



### **Certified Financial Planner® (CFP®); CFP® Board of Standards**

Charlie Barkmeier & Summer Vaughan are certified for financial planning services in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board"). Therefore, they may refer to themselves as a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional or a CFP® professional and may use these and CFP Board's other certification marks (the "CFP Board Certification Marks"). The CFP® certification is voluntary. No federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold the CFP® certification.

CFP® professionals have met CFP Board's high standards for education, examination, experience, and ethics. To become a CFP® professional, an individual must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Education** – Earn a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university and complete CFP Board-approved coursework at a college or university through a CFP Board Registered Program. The coursework covers the financial planning subject areas CFP Board has determined are necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, as well as a comprehensive financial plan development capstone course. A candidate may satisfy some of the coursework requirements through other qualifying credentials. CFP Board implemented the bachelor's degree or higher requirement in 2007 and the financial planning development capstone course requirement in March 2012. Therefore, a CFP® professional who first became certified before those dates may not have earned a bachelor's or higher degree or completed a financial planning development capstone course.
- **Examination** – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination is designed to assess an individual's ability to integrate and apply a broad base of financial planning knowledge in the context of real-life financial planning situations.
- **Experience** – Complete 6,000 hours of professional experience related to the personal financial planning process, or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship experience that meets additional requirements.
- **Ethics** – Satisfy the Fitness Standards for Candidates for CFP® Certification and Former CFP® Professionals Seeking Reinstatement and agree to be bound by CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct ("Code and Standards"), which sets forth the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.
- **Continuing Education** - Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements to remain certified and maintain the right to continue to use the CFP Board Certification Marks:
- **Ethics** – Commit to complying with CFP Board's Code and Standards. This includes a commitment to CFP Board, as part of the certification, to act as a fiduciary, and therefore, act in the best interests of the client, at all times when providing financial advice and financial planning. CFP Board may sanction a CFP® professional who does not abide by this commitment, but CFP Board does not guarantee a CFP® professional's services. A client who seeks a similar commitment should obtain a written engagement that includes a fiduciary obligation to the client.
- **Coursework** – Complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain competence, demonstrate specified levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities, and keep up with developments in financial planning. Two of the hours must address the Code and Standards.

You may find more information about the CFP® certification at [www.CFP.net](http://www.CFP.net).



## PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

### Accredited Wealth Management Advisor (AWMA®)

The AWMA® designation is issued by The College for Financial Planning. Individuals who hold the AWMA® designation have completed a course of study encompassing wealth strategies, equity-based compensation plans, tax reduction alternatives, and asset protection alternatives. Additionally, individuals must pass an end-of-course examination that tests their ability to synthesize complex concepts and apply theoretical concepts to real-life situations. All designees have agreed to adhere to Standards of Professional Conduct and are subject to a disciplinary process. Designees renew their designation every two-years by completing 16 hours of continuing education, reaffirming adherence to the Standards of Professional Conduct and complying with self-disclosure requirements.

### Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS®)

Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS) is a professional designation awarded by the College for Financial Planning (CFP) to financial professionals who successfully complete a self-study program, pass an exam, and agree to comply with a code of ethics. The program provides advisors with strong fundamental financial knowledge with a specific focus on asset management and investments.

Additional information regarding the AAMS is available at <https://www.kaplanfinancial.com/wealth-management/aams>

### Chartered Financial Consultant (“ChFC®”)

The ChFC® designation is issued by The American College. The ChFC minimum qualifications are:

- Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent, in any discipline, from an accredited university, qualifies as one year of business experience.
- Three years of full-time business experience is required; this three-year period must be within the five years preceding the date of the award (part-time qualifying business experience is also credited toward the three-year requirement with 2000 hours representing the equivalent of one-year full-time experience).
- Must fulfill the ChFC® seven course curriculum, as well as two additional elective courses.
- Pass the exams for all required and elective courses.
- Pass a background check and candidate fitness standards test. Any criminal history, pending litigation or ethical violations must be disclosed. The board verifies all employment history, qualifications and disciplinary issues via FINRA’s Central Registration Depository.

Additional information regarding the ChFC® is available at <https://www.theamericancollege.edu/designations-degrees>