



CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC.

2015 Principal Knowledge Topics (72 Topics)

The following Principal Knowledge Topics are based on the results of CFP Board's 2015 Job Analysis Study.

The Principal Knowledge Topics serve as the blueprint for the March 2016 and later administrations of the CFP® Certification Examination. Each exam question will be linked to one of the following Principal Knowledge Topics, in the approximate percentages indicated following the general category headings.

The Principal Knowledge Topics serve as a curricular framework and also represent subject topics that CFP Board accepts for continuing education credit, effective January 2016.

Eight Principal Knowledge Topic Categories

- A. Professional Conduct and Regulation (7%)
- B. General Financial Planning Principles (17%)
- C. Education Planning (6%)
- D. Risk Management and Insurance Planning (12%)
- E. Investment Planning (17%)
- F. Tax Planning (12%)
- G. Retirement Savings and Income Planning (17%)
- H. Estate Planning (12%)

A. Professional Conduct and Regulation

- A.1. CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility and Rules of Conduct
- A.2. CFP Board's Financial Planning Practice Standards
- A.3. CFP Board's Disciplinary Rules and Procedures
- A.4. Function, purpose, and regulation of financial institutions
- A.5. Financial services regulations and requirements
- A.6. Consumer protection laws
- A.7. Fiduciary

**Professional
Conduct &
Regulation**



B. General Principles of Financial Planning

- B.8. Financial planning process
- B.9. Financial statements
- B.10. Cash flow management
- B.11. Financing strategies
- B.12. Economic concepts
- B.13. Time value of money concepts and calculations
- B.14. Client and planner attitudes, values, biases and behavioral finance
- B.15. Principles of communication and counseling
- B.16. Debt management

General Financial Planning Principles



C. Education Planning

- C.17. Education needs analysis
- C.18. Education savings vehicles
- C.19. Financial aid
- C.20. Gift/income tax strategies
- C.21. Education financing

Education Planning



D. Risk Management and Insurance Planning

- D.22. Principles of risk and insurance
- D.23. Analysis and evaluation of risk exposures
- D.24. Health insurance and health care cost management (individual)
- D.25. Disability income insurance (individual)
- D.26. Long-term care insurance (individual)
- D.27. Annuities
- D.28. Life insurance (individual)
- D.29. Business uses of insurance
- D.30. Insurance needs analysis
- D.31. Insurance policy and company selection
- D.32. Property and casualty insurance

Risk Management & Insurance Planning



E. Investment Planning

- E.33. Characteristics, uses and taxation of investment vehicles
- E.34. Types of investment risk
- E.35. Quantitative investment concepts
- E.36. Measures of investment returns
- E.37. Asset allocation and portfolio diversification
- E.38. Bond and stock valuation concepts
- E.39. Portfolio development and analysis
- E.40. Investment strategies
- E.41. Alternative investments

Investment Planning



F. Tax Planning

- F.42. Fundamental tax law
- F.43. Income tax fundamentals and calculations
- F.44. Characteristics and income taxation of business entities
- F.45. Income taxation of trusts and estates
- F.46. Alternative minimum tax (AMT)
- F.47. Tax reduction/management techniques
- F.48. Tax consequences of property transactions
- F.49. Passive activity and at-risk rules
- F.50. Tax implications of special circumstances
- F.51. Charitable/philanthropic contributions and deductions

Tax Planning



G. Retirement Savings and Income Planning

- G.52. Retirement needs analysis
- G.53. Social Security and Medicare
- G.54. Medicaid
- G.55. Types of retirement plans
- G.56. Qualified plan rules and options
- G.57. Other tax-advantaged retirement plans
- G.58. Regulatory considerations
- G.59. Key factors affecting plan selection for businesses

Retirement Savings & Income Planning



- G.60. Distribution rules and taxation
- G.61. Retirement income and distribution strategies
- G.62. Business succession planning

H. Estate Planning

- H.63. Characteristics and consequences of property titling
- H.64. Strategies to transfer property
- H.65. Estate planning documents
- H.66. Gift and estate tax compliance and tax calculation
- H.67. Sources for estate liquidity
- H.68. Types, features, and taxation of trusts
- H.69. Marital deduction
- H.70. Intra-family and other business transfer techniques
- H.71. Postmortem estate planning techniques
- H.72. Estate planning for non-traditional relationships



Contextual Variables

In addition to the Principal Knowledge Topics, other important variables are to be considered when dealing with specific financial planning situations. These are referred to as “Contextual Variables” and are used as part of content development for the CFP® Certification Examination or other case-based scenarios.

