



QUINTEGE

Your Edge in Finance Careers

CPA & CMA Starter Kit

US CPA Evolution Model & CMA Exam Guide

2026 EDITION

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This guide is designed to be actionable. Each section includes specific data, templates, and step-by-step advice you can apply immediately. Bookmark the sections most relevant to your current stage.

✓ **This is a free resource from QuintEdge. Share it with friends and colleagues who might benefit.**

CPA & CMA Starter Kit

Everything you need to know about the US CPA and CMA certifications — eligibility, structure, and career paths.

US CPA Overview (2024 Evolution Model)

The CPA exam was redesigned in 2024 with a new structure:

Core Sections (3 mandatory):

- ✓ AUD: Auditing & Attestation
- ✓ FAR: Financial Accounting & Reporting
- ✓ REG: Taxation & Regulation

Discipline Sections (choose 1 of 3):

- ✓ BAR: Business Analysis & Reporting
- ✓ ISC: Information Systems & Controls
- ✓ TCP: Tax Compliance & Planning

CPA Eligibility for Indians

- ✓ Education: 150 credit hours required (bachelor's degree alone is usually 120)
- ✓ Solution: B.Com + M.Com usually meets 150 credit requirement
- ✓ Alternative: B.Com + additional courses from NASBA-recognized providers
- ✓ State Board: Each US state has different requirements — choose carefully
- ✓ Popular states for Indians: Illinois, Montana, Colorado, New Hampshire
- ✓ Credential evaluation: WES or FACS evaluation required (■20-30K)

CPA Fee Breakdown (INR Approximate)

Fee Component	Amount (INR)	Frequency
Credential Evaluation (WES)	■20,000-30,000	One-time
Application Fee	■10,000-20,000	Per state board
Exam Fee (per section)	■30,000-35,000	4 sections total
International Testing Fee	■40,000-45,000	Per section (Prometric India)
Ethics Exam	■12,000-15,000	Required for license
Total Approximate	■3,50,000-5,00,000	All-inclusive

US CMA Overview

The Certified Management Accountant (CMA) from IMA is a 2-part exam:

Part 1: Financial Planning, Performance, and Analytics

- ✓ External financial reporting, planning/budgeting, performance management
- ✓ Cost management, internal controls, technology & analytics

Part 2: Strategic Financial Management

- ✓ Financial statement analysis, corporate finance, decision analysis
- ✓ Risk management, investment decisions, professional ethics

IMA Registration & Fees (INR)

Component	Amount (INR)	Notes
IMA Membership	■20,000/yr	Professional rate
IMA Student Membership	■3,500/yr	If currently a student
CMA Entrance Fee	■20,000	One-time
Exam Fee (per part)	■35,000	2 parts total
Total (Professional)	■1,10,000	First year total
Total (Student)	■94,000	First year total

CPA vs CMA Decision Guide

Parameter	US CPA	US CMA
Focus	Financial accounting & audit	Management accounting & strategy
Exam Parts	4 sections	2 parts
Duration	12-18 months	6-12 months
Total Cost (INR)	■3.5-5L	■1-1.5L
Eligibility	150 credits (harder for Indians)	Bachelor's degree (easier)
Career Path	Big 4, US accounting, audit	FP&A;, corporate finance, strategy
India Value	MNC accounting, GBS centers	Corporate planning, FP&A;
Global Value	USA, Big 4 globally	MNCs worldwide

★ If choosing one: CPA for accounting/audit career (especially US-focused). CMA for corporate finance/FP&A; roles. Both together create a powerful combination for MNC roles.

Getting Started: Practical Next Steps

CPA State Board Selection Guide for Indians

- ✓ Illinois: Popular for Indians — accepts 3-year bachelor's degree with M.Com
- ✓ Montana: Relaxed education requirements — good for B.Com graduates
- ✓ Colorado: Accepts most Indian degrees with proper evaluation
- ✓ New Hampshire: Accepts applications without Social Security Number
- ✓ Key factors: Education credit requirements, experience requirements, international testing

CPA Exam Preparation Strategy

- ✓ Study order: FAR first (hardest, foundational), then AUD, then REG, then discipline
- ✓ Total study time: 300-400 hours across all 4 sections
- ✓ 30-month window: most state boards now give 30 months (extended from 18) to pass all 4 sections after your first pass — confirm with your board
- ✓ Study materials: Becker is the gold standard, but Roger and Surgent are good alternatives
- ✓ Practice MCQs extensively — CPA exam is heavily MCQ-based

