

# CDFM *VS* DFMCP



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We receive a lot of questions about the differences between the Certified Defense Financial Manager™ (CDFM) credential and the DoD Financial Management Certification Program (DFMCP)—and we're here to answer them!

First, we want you to know that the DFMCP and the CDFM are vastly different from one another. In fact, they are complementary credentials that, together, showcase your superior level of professional knowledge and help you thrive in the defense financial management field.

However, if you only desire to hold one of the two credentials, you should know that OUSD(C) released an exception to policy memorandum in January 2021 which allows FM workforce members to earn and maintain the CDFM as an alternative to any of the three DFMCP levels.

So, what are the primary differences between the CDFM and the DFMCP? Both are valuable credentials designed to expand your knowledge and advance your career.

Take a look at these facts to learn more:

## 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(C) 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 ASMC, 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, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DFMCP

Questions?

Contact our team at [certification@asmconline.org](mailto:certification@asmconline.org) or visit [asmconline.org/CDFM](http://asmconline.org/CDFM) to learn more about the CDFM.

