




**NCGFOA Finance Officers' Certification Program**

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## Structure of the Certification Program

- Sponsored by the NC Government Finance Officers' Association
- Not a School of Government program
  - Program bylaws were developed and are occasionally amended by NCGFOA-appointed certification committee
  - SOG administers the program and offers courses required by the bylaws



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## Who is eligible to potentially be certified?

- Designated finance officer of a local government/public authority/school system
  - One year as finance officer
  - One additional year in government finance, OR
- Local government finance experience
  - At least two years in NC
  - Two additional years in government finance

## Experience Waivers? Certification Transfers?

- Masters or doctoral degree replaces one year of experience
- CPA replaces one year of experience
- Finance certifications from another state OR the national GFOA certification program may not be in lieu of this program

## Course Requirements

- At least FOUR of the following five courses:
  - Introduction to Local Government Finance
  - Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting
  - Budgeting in Local Government AND Capital Finance in Local (collectively considered one)
  - Cash Management and Investment of Public Funds
  - Fundamental Supervisory Practices (formerly known as Effective Supervisory Management)

## Course Requirements (cont).

- Waivers
  - Municipal and County Administration waivers Introduction to Local Government Finance
  - Three to six years of NC government finance experience = one course
  - 6+ years of NC government finance experience = two courses
  - Other courses waived by the Certification Committee

## Exams

- 4 exams
  - Governmental Accounting & Financial Reporting
  - Cash Management & Investment in Public Funds
  - Budgeting (includes capital financing)
  - Financial & Supervisory Management
- Exams are offered twice annually online
  - Last consecutive Thursday and Friday of May and October



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## Certification and Renewals

- ALL initial certification periods begin the January 1<sup>st</sup> *following* successful completion of all requirements
- Certifications are for five-year periods
- Primary renewal requirement is continuing professional educational requirements
  - 100 hours (50 minute hours) over the five-year period



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## Resources

- *Death & Taxes* blogposts
  - *Are You Certifiable 2.0?*  
(<https://deathandtaxes.snc.edu/are-you-certifiable-2-0/#more-1333>)
  - *Yay!! I'm Certified!! Now What?*  
(<https://deathandtaxes.sog.unc.edu/author/allison/page/2/>)