



The Global Mark of Distinction in Alternative Investments

The CAIA Program:
The smartest investment you can make.



High
High

standards. Superior results.

Success in today's complex world of alternative investments demands a strong foundation of knowledge and an unwavering dedication to professionalism.

Yet no structured program has existed to address these needs. Until now.

Sponsored by the CAIA Association®, the **Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA)** designation is the *only* educational standard uniquely designed for individuals specializing in alternative investments. Covering real assets, private equity, commodities, hedge funds and structured products, the CAIA charter demonstrates one's commitment to professionalism and command of AI's unique fundamentals, setting you and your firm apart from the competition.



Global

Global

reach. Unlimited potential.

To succeed in the global marketplace, investment professionals must understand the industry beyond their borders. Thanks to its international focus, the CAIA program draws candidates from around the world who are driven to expand their scope of knowledge. Since launching in 2002, the CAIA program has attracted thousands of candidates from over 100 countries and six continents. The program's diverse curriculum appeals to investment advisors, consultants and analysts, fund managers and administrators, compliance and back office personnel, accountants, lawyers, and academics. Candidates include seasoned professionals looking to explore new areas within the AI space, generalists wishing to add another asset class to their investment arsenal, and new industry participants seeking to establish a core understanding of alternative investments.

VISION
Vision.



Focus. Leadership.

The CAIA Association Boards are comprised of the best and brightest in the alternative investment community and academia. Their goal is to ensure that the CAIA program remains balanced between academic insight and practitioner relevance.

The Board of Directors | The Board of Directors is responsible for guiding the CAIA Association towards fulfilling its mission of:

- providing members with a comprehensive foundation of knowledge of alternative investments
- advocating high standards of professional conduct
- establishing the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst designation as the educational standard for the alternative investment industry
- promoting professional development through ongoing education
- facilitating communication among industry professionals

The Curriculum Advisory Council and Curriculum and Examination Committees | The Curriculum Advisory Council is broadly responsible for deciding which elements are essential to the curriculum, while the Curriculum Committee and subcommittees assist with identifying topics and articles for consideration in the program, and drafting and reviewing learning objectives. Together, these bodies establish the program's structure. The Examination Committee assists with writing and editing items and grading CAIA exams.

Board of Directors

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The CAIA Curriculum

The CAIA curriculum is designed to provide investment industry participants with an understanding of the risk-return attributes of alternative investments and their role in the asset allocation process. The alternative vehicles covered include real assets, private equity, commodities, hedge funds, and structured products. Upon completing the program, CAIA members gain the core competencies required to actively manage and monitor diversified portfolios of alternative investments.

The program is organized into two levels. Before registering for Level I, CAIA candidates are expected to be familiar with the prerequisite materials, which cover the basic concepts of finance and quantitative analysis. Level I introduces candidates to alternative asset classes and the tools and techniques investment professionals use to evaluate these investment products. Level II applies an asset allocation framework to the lessons learned in Level I. Both levels address ethics and professional conduct — essential components of the CAIA curriculum.

The CAIA curriculum is composed of a set of study materials, most of which are specifically written for the CAIA Association. These materials are developed with a specific focus on clarity, depth and synthesis of industry insights. The reading materials are updated on a regular basis to reflect current academic research and industry practices.

Curriculum Topics

Prerequisite

Introduction to Investments
Introduction to Quantitative Methods

Level I

Professional Standards and Ethics

Portfolio Management

Asset Allocation
Alpha/Beta Separation

Hedge Funds

Investment Strategies
Allocation to Hedge Funds
Due Diligence
Risk Management
Regulation

Commodities and Managed Futures

Investing in Commodities
Portfolio Implications
Managed Futures Strategies

Level I (cont'd)

Private Equity

Investing in Private Equity and Venture Capital
Leveraged Buyouts
Mezzanine and Distressed Debt
Performance Measurement

Real Estate

Valuation of Real Estate Investment Products
Mortgages
Risk and Return Characteristics

Structured Products

Credit Derivatives
Collateralized Debt Obligations
Risk and Return Characteristics

Level II

Professional Standards and Ethics

Hedge Funds

Investment Strategies
Funds of Hedge Funds
Investible Hedge Fund Indices
Due Diligence
Operational Risk

Level II (cont'd)

Commodities and Managed Futures

Trend Following Strategies
Commodities and Asset Allocation
Commodity Indices

Venture Capital and Private Equity

Fund Management
Performance Measurement and Evaluation

Real Estate

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
Mortgage Backed Securities

Risk Management

Quantitative Risk Models
Stress Testing

Structured Products

Credit Default Swaps and Other Credit Derivatives

Current and Integrated Topics

Asset Allocation
Structured Products
Risk Management
Academic/Industry Research

The CAIA Examinations

CAIA examinations are offered semi-annually, giving candidates the opportunity to complete the CAIA program within a calendar year. They are computer based and administered at proctored test centers around the world.

