonstrates mastery of advanced investment analysis and real-world portfolio management. Candidates often weigh the benefits of the CFA charter against those of an MBA, which may be a contributing factor in this common misunderstanding.

What is the date for Level I CFA exam?

The Level I CFA exam is offered multiple times per year so find a CFA exam date that works for you.

Can I postpone my CFA exam after I've registered?

You can only postpone your CFA exam after you've registered in specific circumstances, mostly related to medical reasons. It's easier to withdraw, but unless you withdraw within three days of registering, you will have to pay the registration fees again and re-register. There are many CFA exam postponement rules for candidates to be aware of, especially if you think you can't take the exam on the scheduled date.

What are the requirements to sit for the CFA exam?

An individual wishing to enroll in the CFA Program and register for the Level I exam for the first time must possess an international travel passport. In addition, candidates must meet one of the following requirements:

Have earned a bachelor's (or equivalent) degree or be in their final year of a bachelor's program

Have accumulated 4,000 hours of applicable professional work experience (not required to be investment-related)

Candidates may also have a combination of full-time professional experience and education that totals a minimum of 4,000 hours. Those hours of experience/education must be accrued prior to enrollment in the program. Continue learning about enrollment requirements for the CFA Program.

What is the format of Level I of the CFA exam?

The exam format is computer-based with 180 multiple-choice questions. There are two 2 hours and 15-minute session times. **Learn about the best way to study for the CFA Level I exam by visiting www.matabacus.ac.ug**

5 Benefits of Earning the CFA® Charter?

Reason 1: *Better Job Prospects*

While nothing on your resume guarantees you a job (even the CFA charter), the charter will boost your finance credentials. People in the industry know the time and discipline it requires to become a CFA charter holder. Earning the charter demonstrates your work ethic, analytical abilities, and ethical grounding to employers.

The CFA charter is not the golden ticket to landing your dream job; however, it will give you deep knowledge in the areas of investment analysis, asset management, and ethics. It will also speak volumes to your credentials and work performance. Firms that focus on the “buy side” (investing institutions like mutual funds, pension funds, and insurance firms that buy large portions of securities for money-management purposes) prefer CFA charter holders to MBAs. And that’s powerful motivation to ask how to become a CFA.

Reason 2: *The CFA Charter is Affordable*

While an MBA can cost over \$15,000, the CFA charter only costs between \$3,090 and \$12,000, depending on when you register, what study materials you buy, and how many exams you end up taking. For a professional qualification, that is quite a bargain. You also don’t have to quit your job, unlike in some full-time MBA programs. While hectic, it is manageable to study for the CFA exam while you work.

Reason 3: *Career Advancement Opportunities*

Completing the CFA Program allows you to become a CFA Institute member, which is a global network of over 135,000 investment professionals. That’s a pretty impressive club to join for the networking opportunities alone. The charter prepares you well for a variety of investment- related jobs, such as portfolio manager, risk manager, and research analyst. Seven percent of CFA charter holders even go on to be chief-level executives.

Join MAT ABACUS’ Expert CFA Instructors for a Series of Free Webinars Discussing the Career

Benefits of the CFA Program

Reason 4: *The CFA Charter is both Locally and Globally Recognized*

As we said, CFA Institute has a global network of over 135,000 investment professionals. The CFA charter is recognized by regulators, universities, and certification programs in at least 30 countries and territories. You’ll gain unmatched career resources and relationships, as well as access to jobs around the world that require a CFA charter or candidacy.

Reason 5: *Real-World Expertise*

A CFA charter is considered niche in the larger business world compared to the MBA, which addresses a broad array of topics with less depth. Getting your CFA charter allows you to gain analytical skills and expertise in quantitative methods, economics, financial reporting, investment analysis, and portfolio management. This set of skills and knowledge you will develop as you become a CFA charter holder will serve you well throughout your career.

What are the weights of the topics of Level I of the CFA exam?

The weights of the Level I exam topics are subject to change on a year-to-year basis, at the discretion of the CFA Institute. Currently the Level I CFA exam weights and topics are:

Topic Exam Weight

Ethical and Professional Standards 15-20%

Quantitative Methods 8-12%

Economics 8-12%

Financial Statement Analysis 13-

17% Corporate Issuers 8-12%

Portfolio Management and Wealth Planning

5-8% Equity Investments 10-12%

Fixed Income 10-12%

Derivatives 5-8%

Alternative Investments 5-8%

How much time does it take to study for the exam?

