

# Essentials of Investment Consulting Certificate

**IMCA<sup>®</sup>**

investment  
management  
consultants  
association

## **Essentials of Investment Consulting Certificate**

Individuals who successfully complete this six month, online, self-study certificate program will gain fundamental knowledge of the core principles of the investment consulting process, and the ability to apply that knowledge.

## Program Overview:

Investment Management Consultants Association has developed a certificate program specifically for financial services professionals and support staff who wish to enhance their fundamental knowledge of core topics related to the investment consulting process.

The IMCA Essentials of Investment Consulting Certificate Program learning platform incorporates a comprehensive set of educational content and self-evaluation tools into an online, self-study environment. There are 12 learning modules organized within an online learning center, with each module offering the following:

- Required reading assignments available as online PDF articles, followed by a reading “checkpoint” designed to give learners a quick way to assess that they have captured the essential concepts within each module.
- An expert review of the key learning objectives within some modules, presented by industry leaders as a streaming or downloadable audio file with PowerPoint slides.
- An application assignment (to be used as a self-assessment tool).
- Ask-the-expert; real time assistance is available for students.

Participants must successfully pass three quizzes during the 12-module learning path in order to receive a certificate of completion. Each module is estimated to take 2–3 hours to complete, which may vary depending on the participant’s level of expertise. All participants will have six months from the date of registration to complete the program.

## Program Objectives:

The program educates financial services professionals and support staff on fundamental knowledge of the core topics related to the investment consulting process: mathematics of managing money and building portfolios; understanding the various types of investments; how to select managers, measure performance, and monitor results; and how to set and implement investment strategies using investment policy statements as a guide.

## Continuing Education:

The IMCA Essentials of Investment Consulting Certificate Program offers entry-level investment consulting information that is not appropriate for existing CIMA® and CIMC® professionals. Contact IMCA for more information about continuing education credit for CIMA, CIMC, and CPWA<sup>SM</sup> designees. The program has been pre-approved for up to seven hours of CFP® continuing education credit. IMCA is registered with NASBA as a sponsor of continuing professional education. Please note that this is a certificate program and successful completion does not result in a professional designation or credential.

## Information/Enrollment:

**303.770.3377 • [www.IMCA.ORG](http://www.IMCA.ORG)**

**5619 DTC Parkway, Suite 500  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111**

## Topic Highlights:

### Module 1: Algebra and Statistics

- Calculate mathematical problems using common notation, simple algebra, and basic statistics

### Module 2: Time Value of Money and Rates of Return

- Perform time value of money calculations and learn to calculate different rates of return

### Module 3: Fixed Income—Duration and Yield

- Perform various bond calculations

### Module 4: Measuring Risk

- Calculate risk using different models and formulas

### Module 5: Performance Measurement

- Measure a portfolio’s composite performance and risk

### Module 6: Capital Markets

- Describe the major characteristics of the capital markets, modern portfolio theory, and the efficient frontier and what they tell us about risk and return

### Module 7: Asset Allocation

- Describe the major asset classes, categories, styles, strategies, and structures

### Module 8: Alternative Investments

- Describe alternative investments including various types and structures

### Module 9: Investment Policy

- Describe the investment policy statement and the investment consultant/client relationship

### Module 10: Manager Search and Selection

- Describe the manager search and selection process

### Module 11: Due Diligence

- List key elements of IMCA’s, CFA Institute’s, and SEC’s performance reporting standards

### Module 12: Portfolio Evaluation

- Describe different benchmarking techniques and the role of performance attribution in portfolio evaluation