

Prepare for peak performance.

It's no secret: Achieving your CFA® charter will not be easy. The exams challenge all who take them; June 2008 pass rates show that most—65 percent—of Level I candidates failed. Fewer than half passed Level II, and only 53 percent passed Level III. Many others don't even show up on exam day, because they feel they're not properly prepared.

How will you prepare?

Most people take a “do-it-yourself” approach, using a haphazard combination of practice exams, reading, and study notes. Recent pass rates seriously call the wisdom of that approach into question. The good news is that Stalla can help put you among those who succeed by developing an in-depth understanding of the CFA Program curriculum and fine-tuning the skills required under high-pressure exam conditions.

Start with a success-focused plan.

The CFA Program curriculum and your Stalla program challenge you with a great deal of information to comprehend in a relatively short time. An organized approach is critical, and the first essential step is to develop a detailed study plan.

Begin by marking your exam date on a calendar. Then make a list of everything you need to accomplish between now and then, including a target date for completing each item. You should plan on completing all of your study at least three weeks (earlier if possible) before exam day, to allow enough time for a thorough final review.

If you're a Stalla student, you have access to detailed study plan templates that help you lay out your entire preparation plan. Whether you use our templates or your own calendar, developing a sound, achievable study plan at the beginning is one of the most important actions you can take to be successful on exam day. If needed, you can make reasonable adjustments along the way.

Stay on track.

The typical candidate should expect to devote a minimum of between 250 and 300 hours to prepare for each examination. This does not include any preliminary review that may be necessary for those without college-level preparation in economics or accounting. Based on your background and experience, you may need to devote more or less time.

Plan to devote a fixed number of hours each week to exam preparation. The accompanying table shows various ways you could allocate the minimum required hours over a specific time frame, with a Stalla recommendation for each.

Learning experts agree: your retention is strongest when learning takes place in short segments spaced out over time. Cramming is counter-productive to the learning process.

Timing Chart

Months to exam date	Hours per month		Hours per week		Stalla's recommendation
	Total prep: 250 hours	300 hours	Total prep: 250 hours	300 hours	
7 months	35.70	42.90	8.30	10.00	Recommended
6 months	41.70	50.00	9.40	11.30	Recommended
5 months	50.00	60.00	11.30	13.50	Recommended
4 months	62.50	75.00	15.60	18.80	Getting Late
3 months	83.30	100.00	18.80	22.60	Not Recommended
2 months	125.00	150.00	29.20	35.00	Not Recommended

How to prepare for the CFA® exams (cont.)

Finish early

Plan on completing your readings and practice several weeks before your exam date. Then:

- Identify a final review strategy that enables you to assess your progress.
- Identify areas of weakness to better focus your remaining study time.
- Drill on practice exam questions.
- Review your notes.

In the final week before the exam, schedule a thorough review of the Ethical and Professional Standards material, as CFA Institute considers this an essential aspect of the program. In fact, candidates with “borderline” exam scores are not given the “benefit of the doubt” if they fail to pass the Ethical and Professional Standards section.

Many candidates have found Stalla’s Mock Exam and Review Seminar to be the perfect wrap-up to a well-planned preparation program. This final core content review and simulated exam experience can help pinpoint weaknesses and focus your remaining study time before exam day.

Get maximum value from every hour of preparation.

If you haven’t made a decision about your exam preparation partner or program, we recommend you examine all your options and assess which is right for you in terms of strategy, approach, program offerings, and the right match with your study preferences and work schedule.

Please visit stalla.com for more information on the CFA Program, how to prepare for the exams, and how Stalla can put you on the path to success. We hope you’ll agree that our strategic approach to preparation and our emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness make us the right exam preparation partner for you.

Prepare to pass your CFA® exam with Stalla. For more detailed information and expert guidance on how to design a CFA exam preparation program that meets your unique needs and circumstances, please visit stalla.com or call 877-727-7232.

Outside North America, e-mail international@stalla.com or call +1-630-472-2213.

Follows CFA Institute Prep Provider Guidelines.

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“It’s not merely a system. It’s more like your partner in helping you achieve your CFA charter.”

Asad Bukhari
CFA Candidate

“I passed! Your program helped immensely. It kept me on track and provided a lot of opportunity to review. Thank you, Stalla.”

B. Yanchuk
CFA Candidate

“The Stalla instructor helped me focus my study time on the most important concepts tested. I recognized the type of test questions asked and could answer them correctly because of the Stalla System.”

Mike Mladineo
CFA Candidate

“I can emphatically say that without your program I would not have passed the exam.”

Don Madrid
CFA Candidate