

GET READY FOR CFP® EXAM SUCCESS!

Learn from your peers who have taken the CFP® exam: add these important strategies to your exam preparation.



STUDY TIME

Successful exam takers started studying three to six months before their exam date and spent eleven to fifteen hours a week studying for the exam. **Set aside at least eleven hours every week** for your CFP® exam preparation.

"It is critical to create a study plan (i.e. what topics you will cover each day and what time of the day you will study). I created a daily study plan leading up to the exam and also scheduled a 2-3 hour block in the early morning before work to study."



PRACTICE EXAM

Those who passed were significantly more likely than failers to have used the CFP Board Practice Exam. **Complete the CFP Board Practice Exam** as part of your preparation.

"The CFP Board Practice Exam was challenging and helped give me a real life expectation for the CFP® exam."



PREP TOOLS

Exam passers said that review courses and test bank questions were the most important techniques they used in their exam preparation. **Sign up for a review course** and **take lots of practice questions!**

"Get a good review course and stick to the routine outlined. With so much material to cover, the review course helps you focus on important concepts to master and understand how to efficiently do this and best utilize your time."



CHALLENGING TOPICS

The majority of test takers said that **tax planning is the most challenging exam topic**, and those who failed also struggled with **investment planning**. Include plenty of study time for all topics, and be sure you have mastered these challenging areas.

"Be intentional about the time spent in each study area. Be sure you UNDERSTAND the concepts, not just understand the surface level enough to pass your education exams."



EMPLOYER SUPPORT

Those who passed the CFP® exam were more likely to have requested support from their employer. **Reach out to your employer** to see what flexibility, reimbursement and other support is available to you.

"The encouragement of my employer and coworkers was critical—not only a cheerleading squad, but they also permitted me to study during work hours and make use of the office after hours and on weekends for quiet study time."



STUDY PLAN

85% of exam passers stuck with the study plan they had outlined. **Put together a study schedule or plan** before you start preparing for the exam, **and then stick with it!**

"Create a study plan and stick to it. Consistency is the key to success. Set aside a number of hours each day/week to aim for, or choose a specific time of day to study, and don't waver."

Quotes and statistics taken from research conducted by an independent third party organization to compare habits of successful and unsuccessful CFP® exam takers.

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