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Course Information

Course Title: *Guide to the Financial Markets*

#374724

Number of continuing education credit hours recommended for this course:

In accordance with the standards of the CFP Board, the IDFA, and the National Registry of CPE Sponsors CPE credits have been granted based on a 50-minute hour.

CFP®: 2 CFP Board of Standards Sponsor ID Number: 1008.

CDFA®: 2 Registered with the Institute for Divorce Financial Analysts.

CIMA®, CPWA®, RMA®: 3 Course # 24BCNHF005, IWI CE Sponsor ID# 222740

CPA: 3 (Accepted in all states)

Sponsor numbers for states requiring sponsor registration

Florida Division of Certified Public Accountancy: 0004761 (Ethics #0011467)

Hawaii Board of Accountancy: 14003

New York State Board of Accountancy: 002146

Ohio State Board of Accountancy: CPE .51PSR

Pennsylvania Board of Accountancy: PX178025

Texas State Board of Accountancy: 009349

Course Description

The financial markets support the worldwide economic system, so it makes sense to have a basic understanding of how they operate. In the *Guide to the Financial Markets* course, we explore the major financial markets, including the bond, equity, foreign exchange, futures, international debt, and money markets. The course addresses such matters as how bonds are sold, the yield curve, the requirements of the different stock exchanges, dark pool trading, short selling, foreign exchange investing strategies, futures contracts, sweep accounts, and repurchase agreements. This guide is useful for those professionals who want to learn more about the financial markets.

Course Content

Publication/Revision date: 2/1/2024.

Author: Steven M. Bragg, CPA.

Final exam (online): Fifteen questions (multiple-choice).

Program Delivery Method: Self-Study (NASBA QAS).

Subject Codes/Field of Study

NASBA (CPA): Finance; CFP Board, IDFA: Investment Planning; IWI: Technical Investment Management.

Course Level, Prerequisites, and Advance Preparation Requirements

Program level: Overview.

Prerequisites: None.

Advance Preparation: None.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the parties that invest in the financial markets.
- Recall the characteristics of a successful financial market.
- Recognize the issues that can impact the prices of the different types of securities.
- Recall the different types of bond credit ratings, and what they represent.
- Recognize the characteristics of the over-the-counter bulletin board.
- Recall when securities are listed on the Pink Sheets.
- Recognize the characteristics of dark pools.
- Specify the process used to take a company public.
- Recall the reasons why a business might conduct a stock buyback.
- Recognize the process by which shares are sold short.
- Recall the best practices for investing in stocks.
- Recognize the characteristics of a futures contract.
- Specify the types of commodities that are traded on futures exchanges.
- Recall the characteristics of the money market.

Instructions for Taking This Course

- **Log in to your secure account at www.bhfe.com. Go to "My Account."**
- **You must complete this course within one year** of purchase (If the course is "Expired," contact us and we will add the latest edition of the course to your account (no charge).
- **To retain the course-PDF after completion (for future reference) and to enable enhanced navigation:** From "My Account," Download and save the course-PDF to your computer. This will enable the search function (Menu: Edit>Find) and bookmarks (icon on left side of document window).
- **Complete the course by** following the learning objectives listed for the course, studying the text, and, if included, studying the review questions at the end of each major section (or at the end of the course).
- **Once you have completed studying the course** and you are confident that the learning objectives have been met, answer the final exam questions (online).

Instructions for Taking the Online Exam

- **Log in to your secure account at www.bhfe.com. Go to "My Account."**
- A passing grade of at least **70%** is required on the exam for this course.
- You will have three attempts to pass the exam (call or email us after three unsuccessful attempts for instructions).
- The exam is not timed, and it does not need to be completed in one session.
- For a printed copy of the exam questions, open the exam and press "Print Exam."
- Once you pass the exam, the results (correct/incorrect answers) and certificate of completion appear in "My Account." A confirmation email is also sent.
- CFP Board and IRS credit hours, if applicable, are reported on Tuesdays and at the end of the month.

Have a question? Call us at 800-588-7039 or email us at contact@bhfe.com.

About the Author

Steven Bragg, CPA, has been the chief financial officer or controller of four companies, as well as a consulting manager at Ernst & Young. He received a master's degree in finance from Bentley College, an MBA from Babson College, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Maine. He has been a two-time president of the Colorado Mountain Club, and is an avid alpine skier, mountain biker, and certified master diver. Mr. Bragg resides in Centennial, Colorado. He has written more than 250 books and courses, including *New Controller Guidebook*, *GAAP Guidebook*, and *Payroll Management*.

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