



Investment Certifications and IIROC's Glossary of Financial Certifications

If an advisor represents that she or he has special expertise, a certification or a financial designation, you should make sure you understand what the certificate or designation means and the requirements for obtaining and maintaining the certificate or designation. The criteria used by organizations that grant financial certificates and designations vary greatly from rigorous to nothing at all. To use certain certifications or designations, an individual may need to pass exams, meet ethical standards, have relevant work experience, and undertake continuing education. Other certifications and designations, however, may be obtained with little time, effort, and experience.

To assist in your background research, IIROC maintains a Glossary of Financial Certifications which provides basic information regarding certificates and designations commonly used within the Canadian financial services industry.

Please note that we are using the general term “advisor” to refer to a number of official regulatory approval categories such as Registered Representative and Investment Representative. “Advisor” is not, however, an official IIROC approval category for individuals working at IIROC-regulated firms and is not being used to represent an official registration category.

The Glossary of Financial Certifications is by no means inclusive of all financial designations and specifically does not include certifications and designations related to business degrees from accredited colleges and universities. Representatives of organizations issuing financial designations may submit their securities or investment designation for possible inclusion in IIROC's Glossary of Financial Certifications by contacting: registration@iiroc.ca. IIROC reserves the right to determine which certifications and designations are appropriate for inclusion in IIROC's Glossary of Financial Certifications.

You can find information by contacting the issuing organization of the certificate or designation and asking whether the individual is currently authorized to use the certificate or designation and whether they've been disciplined, assuming the issuing organization has a public disciplinary process. Additional information and details can also be found by visiting the website of the issuing organization.