

Frequently Asked Questions: FAQ

What is the Certificate in Financial Planning?

The Certificate in Financial Planning is a Professional Continuing Education (PCE) certificate offered as a partnership between the College of Business, Continuing Education, and the MBA program at Niagara University.

This professional certificate allows professionals to obtain the educational courses needed in order to qualify for the Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) exam. You may earn this certificate in 1 year or you may take classes as needed that fit your schedule.

How do I apply? Do I need a degree in finance, business or accounting?

Please view the Continuing Education web site at www.niagara.edu/ce or contact us at (716) 286-8181 for an application.

Yes, you do need a bachelor's degree to apply. However, the degree does not need to be in business or finance, although those degrees are the most helpful for this program. We find many people use this certificate to change careers or already advance in an area that wasn't their major as an undergraduate.

What's the cost?

Because these courses are Professional Continuing Education (PCE) credits and not college credits that you earn towards a degree, we are able to offer them to you at a reduced rate. The current tuition is \$995.00 per class. Textbooks will be an additional cost.

Financial aid is not available for these courses since they are for professional credit. Many students use tuition reimbursement from their employer.

Students can sign up for the payment plan at www.niagara.edu/payment-plans. The payment plan is \$25 per semester and student must sign up every semester.

How many classes do I have to take? Do I have to take the courses in a specific sequence?

In order to qualify to take the CFP exam, you must take 6 classes and provide evidence of experience to your faculty advisor at Niagara University. You do not need to take courses in a specific sequence; however we encourage you to take the capstone course at the end of your studies.

Beginning every fall, you may sequence all the required courses to complete your CFP preparation in 1 year. You may also take classes at your own pace and complete courses as needed.

Mr. Ed Hutton, Assistant Professor and Director of the Financial Services Laboratory at Niagara University will be your faculty advisor for all CFP – Professional Continuing Education students.

When are the classes? Where are the classes?

All classes are held at Niagara University on Saturdays and run for 5 weeks. Please refer to the current schedule of classes on the web at www.niagara.edu.

Can I use these classes towards a degree?

No. If you are enrolling in the Certificate in Financial Planning as a Professional Continuing Education (PCE) student you may not use these classes or the certificate towards a degree. Courses cannot be applied retroactively and please consult our offices if there are any questions.

If you would like to earn an undergraduate degree at Niagara University, we encourage you to view admissions information at www.niagara.edu. The Graduate Admissions office may be contacted at graduate@niagara.edu if you are seeking a graduate degree.

What about textbooks, parking and student IDs?

Parking

Parking is FREE and as a Professional Continuing Education (PCE) student.

We strongly encourage you to obtain a visitor parking pass from Campus Safety in case they need to notify you about your vehicle while you are on campus.

You do not have to purchase a student parking pass for your Saturday classes as long as you park in a student spot (Yellow) or in the Power Authority lot B2 only.

Textbooks

Required textbooks will be posted at www.niagara.bncollege.com. You may purchase them online, at our campus bookstore first; or at other retailers. We encourage you to purchase your textbooks prior to attending the first class.

Student IDs

After you register, you will receive a letter regarding your student number and other ways to access Niagara University. Your student number will be used to obtain your NU ID at the ID office and has other benefits and discounts. Please visit the site at www.niagara.edu/it-student-services for more information.

Please tell me about grades and the workload?

You are participating in the same class as credit bearing students. Test, quizzes, and homework are determined by each individual instructor.

You will receive a grade of either S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) for these specific classes.

What if I receive an unsatisfactory (U) grade?

You may take the class over again, however you must pay full PDC tuition again.

Please tell me more about the CFP certificate and my student status.

- You are considered a non-matriculated student at Niagara University.
- You will earn professional credits that will show up on an official transcript.
- You are not earning college credits that you may use towards a degree.
- These courses will count towards a Niagara University professional development certificate and a transcript that you may use in order to qualify to take the CFP exam.

Who can I contact for more information?

Overall program and registration

- Contact the office of Continuing Education at www.niagara.edu/ce or (716) 286-8181

Requirements for the CFP®

- Mr. Ed Hutton, ehutton@niagara.edu, Assistant Professor and Director of the Financial Services Laboratory.

MBA program

- MBA Office, College of Business, P.O. Box 1909, Niagara University, N.Y. 14109 or visit mba.niagara.edu

Graduate Studies

- Visit Graduate Programs at www.niagara.edu/graduate

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