

# **CMA Entrance Examination**

Laying the Foundation for Tomorrow's Leaders



**Certified  
Management  
Accountants**

# CMA Program Overview

CMA Canada's accreditation process is unique, in that, it integrates a sound academic business education, verified through a rigorous national Entrance Examination, with a leading-edge professional development program and relevant practical experience. This powerful combination enables CMAs to provide leadership, innovation and an integrating perspective to organizational decision making in the global marketplace.

## CMA® Competency Map

The CMA Competency Map (the Map) uses functional and enabling competencies to define the combination of technical expertise and personal characteristics that are expected of CMAs—by employers, clients, members and candidates. Candidates are expected to acquire the specific body of knowledge and related career skills (through a career life-cycle approach) that support the development of the core competencies necessary to achieve the CMA designation.

### The functional competencies are:

- Strategic management
- Risk management and governance
- Performance management
- Performance measurement
- Financial management
- Financial reporting

### The enabling competencies are:

- Problem solving and decision making
- Leadership and group dynamics
- Professionalism and ethical behaviour
- Communication

### The four stages of the career life-cycle approach are:

- Competency Stage 1 (CS-1): Acquisition
- Competency Stage 2 (CS-2): Basic Proficiency
- Competency Stage 3 (CS-3): Advanced Proficiency
- Competency Stage 4 (CS-4): Mastery

Visit [www.cma-canada.org/competencymap](http://www.cma-canada.org/competencymap) for more information.

## The Entrance Examination

The objective of the Entrance Examination is to evaluate whether candidates have acquired the *Competency Stage 1 (CS-1): Acquisition* competencies indicated in the Map. These skills are acquired through structured academic studies at a recognized post-secondary institution or in a specialized program of instruction offered by a CMA Canada partner at the regional level.

The Entrance Examination will focus mainly on the technical skills of candidates within the six functional competencies through the use of multiple-choice questions.

### Design and Structure

The Entrance Examination is a single four-hour examination made up of 100 to 120 individual multiple-choice questions and

problem-based groups of multiple-choice questions (e.g. several questions are based on a common scenario). Not all questions are weighted equally.

### Testing Emphasis

The Entrance Examination will cover the six functional competencies within the following targets:

CS-1	Functional Competency	Range
F1	Strategic Management	5-15%
F2	Risk Management and Governance	5-15%
F3	Performance Management	20-30%
F4	Performance Measurement	10-20%
F5	Financial Management	10-20%
F6	Financial Reporting	15-25%

At least 85 per cent of the Entrance Examination will emphasize the core topics of Management Accounting, Financial Accounting, Corporate Finance and Taxation in the applicable functional competency.

### What is the Pass Mark on the Entrance Examination?

The pass mark on the examination is 60 per cent and the examination must be successfully completed to be eligible to enter the CMA Strategic Leadership Program.

### Supplementary Studies and Examination Preparation

Some candidates may be required to undertake supplementary studies to meet the eligibility requirements and to prepare for the Entrance Examination. Please contact your nearest CMA Canada regional office for more information.

### Entrance Examination Dates

The Entrance Examination is held twice each year, in June and October.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information on the Entrance Examination and eligibility requirements, contact your CMA Canada regional office or visit [www.cma-canada.org](http://www.cma-canada.org).

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