The average candidate for Level I of the CFA exam should spend a minimum of 300 hours over the course of six months preparing for the exam.

How hard is the exam?

The CFA exam as a whole is difficult by design. It's an exclusive designation that truly demonstrates mastery of the investment management field. Continue learning about what makes the CFA Program the most respected and recognized investment management designation in the world.

How is Level I of the exam graded?

CFA exam grading is done by machines and charter holders. CFA Institute then uses a methodology to determine a minimum passing score that is applied to each exam. **Please speak to our lead tutor Zac Kisesi, CFA**

What is the Level I CFA exam pass rate?

Knowing the pass rate for the CFA exam is an important metric to know considering only 20% of candidates who begin the program actually earn the charter, according to the CFA Institute. You can greatly improve your odds of success by learning from other candidates' experiences and avoiding common pitfalls in your preparation.

How much does it cost to sit for the exam?

How much you'll pay to sit for the Level I exam depends on how early you register. First of all, there is a **one-time CFA enrollment fee of \$450**. In addition, you must pay an exam fee each time you register to sit for an exam. CFA Institute has early and standard deadlines, and the price goes up the later you register.

Total Tuition for CFA Program Level

Tuition is set at \$700 for semester one (full syllabus coverage) and \$600 (for revision and internal exam trials)

Contact MAT ABACUS.

If you have additional questions, feel free to reach out to the MAT ABACUS Student Support team for the answers you need to take this next step in your career.

info@matabacus.ac.ug

Is CFA curriculum enough?

This will vary depending on your circumstances, but we'll try and give you a simple answer: it is unlikely, but possible.

The CFA Institute curriculum has improved a lot, and continues to do so, but we would advise to use extra study notes and practice exams at the very least.

The main issue here is that CFA curriculum is very extensive, and the common mistake new candidates make is taking too long to go through study materials and insufficient time for practice questions.

Why has the CFA Institute moved to computer-based testing?

CFA Institute moved from paper-based to computer-based testing for all levels in 2021 to provide greater exam scheduling flexibility and an exam that reflects today's digital workplace. The new change enables the exam to be offered in 400+ locations around the world.

Additionally, the computer-based testing environment and additional dates and times available means that fewer candidates will sit for the exam at the same time, which reduces personal risk compared to the high-capacity venues used for the paper-based test.

Luckily MAT ABACUS is also a CFA exam center (Since 2023)

Ready to Start Preparing for the CFA Exam?

Looking for more guidance on how to prepare for Level I of the CFA® exam? Enroll in one of our CFA Level I Premium study packages to receive expert instruction, CFA customized program study materials, and more. Give yourself the best chance to prepare, practice, and perform on the CFA exam.

Exam center?

Previously candidates would travel far distances. With effect of February 2023, exams will be conducted here in Uganda at MAT ABACUS Business School.

When can I take my exam?

CFA exams are administered on a quarterly basis each year. ----- Level I exams will be offered each quarter, Level II exams will be offered three times, and Level III exams will be offered two times.	FEB	LEVEL I		LEVEL III
	MAY	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	
	AUG	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III
	NOV	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	

Important dates?

CFA Program Exam Schedule

	November 2023	February 2024	May 2024	August 2024	November 2024
Registration Opens		16 May 2023	15 Aug 2023	14 Nov 2023	08 Feb 2024
Early Registration Deadline	10 May 2023	13 Jul 2023	12 Oct 2023	23 Jan 2024	16 Apr 2024
Standard Registration Deadline	08 Aug 2023	08 Nov 2023	06 Feb 2024	14 May 2024	07 Aug 2024
Exam Dates Level I	11-17 Nov 2023	19-25 Feb 2024	15-21 May 2024	20-26 Aug 2024	13-19 Nov 2024
Exam Dates Level II	18-22 Nov 2023		22-26 May 2024	27-31 Aug 2024	20-24 Nov 2024
Exam Dates Level III		15-18 Feb 2024		16-19 Aug 2024	