Potential, prestige and purpose

A primer for the CGMA® designation and CGMA Finance Leadership Program
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CGMA at a glance

Created in 2012 by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the Chartered Global Management Accountant® (CGMA) designation recognizes the competencies and expertise of professionals who lead the world’s most successful organizations, blending a unique skill set of management accounting, financial accounting and business-focused acumen.

The CGMA designation is the certification for future business professionals who want to inform strategies and drive sustainable success for organizations around the world. Through the CGMA Finance Leadership Program, you’ll develop the technical, finance, business, leadership and digital skills needed for success.

As a CGMA designation holder, you’ll combine numbers, intellect and creativity to uncover problems, and create innovative solutions. Whether you become the CFO at a FinTech startup or a consultant for a not-for-profit organization in the education sector, you will learn strategic leadership skills that will propel your career.

No matter which industry — position or location, public or private, big or small — chances are, you’ll find CGMA designation holders working there. With CGMA next to your name, you’ll set your own standard, and you will stand apart from others.
What can you do with the CGMA designation?

As a CGMA designation holder, you can look forward to:

- Driving business decisions in companies
- Preserving value in organizations
- Protecting assets and discovering new opportunities
- Having an inside view of the business
- Tracking monthly performance and everyday trends

The CGMA designation is designed to bring together management accounting, financial accounting and business, so you’ll have the practical skills employers need. That way, you’ll be qualified to work in a wide range of roles from finance to consultancy, IT to senior management positions. Here are just some of the roles you could work in:

**Finance**
Finance business partner, finance director and management accountant

**Information management**
Business analysis manager, director of IT and head of program management

**Commercial**
Commercial director and marketing manager

**Executive**
Chief executive, chief financial officer and managing director

**Operations**
Human resources manager, operations director and project manager

**Consultancy**
Business analyst, financial analyst and management consultant

Becoming a CGMA designation holder will add global clout to your résumé and help you achieve your career ambitions.
Who normally gets the CGMA designation?

CGMA designation holders typically are ambitious students, graduates or working professionals who want a business edge. By completing the qualification, students gain the knowledge and insight employers demand and you need for a successful finance and business career.

How can the CGMA designation help me?

As a CGMA designation holder, you can earn more and go further. (Keep reading, we have the numbers to prove it.) Even while you’re still studying, you can move ahead in the job market as your designation pursuit shows employers that you’re dedicated, hardworking and always thinking about your future. And, if you’re already employed, the CGMA designation can help you jump-start your career.

What are the advantages of the CGMA designation?

- Earn higher salaries.
- Develop core business competencies.
- Showcase leadership skills.
- Differentiate yourself.
- Bridge competency gaps.
- Earn continuing professional development credits.
Global CGMA by the numbers

>150,000 members

>125,000 students

Over 150 companies use CGMA training in the U.S.
The CGMA designation takes careers — and organizations — to new levels.

The CGMA designation is the mark of distinction in the business accounting world. To earn it, a mastery of the technical finance and accounting skills and an understanding of advanced business concepts are required to demonstrate strategic leadership abilities. The CGMA Finance Leadership Program helps you achieve these skills.

The foundation of the program is the **CGMA Competency Framework**, which outlines the most critical business skills business leaders and companies demand, based on extensive feedback from employers around the world.

The result is a comprehensive program encompassing both the technical finance and accounting skills as well as the business, people and leadership skills finance professionals need now and in the future.
CGMA Finance Leadership Program pathway

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. To start at this level, you will need to have earned an accounting degree. CPAs have the option to skip right to the CGMA Strategic level case study exam.

The **Management level** builds on core skills and acumen, with more advanced concepts, tools and frameworks. Managers and/or finance and business degree holders can start here.

The **Operational level** introduces essential business concepts and provides a strong technical foundation in finance and accounting. This level is for analysts and/or non-business and non-accounting degree holders.

Each level culminates in a real-world case study exam designed to test your mastery of critical competencies.
Case study exams

Following each level, candidates register to take the corresponding case study exam. The CGMA exam is a computer-based, strategic case study exam that tests readiness to apply your knowledge of finance and accounting management to real-world business situations. It assesses theoretical knowledge but, more importantly, tests your ability to apply that knowledge in an open-ended format. Once the Strategic Case Study Exam is passed and the practical experience requirement is fulfilled, candidates are awarded the CGMA designation.

Does a CGMA designation seem right for you? Get started today! Visit cgma.org/leadership to learn more.
About the Association

The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (the Association) is the most influential body of professional accountants, combining the strengths of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) to power opportunity, trust and prosperity for people, businesses and economies worldwide. It represents 650,000 members and students in public and management accounting and advocates for the public interest and business sustainability on current and emerging issues. With broad reach, rigor and resources, the Association advances the reputation, employability and quality of CPAs, CGMA designation holders and accounting and finance professionals globally.