

NEW ACCOUNTANT[®]

SINCE 1985

Go Beyond

The Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation helps you get there.



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Go Beyond. The Chartered Global Management Accountant Designation Helps You Get There.

Visit CGMA.org to learn more about the CGMA designation and determine if it's a good fit for you.

In today's competitive marketplace, a professional qualification helps accounting graduates stand out from their peers and gives them an edge when applying for jobs.

In the United States, many accounting graduates interested in a career in public accounting pursue the certified public accountant (CPA) credential. This credential distinguishes those professionals who have met extensive education and experience requirements and have passed all four parts of the rigorous CPA Exam. It is no small feat to obtain CPA licensure, which is why the credential is so well respected and admired by accounting professionals, business leaders and the general public.

But there's another designation for young professionals who have decided they want to work in finance or accounting within a business and have opted out of a career in public accounting. For these professionals, the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation may be a good fit.

The CGMA is the most widely held management accounting designation in the world — over 150,000 professionals hold it. It was created by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) in 2012 to meet growing employer demand for finance professionals with a broader skillset.

Global CGMA by the numbers

>150,000
members

>125,000
students

Source: Association of International Certified Professional Accountants

There are over 150 companies using CGMA training in the U.S.



The designation spotlights the competencies and expertise of professionals who lead the world's most successful organizations. CGMA holders must demonstrate management accounting, financial accounting, and business acumen — a broad base of skills that complement any degree and are transferable to an array of industries.

Whether the CPA or CGMA is right for you largely depends on your future career goals. To have the broadest career options across public and management accounting, you should consider getting both designations.

However, if you know you want to protect the public interest, focus on corporate governance and bring trust and transparency to investors, then financial accounting, and therefore the CPA, is a

good fit. If you know you want to focus on helping an organization drive strategy and value, then management accounting, and the CGMA, is the right fit.

For non-accounting majors and professionals interested in working in business, here's a bit more about how the CGMA designation can help you achieve your future career goals:

It's recognized globally

Thousands of companies around the world, such as AT&T, Dell, and Capital One Bank know the value of the CGMA designation and encourage their staff to obtain it. In the United States, this is done by enrolling in the CGMA Finance Leadership Program, a self-paced learning platform that helps professionals develop the strategic think-

ing, business partnering and influencing skills they need to become confident and competent finance leaders.

The global recognition doesn't stop at the workplace. CGMA holders also become a part of an influential network of more than 150,000 like-minded peers who are leading organizations worldwide to achieve sustainable success.

"We are trending towards a global economy and information. The CGMA helps provide [you with] a broader view to understand what's happening in the world and its impact," said Waylon Jones, CPA, CGMA, CFE, finance manager at Microsoft.

It complements your technical skills

Many professionals hold both the CPA and CGMA. They want the technical expertise associated with the CPA, but also the strategic edge associated with the CGMA designation.

As Elizabeth Pittelkow Kittner, CPA/CITP, CGMA, controller at Litera Microsystems, a global company that provides innovative document technology solutions to companies in the legal and life sciences industries, observed, "Having the CGMA shows you're disciplined, you care about learning, you want to advance, and you are career driven."

It gives you career options

"You don't know where your career is going to take you. You want the best and most distinguishable skill set possible," said Kittner. "The CGMA gives you the ability to have so many different roles. It provides a skill set that's rigorous and that will set you apart from others who do not have it."

Business analyst, operations director, chief executive, and finance business partner are just a few of the roles designation holders have.

How to earn the CGMA designation

The CPA credential and CGMA designation aren't dependent on each other — you can earn both or just one. You

At a Glance: The CGMA Finance Leadership Program

The CGMA Finance Leadership Program gives you the skills you need to be an effective leader. There are three levels:

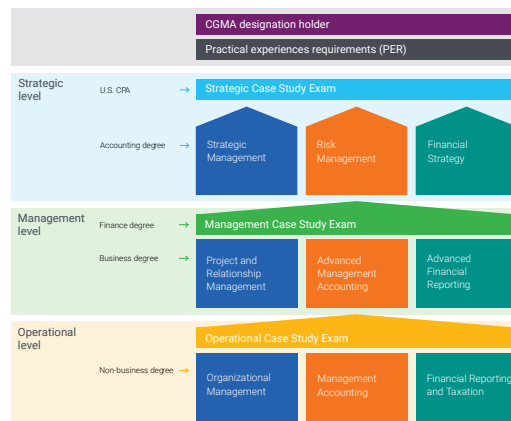
The Strategic level completes your skill set, with tools to help you lead at the enterprise level.

The Management level builds on core skills and acumen, with more advanced concepts, tools and frameworks.

The Operational level introduces essential business concepts and provides a strong technical foundation in finance and accounting.

Each level culminates in a real-world case study exam.

Source: Association of International Certified Professional Accountants



also don't need to have a CPA to earn a CGMA designation.

To obtain the designation you must have a college degree, complete the CGMA Finance Leadership Program, and have three years of work experience. The CGMA Finance Leadership Program is online and self-paced — and is designed to allow you to complete the program while simultaneously completing your work experience requirement. The learning and assessments are divided into three levels; participants start at different levels depending on their level of knowledge, degree type, and whether or not they have a CPA. For example, non-business degree holders complete all three levels to acquire the needed foundational skills. This isn't the case for accounting, finance, and business degree graduates, who can use the knowledge they've already gained to start at higher levels in the program. Regardless of where you start, you should expect each level of the program to take from eight months to one year to complete — this includes the learning program and sitting for the exam.

The CGMA Finance Leadership Program exam demonstrates that you know how to apply the skills you've learned. The computer-based exam uses case studies to test your readiness to apply your knowledge to real-world business situations.

The exam can serve as a confidence booster, said Aaron Rodriguez, a master's in quantitative management graduate of Duke University who recently passed the CGMA exam. "You are trained on a broad range of topics and asked to evaluate a situation and come up with an answer," he said. "Analytics, finance, strategy, and even interpersonal skills — it's a very broad program. There are a lot of different topics covered, being able to master that gives you confidence."

Where to learn more

To learn more about the CGMA designation, visit cgma.org/newaccountant. This site has many resources about the learning program and exam. There's a tutorial where you'll learn how to answer different questions and how to navigate through the exam. You can also explore past exams and answers to understand the types of tasks you will be asked to respond to during the exam.

Want to know the latest news relevant to CGMA holders and management accounting? You can sign up for the CGMA Advantage newsletter to get a daily snapshot of the most important news and resources for finance professionals. Also, be sure to browse the online version of *FM* magazine to meet other CGMA holders and learn more about what's going on globally.



Showcase yourself as a strategic leader.

Earn the designation for financial professionals recognized around the globe.

Learn more about the CGMA® Finance Leadership Program: A lifelong professional learning journey that puts you on the path to jump-start your career. You'll learn and acquire the skills it takes to become a strategic, confident, secure and insightful leader who will influence and guide groups and decisions within an organization.

Learn more about the program, powered by the AICPA, at [CGMA.org/NewAccountant](https://www.cgma.org/NewAccountant).

"With the support of my supervisor, I chose to pursue the CGMA designation as the logical next step toward my goal of becoming a well-rounded finance professional."

Hank Windhorst, CPA, CGMA

Financial Planning Consultant, Chick-fil-A Corporate

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