CMA Exam Preparation Strategy

- ✓ Study order: Part 1 first, then Part 2 (Part 1 builds foundation for Part 2)
- ✓ Total study time: 150-200 hours per part
- ✓ CMA exam has essays: Practice writing structured answers under time pressure
- ✓ Gleim and UWorld (formerly Wiley) are the most popular CMA prep providers
- ✓ Pass rate is ~45% — respect the difficulty and prepare accordingly

Career Paths After CPA/CMA

- ✓ CPA in India: US MNC subsidiaries, GBS/SSC centers, Big 4 US practice
- ✓ CPA abroad: Any US accounting role, public accounting, corporate accounting
- ✓ CMA in India: FP&A; roles, corporate planning, management consulting
- ✓ CMA abroad: Cost management, strategic planning, controller positions
- ✓ CPA + CMA: Most versatile accounting profile for global MNC careers

How QuintEdge Gives You the Edge

QuintEdge is one of India's fastest-growing finance education platforms, trusted by over 50,000 students across Delhi, Mumbai, and online cohorts. Here's what sets our coaching apart.

50,000+ Students Trained

Across CFA, FRM, ACCA & Financial Modeling programs

88% CFA Pass Rate

Consistently above global average of ~44%

100% Practitioner Faculty

Every instructor works in finance — no full-time academics

4.8/5 Student Rating

Based on verified Google and course-end surveys

What You Get with QuintEdge Coaching

- ✓ AI-powered study notes that adapt to your learning pace and weak areas
- ✓ Live + recorded classes with unlimited doubt-clearing sessions
- ✓ Comprehensive mock exams modeled on actual exam patterns
- ✓ Dedicated mentorship from CFA/FRM/ACCA charterholders
- ✓ Placement support with resume reviews, mock interviews, and recruiter connects
- ✓ Flexible batch timings — morning, evening, and weekend options
- ✓ Study groups and peer learning communities on WhatsApp/Telegram

★ Students who complete QuintEdge's full coaching program pass at nearly 2x the global average rate. Our structured approach eliminates guesswork.

QuintEdge: Programs & Outcomes

Our Course Offerings

Program	Coverage	Highlight	Learn More
CFA Program Coaching	Level 1, 2 & 3	88% pass rate	quintedge.com/cfa-coaching-classes/
FRM Program Coaching	Part 1 & 2	82% pass rate	quintedge.com/frm-coaching-classes/
ACCA Program Coaching	All 13 papers	78% pass rate	quintedge.com/acca-coaching-classes/
Financial Modeling	3-Statement, DCF, LBO	Job-ready skills	quintedge.com/financial-modeling-course-certification/

The QuintEdge Learning Experience

Phase 1: Foundation Building

- ✓ Diagnostic assessment to identify your starting level and knowledge gaps
- ✓ Personalized study plan created by your dedicated mentor
- ✓ Access to AI-powered study notes that highlight your weak areas

Phase 2: Structured Learning

- ✓ Live classes with industry practitioners (not academic theorists)
- ✓ Recorded sessions for revision — watch at 1.5x or 2x speed
- ✓ Weekly quizzes and topic tests to track progress
- ✓ Doubt-clearing sessions within 24 hours of raising a query

Phase 3: Exam Readiness

- ✓ Full-length mock exams under exam conditions
- ✓ Detailed score analysis with topic-wise breakdown
- ✓ One-on-one strategy sessions for the final 2 weeks before exam
- ✓ Last-mile revision notes covering high-frequency exam topics

Phase 4: Career Support

- ✓ Resume and LinkedIn profile review by hiring managers
- ✓ Mock interviews with industry professionals
- ✓ Job referrals through our network of 500+ corporate partners
- ✓ Lifetime access to the QuintEdge alumni network

Student Outcomes

- ✓ Average salary increase of 40-60% within 12 months of certification
- ✓ Graduates placed at Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Deloitte, EY, HDFC, ICICI, Kotak & more
- ✓ Active alumni network of 10,000+ working professionals across 15 countries

✓ 98% of students recommend QuintEdge to peers (NPS 72)

✓ **QuintEdge offers EMI options starting at ₹3,999/month. Scholarships available for meritorious students and those from economically weaker backgrounds.**

Ready to Start?

Contact us to learn about our CPA and CMA preparation guidance.

Enroll in QuintEdge Coaching

quintedge.com/cfa-coaching-classes/

Get in Touch

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[Scan the QR code on our website or call us for a free counseling session](#)

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