

CFRE Prep Resources

First Things First

Go to <https://www.cfre.org/> and create your login.

You can find out what is required to sit for the exam [here](#).

Starting the extensive application is the first step. It is not a one-sitting task. Add professional development requirements often and as soon as you earn them. It might be a good idea to schedule 15 minutes every 2 weeks to input information.

Once you have tallied enough points for your application to meet the requirements, you can submit it. Be aware, that you will be asked to select your testing window and pay the test fee when you submit.

Upon acceptance of your application, you will receive emails to select your test location center, date and time. There is information online on what to do if you need to postpone or make changes.

What is on the test?

You can find the test outline [here](#).

Suggested reading list

CFRE has a suggested reading list [here](#).

It is likely that reading every book and trying to remember the content from each will be less effective. It is suggested that you pick 2-3 to read and really focus on them.

CFRE members have suggested the following books:

- The Complete Guide to Fundraising Management, Stanley Weinstein
- Achieving Excellence in Fundraising 4th Edition
- Strategic Fund Development (2011) by Simone Joyaux
- Ethical Fundraising (2008) by Janice Gow Pettey

NOTE: Some of these titles are available on audible.

Additionally, it is suggested to review the following [glossary of terms](#).

AFP-OK has purchased CFRE study guides that can be borrowed through the CFRE education chairperson

CFRE Prep Resources

Video Webinar

CFRE offers regular webinars to help you prepare. Here is an [example](#).

Articles

Fundraising articles can supplement your book studying.

Classy has some good articles like this [one](#).

Bloomerang has some good articles like this [one](#).

Practice Exam

You can purchase a practice exam subscription and go through flash cards [here](#). Note – the flash cards are part of the exam, not a separate purchase.

CFRE flashcards

“CFRE Exam Flashcard Study System: CFRE Test Practice Questions & Review for the Certified Fund Raising Executive Exam” are available via Amazon.

Plus there is a set that are part of the practice exam

Tips

There are lots of ways to study for the CFRE exam. Here is one strategy that many have found effective.

1. Schedule your exam. Start loosely reading some generalist material.
2. When you are 3 months from your exam date – signup for the practice exam (3months). Take the full practice exam. You will be given your scores and know where you need to study the most.
3. Over the next 2 – 2 ½ months study those areas.
4. 2-3 weeks before the exam – Take the full practice exam again and see where you need to fine tune your study over the next few weeks.
5. Pass the exam!

Go to [Quizlet](#) and get a free account for great practice questions. Some of these questions were actually on the exam. Keep in mind these were written by other test takers and not professionals. The formatting is sometimes off. Don't just go through the flashcards, there are a ton.

[NonprofitReady.org](#) has some classes that might be of help too. Some even count towards your education requirements.



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Support

Through its chapter philanthropy program, AFP-OK has scholarship support to help allay some of the CFRE expense. You are invited and encouraged to apply during the spring or fall application periods.

Reach out to CFREs. They want to see you succeed. While they cannot share what is on the test, they can give you tips on how to prepare for the rigors of the application and study process. Sometimes it works well to get a study buddy. You can do this!

Try not to doubt yourself! You did not make it this far in your career without knowing these things. It just might be you need to dust off the knowledge and reacquaint yourself with it.