

# THE CFP® PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE-EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT

## Financial Planning Examination Level 1 (FPE1) Blueprint

The Blueprints for Financial Planning Examination Level 1 (FPE1) and Financial Planning Examination Level 2 (FPE2) set out the weightings assigned to the examination criteria for testing on the respective examinations, effective July 1, 2010. The Blueprints also guide test developers and the Panel of Examiners in the development of the examinations and examination candidates in their preparation for the same.

Any given question on FPE1 and FPE2 may focus on a specific element of competency from the CFP® Professional Competency Profile (the 'Competency Profile') or, in representing the integrative nature of financial planning, may require the demonstration of multiple elements of competency. When preparing for either examination, candidates should use this blueprint together with the Competency Profile to focus their preparations. Candidates for both examinations will be expected to demonstrate the Professional Skills included within the Competency Profile. In particular, Professional Skill 1 – Ethical Judgment will be integrated into 6 to 10 per cent of each of FPE1 and FPE2. The Technical Knowledge included in the Competency Profile is not explicitly weighed on either examination; however, candidates will be required to sufficiently apply the necessary knowledge to demonstrate competence in the practice of financial planning.

Content on each examination will be allocated by the elements of competency outlined in the Competency Profile as follows: by Financial Planning Function (Collection, Analysis and Synthesis); by Fundamental Financial Planning Practice and Core Financial Planning Competency within each Function; and, overall, by Financial Planning Components. These descriptors refer to how the elements of competency are assigned on the Competency Profile. These weightings are described in the following tables, of which the final table on page 3 mirrors the CFP Professional Competency Matrix included with the Competency Profile. FPE1 will be exclusively multiple-choice questions; content on FPE2 will be allocated by examination item type.

In preparing for the examinations required for CFP certification, candidates should be aware of the difference of expectation for FPE1 and FPE2. That difference can be described as the complexity of the response required by the candidate. On FPE1, candidates will be asked to formulate a generally less complex response than will be required of them on FPE2. This expectation will be reflected in the types of questions that are encountered and the competence that must be drawn upon in formulating a response. The blueprints of this complexity and its allocation between FPE1 and FPE2 are shown below.

Complexity is defined as a combination of depth and breadth of knowledge. Depth speaks specifically to the amount and detail of technical knowledge required to respond to the question. 'Low' depth questions are those requiring application of knowledge within the scope of what would typically be considered introductory knowledge in the field of financial planning. 'High' depth questions could require application of knowledge beyond introductory knowledge in the field but still within the scope of what is required for competent financial planning. Introductory knowledge is that which may be acquired as part of a Core Curriculum program, and provides a foundation for further learning and specialization.

Breadth speaks specifically to the scope of knowledge required to respond to the question, and directly speaks to the importance of integration to financial planning. 'Low' breadth questions are those requiring application of a single knowledge domain or, in some instances, an additional minor reference to a second domain. 'High' breadth questions are those fully requiring application of more than one technical knowledge domain (i.e., from Taxation, Insurance, and Law) to formulate a full response. The different knowledge domains applicable for FPE1 and FPE2 are listed in the CFP Professional Competency Profile.

FPE1		DEPTH	
		LOW	HIGH
BREADTH	LOW	15% - 25%	40% - 50%
	HIGH	30% - 40%	0%

FPE2		DEPTH	
		LOW	HIGH
BREADTH	LOW	0%	28% - 38%
	HIGH	28% - 38%	28% - 38%

Depth speaks specifically to the level of knowledge required to respond to the question. 'High' depth questions are those requiring knowledge of more advanced domains of financial planning practice. Breadth speaks specifically to the scope of knowledge required to respond to the question. 'High' breadth questions are those requiring integration of knowledge across a range of domains of financial planning practice.

Content for each of FPE1 and FPE2 will be allocated across this scale as follows:

### FPE1

15% - 25% allocated to LOW depth/LOW breadth  
 40% - 50% to HIGH depth/LOW breadth  
 30% - 40% to LOW depth/HIGH breadth

### FPE2

28% - 38% allocated to HIGH depth/HIGH breadth  
 28% - 38% to HIGH depth/LOW breadth  
 28% - 38% to LOW depth/HIGH breadth

# FINANCIAL PLANNING EXAMINATION LEVEL 1 (FPE1) BLUEPRINT

FPE1 will consist of multiple-choice items. Questions will be presented as single independent items or as part of a case set of questions as outlined:

Question format	Percentage of FPE1
Multiple-Choice	<b>100%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Case set questions</li> <li>▶ Independent questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>30% - 40% of FPE1</b></li> <li>▶ <b>60% - 70% of FPE1</b></li> </ul>

## ALLOCATION BY FINANCIAL PLANNING FUNCTION

### 1 COLLECTION 50% - 54% OF FPE1

#### Allocation Within the Collection Function

- 1.0 Fundamental Financial Planning Practices
- 1.1 Collects the quantitative information required to develop a financial plan
- 1.2 Collects the qualitative information required to develop a financial plan

8% - 12%  
54% - 58%  
32% - 36%

OF COLLECTION

### 2 ANALYSIS 36% - 40% OF FPE1

#### Allocation Within the Analysis Function

- 2.0 Fundamental Financial Planning Practices
- 2.1 Identifies potential opportunities and constraints
- 2.2 Assesses information to formulate strategies

8% - 12%  
56% - 60%  
30% - 34%

OF ANALYSIS

### 3 SYNTHESIS 8% - 12% OF FPE1

#### Allocation Within the Synthesis Function

- 3.0 Fundamental Financial Planning Practices
- 3.1 Formulates and evaluates strategies to develop a financial plan

8% - 12%  
88% - 92%

OF SYNTHESIS

## ALLOCATION BY FINANCIAL PLANNING PRACTICE AND COMPONENT

Fundamental Financial Planning Practices **8% - 12%**    Tax Planning **9% - 13%**    Financial Management **14% - 18%**

Retirement Planning **15% - 19%**    Asset Management **19% - 23%**    Estate Planning **8% - 12%**    Risk Management **13% - 17%**

# FPE1 BLUEPRINT

## FINANCIAL PLANNING FUNCTIONS:

**1** **COLLECTION**  
50% - 54% OF FPE1

**2** **ANALYSIS**  
36% - 40% OF FPE1

**3** **SYNTHESIS**  
8% - 12% OF FPE1

### Fundamental Financial Planning Practices

8% - 12%



### Financial Planning Components

Financial Management	14% - 18%
Asset Management	19% - 23%
Risk Management	13% - 17%
Tax Planning	9% - 13%
Retirement Planning	15% - 19%
Estate Planning	8% - 12%

**= 100%**  
**OF FPE1**

## FUNDAMENTAL FINANCIAL PLANNING PRACTICES

8% - 12%



8% - 12%



8% - 12%



## CORE FINANCIAL PLANNING COMPETENCIES

**54% - 58%**

1.1 Collects the quantitative information required to develop a financial plan

**32% - 36%**

1.2 Collects the qualitative information required to develop a financial plan

**56% - 60%**

2.1 Identifies potential opportunities and constraints

**30% - 34%**

2.2 Assesses information to formulate strategies

**88% - 92%**

3.1 Formulates and evaluates strategies to develop a financial plan

**= 100%**  
**OF COLLECTION**

**= 100%**  
**OF ANALYSIS**

**= 100%**  
**OF SYNTHESIS**