



The Global Mark of Distinction in Alternative Investments

CAIA Association Frequently Asked Questions

The CAIA Association® recognizes that many finance professionals are seeking to distinguish themselves within the industry with their thorough understanding of AI fundamentals and high professional standards of conduct. In order to meet this need, we have created the CAIA charter – The Global Mark of Distinction in Alternative Investments.

To help you better understand the steps involved in earning the CAIA charter and the benefits of becoming a CAIA designee, we have compiled this list of frequently asked questions. We hope this will help you decide whether the CAIA program is right for you.

What is a “CAIA designee”?

CAIA designees are AI professionals who have been awarded the right to use the CAIA charter by becoming members of the CAIA Association. AI professionals become CAIA designees by meeting all membership requirements, including successful completion of both the Level I and Level II exams.

The CAIA designation is earned by those in the AI industry who seek to distinguish themselves as highly qualified professionals. Our members include investment advisors, consultants, and analysts; fund managers and administrators; and a variety of AI support service personnel.

Who holds the CAIA designation?

CAIA members can be found at thousands of institutions from across the AI spectrum and around the world. A growing number of organizations, including the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Bank of America, Pacific Alternative Asset Management Company and Wachovia, now use the CAIA examinations as an essential part of their professional alternatives training program.

Many top alternative investment professionals have endorsed the CAIA program, and several such statements are posted under “CAIA Testimonials” in the Designation section of our website, www.caia.org.

Who recognizes the CAIA designation?

In total, over 7000 individuals from over 80 different countries have sat for the CAIA program, representing thousands of institutions, including:

- Prime brokers and banks;
- Advisor & consulting firms;
- Asset management firms;
- Accounting firms;
- Public and private pensions;
- Foundations and family offices;
- Insurance companies, and;
- Industry regulators.

A sample list of firms that employ CAIA members is available on the CAIA website.

What do I gain by becoming a CAIA designee?

The CAIA designation showcases our members' high level of education and dedication to professionalism, as well as providing a global network of likeminded practitioners. The CAIA curriculum's focus on analysis, application and standards of practice creates the benchmark that institutions, investors and regulators recognize and welcome globally. Industry participants also obtain CAIA membership to build their professional network within this specialized field, as well as to access ongoing educational opportunities and a variety of professional discounts.

How do I earn the CAIA designation?

All professionals begin the process of becoming CAIA designees by enrolling in the CAIA program. You become eligible for membership only after you have successfully completed both the Level I and Level II exams and met the additional membership requirements. A full list of those requirements is available on our website, www.caia.org.

What's covered in the CAIA program?

The CAIA program curriculum is organized into two levels. Level I uses fundamental knowledge and investment analytics to examine the five core alternative asset classes: hedge funds, private equity, commodities, managed futures, and real estate. Level II applies the knowledge and analytics learned in Level I within an asset allocation framework. Both incorporate segments on ethics and professional conduct — essential components of the CAIA program.

If you are considering pursuing the CAIA program and want more detailed information, we invite you to look through the Study Guides and sample exam questions available in the Program section of our website. These materials will help you gain a better understanding of the tools and concepts you will learn as a CAIA candidate, as well as how the exams are structured.

How do I become a CAIA candidate?

Once you have decided to pursue the CAIA designation, it is time to enroll in the program. Exam registration is online and consists of three quick steps:

1. *Completing an online exam registration form:*

When you are ready to enroll in the program, the first step is to register for an exam. This entails creating an account on our website and completing an online exam registration form. It should take approximately 20 minutes to complete this form.

2. *Signing the Candidate Agreement:*

The next step is to execute the online Candidate Agreement. Once your exam registration form has been completed, you will be directed to the Candidate Agreement, which must be signed prior to purchasing an exam.

3. *Purchasing an exam:*

Purchase is the third and final step in the exam registration process. The program fees comprise the non-refundable one-time program enrollment fee and the exam registration fee. Candidates

who register within the first six weeks of any registration period receive a 10% discount off the exam registration fee.

When can I become a CAIA candidate?

The Level I and Level II exams are held twice each year, in March and September. Registration for the March exam period is open October through January. Registration for the September exam period is open April through July. It is important to note that registration is exam-specific and cannot be postponed or transferred to future exam sessions (e.g., individuals who become candidates for the March 2007 exam cannot defer their examination until the September 2007 exam period).

What happens after I become a CAIA candidate?

The CAIA program is structured for self-paced learning with the Association's Level I and Level II Study Guides. The CAIA Study Guides make up the foundation of the program and, in conjunction with the curriculum readings, allow candidates to adequately prepare for the CAIA exams. The Guides offer clear instructions for successful preparation, breaking down each reading, section by section, into keywords, main points, and learning objectives. In short, each Guide clearly delineates what you are expected to know for the exams.

In order to use the Study Guide properly, they must be used in conjunction with the curriculum readings, which are purchased separately. The CAIA Association provides direct links to online vendors, some of whom offer the readings to CAIA candidates at discounted rates. A list of current curriculum readings is available on the website.

For further assistance in studying for the exams, many candidates choose to participate in candidate-organized study groups. In addition, several external organizations offer preparatory programs to assist candidates in studying for the exam. A list of candidates interested in joining study groups, as well as a list of CAIA preparatory program providers, is available on the website.

How do I take the CAIA exams?

CAIA exams are administered in computerized format at proctored test centers around the world. After your exam registration payment has been processed, you will receive a confirmation of registration e-mail from the Association that will explain when and how to schedule your exam appointment with our global testing provider. You will be asked to select a location and an available date and time within the two-week testing window to schedule this appointment directly with the testing provider. To view a list of the current sites, see Exam Locations in the Program section of the CAIA website.

What happens after I pass the two exams?

Once you have passed both the Level I and Level II exams and met our other membership requirements, you will be eligible to apply for CAIA membership. Upon acceptance of your application, you will immediately receive the top benefit of CAIA membership: the right to use the CAIA designation.

As a member you also will receive your official CAIA charter and receive access to all member benefits, including a complementary subscription to The Journal of Alternative Investments, eligibility to attend our global chapter meetings and exclusive CAIA seminars, access to other members through both the online CAIA community and our international chapters, and much more.