

The Path to the CGFM Certification



What is CGFM?

Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®)
is a professional certification awarded by AGA



What makes the CGFM unique?

- Specialized focus on government financial management
- Broad coverage of various aspects of financial management at all levels of government



CGFM benefits

- Increased knowledge of government financial management
- Greater confidence on the job
- Better understanding of “big picture” of government
- Portable and tangible indicator of experience and knowledge
- Enhanced marketability throughout all levels of government
- Encourages employer incentives and continuing education
- Enhanced credibility, public confidence and employee value



CGFM: initial requirements

- **Ethics** – read and agree to abide by AGA's *Code of Ethics*
- **Education** – have a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university
- **Examinations** – pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations
- **Experience** – complete at least two years of professional-level experience in U.S. government financial management

www.agacgfm.org/cgfm



Certification process

- Step 1—Read AGA's *Code of Ethics*
- Step 2—Apply for the CGFM program
- Step 3—Submit required degree documentation
- Step 4—Receive an eligibility letter
- Step 5—Prepare for the CGFM examinations
- Step 6—Schedule the CGFM examinations
- Step 7—Take and pass the CGFM examinations
- Step 8—Submit a work verification form
- Step 9—Receive CGFM award letter
- Step 10—Receive and display your CGFM certificate

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Step 5 – Prepare for the CGFM examinations

CGFM Certification



Preparing for CGFM Examinations

Begin by reviewing the CGFM examinations content outlines, which list the main and subtopics covered in each examination. This should be the focal point of your preparation. It is the core document used as the basis for each examination and a guideline for writing examination questions.

Candidate Tips

Exam Content

AGA Preparation Options

Courses

Study Guides

Study References

Practice Exams

www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare



Begin with exam content outlines

Exam content outlines are a list of subject areas covered by each examination.

It is a core document for all CGFM candidates and should be a starting point for exam preparation.

www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams



Use the information available to you

CGFM Certification



CGFM Examinations Requirement

The three comprehensive examinations that make up the core requirement of the CGFM program are:

- [Examination 1: Governmental Environment \(GE\)](#)
- [Examination 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting \(GAFRB\)](#)
- [Examination 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control \(GFMC\)](#)

The three links above are to the examinations content outlines—a list of subject areas covered by each examination. It is a core document for all CGFM candidates and should be a starting point for exam preparation.

AGA is committed to keeping the CGFM examinations up to date, reflecting the latest developments in the field. To ensure that our examinations are fair, reliable and valid, AGA follows strict international standards in its examination development process, which takes time. The current CGFM examinations reflect the government regulations in effect as of the end of 2021.

CGFM examinations will be updated in 2024. Please see [CGFM Examinations Update](#) page for more information.

Below are additional resources for the candidates:

See Study
References

View the Exam
Sample Questions

View the List of
Acronyms

[Visit the preparing for CGFM examinations page for more information.](#)

www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams



Examination 1:

Governmental Environment

- Organization, Structure and Authority of Government
- Legally-Based Implications of the Government Financial Environment
- Demonstrate an Understanding of the Government Management System (Cycle)
- Governmental Financing Process
- Identify the Concepts, Definitions and Notions of Public Accountability
- Demonstrate an Understanding of Ethics as Applied to the Government Environment
- Demonstrate an Understanding of Electronic Services in Government

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Examination 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting

- Governmental Financial Accounting, Reporting and Budgeting: General Knowledge
- Demonstrate an Understanding of State and Local Financial Accounting and Reporting
- Demonstrate an Understanding of Federal Financial Accounting and Reporting

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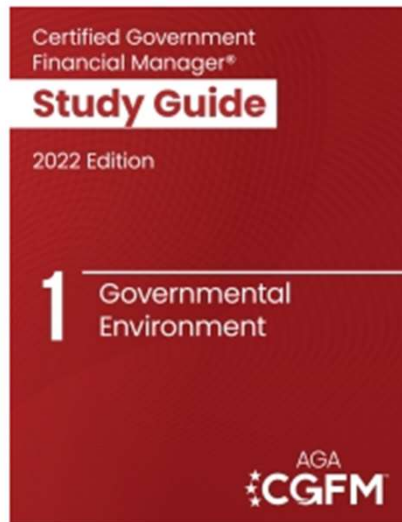
Examination 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control

- Financial Management Functions
- Demonstrate an Understanding of Financial and Managerial Analysis Techniques
- Internal Control
- Demonstrate an Understanding of Performance Measurement/Metrics/Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA)
- Auditing

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Decide how you learn best



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Existing users - please login below

AGA's CGFM Online Training Portal

Online preparation for CGFM examinations with AGA's self-paced courses

[Learn more »](#)



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CGFM Promotions

CGFM Certification



Celebrating **30** Years



CGFM Turns 30!

The New Year brings reason to celebrate — 30 years of CGFM®! AGA created the Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM) program in 1994 to fill a need in the government financial management community. Through preparation and exams encompassing governmental accounting, auditing, internal controls, budgeting, and financial reporting at all levels of government, CGFMs become well versed in the knowledge and skills needed for the rigors and complexities of their duties. Furthermore, coverage of federal, state and local government financial management allows CGFMs to expand their career opportunities throughout the United States.

If you are a CGFM, join us in celebrating this milestone by encouraging others to earn their CGFM.

If you are not yet a CGFM, this is a perfect time to [start!](#)

CGFM Promotions

To celebrate the 30th anniversary, we'll be offering various promotions throughout 2024. Check back to see how you can save on your CGFM journey.

May 2024 special – Save 30% off the regular price of printed study guides! [Learn More Here](#)

www.agacgfm.org/CGFM/CGFM30.aspx



Summing it up!

- Consider your learning preferences, prior knowledge, experience, time and budget in determining the best way to prepare
- Candidates advise 2-6 weeks per exam
- Figure out the best time and methods for you to study

www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare



Candidate tips

- Use practice exams to time yourself
- If using the AGA study guides:
 - make sure you have the latest version
 - read the entire publication and pay attention to highlighted boxes, key terms, etc.
- Make your own flashcards, particularly of federal, state and local terms
- Don't underestimate any of the exams
- Ensure you understand and can apply the concepts
- Schedule the exam for your optimal time
- Read exam scheduling procedures so you know what to expect

www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare



CGFM: requirements to maintain

- **Ethics** – continue to abide by AGA's *Code of Ethics*
- **Renewal** – renew the designation annually by March 31
- **Continuing education** – complete 80 hours of applicable continuing professional education (CPE) every two years (including 4 hours in ethics per cycle) and provide documentation to AGA upon request

www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/maintain



CGFM certificate – replacement and frames

- **CGFM certificate replacement** – www.agacgfm.org/CGFM/CGFMs/MyCGFM.aspx
- **CGFM frame** – www.diplomaframe.com/agacgfm



Enhance your marketability

- CGFM is **the unparalleled advantage** in government financial management
- CGFM is transferrable and recognized across agencies and government levels



For more information

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