



CFA Institute®

HIRE SMARTER. ONBOARD FASTER. REDUCE COSTS.

CIRO Exam exemptions for CFA® Program candidates

Working with CFA Charterholders and Candidates

Beginning January 1, 2026, the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization's (CIRO) new proficiency model will recognize the CFA Program for certain exam exemptions. Successful CFA Program Level I (or higher) candidates and CFA charterholders may qualify for exemptions that simplify licensing requirements under CIRO's updated framework.

For CIRO member firms, this change offers a clear pathway to assess and register qualified professionals whose learning aligns with recognized industry standards. Hiring individuals engaged in the CFA Program demonstrates a commitment to ongoing education, ethics, and professional excellence.

Alignment with CIRO's proficiency standards

The new proficiency model acknowledges that the CFA Program addresses core knowledge areas within CIRO's licensing framework. This alignment provides firms and compliance officers with a consistent reference point when verifying whether an individual's qualifications meet CIRO's proficiency requirements.

Registration and verification process

When sponsoring a CFA charterholder or a candidate who has passed Level I or higher, firms submit registration applications through the National Registration Database (NRD). Documentation confirming CFA Program status, such as an exam result letter or charterholder verification, is included with the submission.

CIRO reviews each application under IDPC Rule 2627(3) to determine eligibility for examination exemptions. The process follows CIRO's established registration procedures and remains subject to its review and approval.

Through CIRO's updated proficiency model, firms and professionals gain a clearer, more consistent path to meeting licensing requirements. The CFA Program's inclusion supports a shared goal across the investment industry—ensuring high standards of competence, ethics, and integrity in CIRO-regulated roles.

THE EMPLOYER ADVANTAGE

Save money

No additional CIRO exam fees (currently ~\$475 CAD per exam).

Save time

Exemptions potentially reduce onboarding timelines.

Stay competitive

Attract and retain top performers motivated by the CFA Program.

Strengthen compliance

Meet CIRO requirements with talent already recognized by the regulator.

WHY CANDIDATES WIN TOO

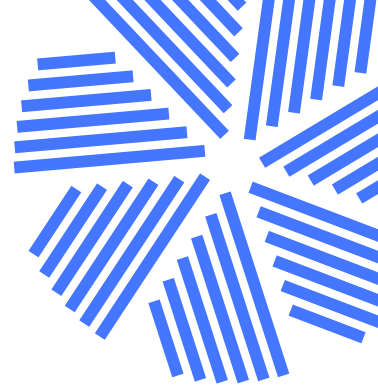
For CFA charterholders and candidates, exemptions mean a clearer career path, lower licensing costs, and faster entry into CIRO-regulated roles. For employers, that potentially translates into higher retention and stronger employee motivation.

WHO QUALIFIES

CFA Charterholders: Permanent exemption from CIRO's Canadian Investment Regulatory Exam (CIRE), Institutional Securities Exam, and Retail Securities Exam.

CFA Program Candidates (Level I or higher): Three-year exemption from the same exams following a passed exam date.

Still have questions? Visit our Q&A page on www.cfainstitute.org or connect your local Canadian CFA Society.



How we partner with firms in Canada

CFA Institute and CFA Societies across Canada work together to help financial institutions build smarter teams, strengthen compliance, and attract top talent. From local employer engagement to enterprise learning solutions, we are your partners in professional growth.

CFA SOCIETIES ACROSS CANADA — Local expertise. National reach.

CFA Societies are more than professional associations. They connect firms with talent and deliver thought leadership that drives the Canadian investment industry forward.

Talent Pipeline: Connect with CFA Program candidates and charterholders through career events, job boards, and networking opportunities.

Professional Development: Partner with societies to deliver continuing education sessions on technical skills, ethics, and leadership.

Market Insights: Gain access to practitioner-led research and panels that keep your firm at the forefront of industry change.

Employer Branding: Demonstrate your commitment to excellence by aligning with CFA Institute and CFA Societies in Canada.

Society contact:

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CFA INSTITUTE CLIENT SOLUTIONS — Enterprise solutions. Lasting impact.

Our Client and Partnership Solutions team partners with HR and L&D leaders to integrate CFA Institute programs into firm-wide learning strategies.

Customized Learning Platform: A dedicated corporate portal where employees can register for the CFA Program and certificates.

Tracking & Reporting: Tools for HR to monitor participation, progress, and candidate success rates.

Scalable Learning: Programs that support talent at every stage—from foundational knowledge to the CFA Charter.

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