Level I - 200 Multiple-Choice Questions

The Level I exam challenges a candidate's understanding of the alternative investment market's tools and terms.

Candidates are asked to distinguish among the various asset classes, their trading strategies and their performance measurements. Specific knowledge areas cover:

- professional standards and ethics
- alpha drivers and beta drivers
- real estate
- hedge funds
- commodities and managed futures
- private equity
- credit derivatives

Level II - 100 Multiple-Choice Plus 3 Essay Questions

The Level II exam is a multifaceted assembly of questions and problem-solving tasks. The tools and terms introduced in Level I provide the basis for a more in-depth investigation.

Specific knowledge areas cover:

- professional standards and ethics
- private equity
- commodities
- managed futures
- real assets
- hedge funds
- structured products
- asset allocation and portfolio management
- risk and risk management
- manager selection, due diligence, and regulation
- research issues and current topics

Candidacy

Registration

Candidates register by visiting our website, www.caia.org. Discounts are available to members of our founding sponsors, the Alternative Investment Management Association (AIMA) and the Center for International Securities and Derivatives Markets (CISDM).

	<i>Standard</i>	<i>AIMA/CISDM members</i>
Program Enrollment*	\$400 USD	\$400 USD
Level I Exam Registration**	\$1000 USD	\$750 USD
Level II Exam Registration**	\$1000 USD	\$750 USD
Annual Membership Dues	\$250 USD	\$150*** USD

* The Program Enrollment fee is a one-time-only fee for new candidates.

** Candidates who register before the Early Registration deadline receive a 10% discount off the **exam fee only**. Deadline dates are available at www.caia.org.

***AIMA/CISDM membership discount applies to **inaugural year only**.

Study Guides

CAIA Study Guides provide the program's foundation. These are available through our website, and are structured to facilitate self-learning for today's busy professional. The guides offer clear instructions for successful exam preparation by breaking down each reading into keywords, main points and learning objectives. We suggest an average of 150 to 200 hours of study time for level I and 200 or more for level II, though there is significant variance around this average.

Designation Requirements

To receive the CAIA designation, the candidate must:

- successfully complete the CAIA Level II exam within three years of passing Level I
- hold a U.S. Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) and possess more than one year of professional financial experience, **or alternatively**, possess a minimum of four years' professional financial experience
- agree to abide by the Membership Agreement of the CAIA Association, provide two (2) professional references, and submit annual membership dues.



Industry

recognition. Global respect.

The CAIA Association provides members* with the recognition and resources needed to succeed in the complex, competitive world of alternative investments.

International Recognition | Increased scrutiny by both investors and regulators demands that alternative investment specialists differentiate themselves. The CAIA designation is the **global mark of distinction** that immediately sets our members apart from everyone else in the field. In addition, the CAIA curriculum's focus on analysis, application and best practices sets an industry benchmark recognized and embraced by institutions, investors and regulators worldwide.

Industry Networking | In this field, the strength and breadth of one's professional network is crucial to success. Organized by area of specialization, the **Member Directory** enables individuals to communicate with fellow designees having expertise in a range of investment disciplines. The CAIA Association's network of **Global Chapters** furthers the opportunity to strengthen one's professional contacts, enhance membership bonds and provide a powerful voice in determining the future direction of the Association.

* Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association®, Inc. (hereinafter the "Association") is a Massachusetts non-profit corporation. The term "Member" refers only to those individuals who have met all of the Association's criteria for achieving the CAIA™ designation. The term "Member" is not to be construed as defined in Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts (governing non-profit corporations) or in any other context. While the Association's Members will not have statutory voting rights in the Association, such Members will have ample opportunity, and indeed are encouraged, to provide feedback to the Association. This Member input will be essential in determining the future policies and direction of the Association.

Alternative Investment Research | Staying on top of alternative investment developments presents a challenge in this fast-changing industry. To assist our membership, CAIA designees receive a complimentary subscription to the premier research journal for the alternative investment industry, *The Journal of Alternative Investments* — the official publication of the CAIA Association. Members also have access to the *AllAboutAlpha.com Knowledge Base*, a valuable research source, and receive special subscription and registration rates for numerous professional research materials and industry conferences.

CAIA Job Board | The CAIA Association facilitates job placement in the field of alternative investments through its online *Job Board*. As the industry continues to expand, so too does the need for qualified professionals. The Job Board enables financial institutions to alert CAIA designees to existing employment opportunities.

Additional Member Benefits | The CAIA Association is not alone in its commitment to ongoing education. Several professional organizations now offer continuing education credits and exam exemptions to individuals who successfully complete the CAIA program. Please inquire directly for a complete listing.



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The Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association® is a not-for-profit, independent, professional organization serving the global alternative investment industry and is the sponsoring body for the CAIA charter.

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