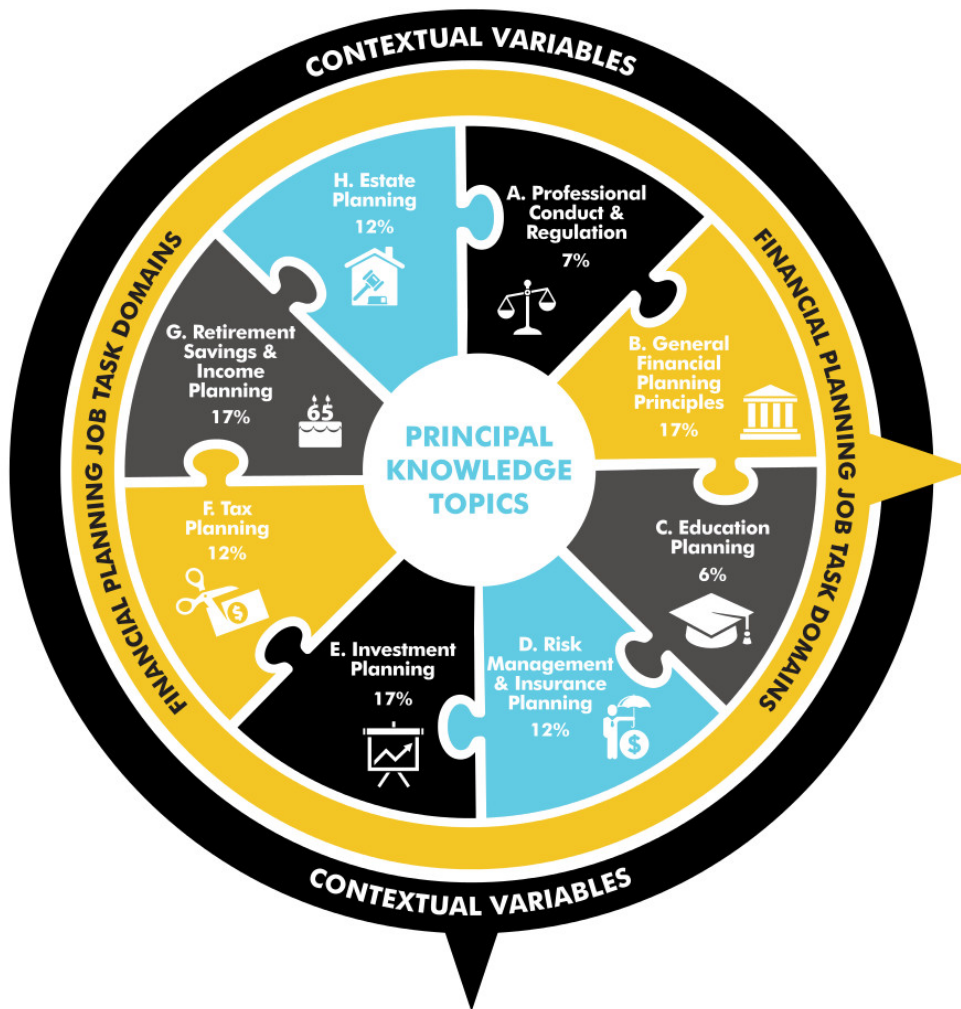
More specifically, financial planning situations require the application of financial planning knowledge for different types of clients. Important client details to consider as part of financial planning situations are:

- **Family Status** (traditional family, single parent, same-sex couples, blended families, widowhood)
- **Net Worth** (ultra-high net worth, high net worth, mass affluent, emerging affluent, mass market)
- **Income Level** (high, medium, low)
- **Life or Professional Stage** (student, starting a career, career transition, pre-retirement, retirement)
- **Other Circumstances** (health issues, divorce, change of employment status, aging parents, special needs children)

CFP BOARD

2015 JOB TASK ANALYSIS

EXAMINATION AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS



FINANCIAL PLANNING JOB TASK DOMAINS

- 1 Establishing & Defining the Client-Planner Relationship
- 2 Gathering Information Necessary to Fulfill the Engagement
- 3 Analyzing & Evaluating the Client's Current Financial Status
- 4 Developing the Recommendation(s)
- 5 Communicating the Recommendation(s)
- 6 Implementing the Recommendation(s)
- 7 Monitoring the Recommendation(s)
- 8 Practicing Within Professional & Regulatory Standards

CONTEXTUAL VARIABLES

<p>FAMILY STATUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional family Single parent Same-sex couples Blended families Widowhood 	<p>NET WORTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra-high net worth High net worth Mass affluent Emerging affluent Mass market 	<p>INCOME LEVEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Medium Low 	<p>LIFE OR PROFESSIONAL STAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Starting a career Career transition Pre-retirement Retirement 	<p>OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health issues Divorce Change of employment status Aging parents Special needs children 
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