



# CDFM vs DFMCP

## Equip Yourself for Success in Defense Financial Management

### Complementary Certifications:

The CDFM and DFMCP are distinct programs designed to enhance your expertise and career prospects in defense financial management. Earning both demonstrates a superior level of knowledge in the field.

### Alternative Pathway:

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) policy memorandum, released in January 2021, allows Financial Management (FM) workforce members to pursue the CDFM as an alternative to any of the three DFMCP levels.

### Certified Defense Financial Manager

A test-based certification verifying your broad-based expertise across all DFMCP competency areas based on passing three diverse, demanding exams

Completely voluntary, displaying your initiative and drive to be the best

A portable credential, demonstrating expertise to employers in both the public and private sector

One of 5 test-based certifications approved by OUSD(O) as an alternative to any of the three DFMCP levels

### DoD Financial Management Certification

A training-based credential signifying your successful completion of a set of topic-specific training courses determined by your job series

Mandatory for DoD-employed financial managers in certain job series

A DoD-specific credential based on an employee's current job role and career level, cannot be used in public sector

OUSD(C) recommends a test-based certification, such as the CDFM, for people holding DFMCP2 and DFMCP3

*Education and training programs, including those provided by SDFM, can simultaneously meet the requirements for both CDFM CPEs and DFMCP CETs, providing twice the impact on your career from each training course you complete!*

“DFMCP certification reflects that you have obtained a minimal amount of course based training in the FM competencies required for certification. However, obtaining a test-based certification, such as [the] CDFM...shows that you have obtained enough expertise in FM policy and functions to...pass a rigorous exam. They are two different types of certifications with different focuses and both are an important part of career development.”

### Glenda Scheiner, DFMCP3, CDFM-A

Former Director of the DFMCP- responsible for the development and implementation of the DFMCP; Current Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel and Services, Department of the Air Force

### Questions?



Contact our team at [certification@sdfm.org](mailto:certification@sdfm.org) or visit [sdfm.org/cdfm-overview/](https://sdfm.org/cdfm-overview/) to learn more about the CDFM.

### Society of Defense Financial Management Advancing the Mission of National Security

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