



FINANCIAL PLANNING STANDARDS BOARD


## Financial Planning Standards Board Ltd. Frequently Asked Questions

### ABOUT FPSB

#### What is FPSB?

Financial Planning Standards Board Ltd. (FPSB) is the global, professional standards-setting organization for the financial planning profession. A nonprofit organization, FPSB works to promote global excellence in financial planning.

#### What is FPSB's mission?

FPSB benefits the clients and potential clients of financial planners by establishing, upholding and promoting worldwide professional standards in financial planning. FPSB's commitment to excellence is represented by the marks of professional distinction CFP, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER and .

#### What is FPSB's vision?

To establish financial planning as a distinct global profession, with the CFP Marks as its symbol of excellence.

#### What does FPSB do?

FPSB creates internationally relevant, high-level professional standards for financial planning professionals so:

- The public can identify qualified financial planners;
- Practitioners can take the next step toward becoming trusted financial planning professionals; and
- Consumers and regulators can have confidence in the financial planning profession.

FPSB also owns the CFP, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER and  marks outside the United States.

#### How is FPSB governed?

FPSB's Board of Directors consists of up to 12 voting directors and FPSB's CEO, who is a non-voting director. One representative from each FPSB member organization offering CFP certification sits as a voting member of the FPSB Council, a global body that provides support and counsel to FPSB's Board of Directors. Organizations that are preparing to offer CFP certification do not have voting privileges.

#### When was FPSB founded?

FPSB was formed on 1 December 2004.

#### Is FPSB a nonprofit?


Yes, FPSB is a nonprofit organization. FPSB received its 501(c)(6) nonprofit association tax status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service in May 2004.

### **Where are FPSB's Member organizations located?**


FPSB has 24 nonprofit member organizations around the world that offer, or are preparing to offer, CFP certification, including: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

## **ABOUT THE CFP MARKS AND CFP CERTIFICATION**

### **What are the CFP Marks?**

The CFP marks identify financial planning professionals who have earned CFP certification and are the only globally recognized mark of professionalism for financial planners. The CFP trademarks include CFP, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER and .

### **Who owns the CFP Marks?**

FPSB owns the CFP, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER and  marks outside the United States. Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (CFP Board) owns the CFP Marks in the United States.

### **Who can use the CFP Marks?**

Individuals who have earned their CFP certification and meet appropriate certification and renewal standards are authorized to use the CFP Marks only in the territory in which they are certified.

### **What is CFP certification?**

CFP certification is a voluntary certification program that requires financial planning professionals to meet rigorous competency, ethics and professional practice standards to provide financial planning services to clients. CFP certification is the hallmark of global excellence in financial planning.

### **Who offers CFP certification?**

FPSB Members who meet and maintain FPSB's requirements and standards are authorized to administer the CFP certification program on behalf of FPSB. FPSB Members offer CFP certification in 23 territories around the world. FPSB's Associate member in Colombia is in the process of preparing its program offering and does not yet offer CFP certification.

### **What is FPSB's relationship to CFP Board?**

FPSB and CFP Board are the two owners of the CFP Marks. FPSB owns the CFP Marks outside the United States, and guides the development and expansion of international standards for the CFP certification program and professional delivery of financial planning. As the U.S. marks owner, CFP Board develops and enforces standards for CFP certification within the United States.

## **ABOUT FPSB'S GLOBAL STANDARDS**

### **What are FPSB's global standards?**

The international CFP certification programs are based on FPSB's global framework for financial planning professionalism. FPSB has developed the following standards, frameworks and guidance documents to assist certifying bodies, financial planning professionals, and candidates for CFP certification worldwide:

- Financial Planner Competency Profile
- Financial Planner Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Financial Planning Practice Standards
- Financial Planner Work Experience Standard
- Financial Planner Continuing Professional Development Standard
- Financial Planner Assessment Framework
- Financial Planning Curriculum Framework
- Financial Plan Framework
- Model Rules of Conduct for CFP Professionals
- Guidance for Candidates Developing a Financial Plan
- Guidance for Certifying Bodies Developing a Financial Plan Case Study
- Guidance on Developing a Financial Planner Work Experience Portfolio
- Guidance on Supervision of Financial Planner Work Experience
- Guidance on Implementing FPSB's Financial Planning Curriculum Framework

### **How does FPSB set its global standards?**

FPSB develops standards via an extensive, consultative process that involves expert working group members consisting of educators, certification specialists, practicing financial planners and published authors on the subject of financial planning, along with FPSB Member organizations.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Visit [fpsb.org](http://fpsb.org) for more information.

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