



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXAMINER HIRING-RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Thank you for your interest in employment with the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI). The State of California's hiring process requires you to first take an exam/assessment to be eligible to apply for a job. The Financial Institutions Examiner is the DFPI's entry level job/classification. Following are frequently asked questions regarding the Financial Institutions Examiner hiring-recruitment process.

For additional information on the State's hiring process and/or to view a current listing of job vacancies and exam/assessments with the State of California, please visit CalCareers at: www.calcareers.ca.gov.

How do I become a State employee?

California has a merit-based civil service selection system. This ensures the State of California hires and promotes people based on job-related qualifications. Before you can work for the State, you need to take and pass an exam/assessment for the job/classification (e.g. Financial Institutions Examiner, etc.) you are interested in. You must meet the minimum qualifications (education and/or experience requirements) listed on the exam/assessment bulletin of the classification to be admitted into the exam/assessment. You can only take an exam/assessment if you meet the minimum qualifications. If you do not meet the minimum qualifications, you cannot take the exam/assessment for that classification.

To search for exams/assessments currently being administered by the State, please visit the California Department of Human Resources' (CalHR) CalCareers website at: www.calcareers.ca.gov. Passing an exam/assessment means you are eligible to be hired for that classification (e.g. Financial Institutions Examiner, etc.). Once you have successfully passed an exam/assessment, you will be notified of your score and ranking. Your name will be placed on an eligible list in rank order and will remain there until the eligible list expires, you place yourself inactive, a new exam/assessment is administered, or you are hired permanent full-time. Eligible lists are used to fill job vacancies. As your rank becomes reachable, you will be notified of job vacancies and may be invited to participate in a hiring interview if you are interested in the job vacancy. This does not mean that you cannot apply for job vacancies unless you are contacted by a State department. If you meet the minimum qualifications for the classification and you have successfully passed the exam/assessment, you can apply for any job vacancy in that classification. Remember, you must pass an exam/assessment for each classification you want to apply for.

Can anyone compete in the exam/assessment for the Financial Institutions Examiner classification?

As stated above, to compete in an exam/assessment you must meet the minimum qualifications (education and/or experience requirements) listed on the exam/assessment bulletin of the classification. The Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment bulletin can be found on CalCareers' website at: www.calcareers.ca.gov and on DFPI's website at: www.dfpi.ca.gov/careers/. If you meet the minimum qualifications for the Financial Institutions Examiner classification, you are encouraged to apply.

The class specification (job description) also contains the minimum qualifications for admittance into the exam/assessment. The class specification is the legal document for the classification and states how the classification is used in general, identifies the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities, minimum qualifications required, and other pertinent classification information. Class specifications (job descriptions) can be found on the CalCareers website at: <https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHRPublic/Tools/ClassSalarySearch.aspx>

For your reference, the minimum qualifications for the Financial Institutions Examiner classification are listed on the last page of this document.

How do I apply for the Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment if I meet the minimum qualifications?

You must review the exam/assessment bulletin for specific instructions on "How to Apply". The [Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment](#) is an open continuous file exam/assessment administered by CalHR. You can apply for the exam/assessment on-line at: <https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Exams/ExamBulletin.aspx?ExamControlld=1606> (Note: This exam/assessment is administered by CalHR. The DFPI does not accept applications for the Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment.)

What can I do to prepare for the Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment?

As with any exam/assessment, it is important to be prepared. While there is no study guide for the [Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment](#), the more knowledge you have about the exam/assessment process as well as the classification, the better prepared you will be during the exam/assessment. Following are critical steps to assist you in preparing for an exam/assessment:

- Read the entire exam/assessment bulletin. Pay special attention to the section titled, "Examination Scope." This section will explain what type of exam/assessment component will be administered (e.g. Training and Experience Evaluation, etc.). This section will also explain the scope of the exam/assessment. The scope identifies the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities required to be successful on the job. It is very important that you are familiar with the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities of the classification because they are the basis for the exam/assessment questions.
- Review and study the class specification (job description). This is the legal document for the classification and states how the classification is used in general, identifies the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities required, and lists any other pertinent classification information. Class specifications can be found on the CalCareers website at: <https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHRPublic/Tools/ClassSalarySearch.aspx>

When will I receive my results/score after taking the Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment?

If you participate in the Financial Institutions Examiner exam/assessment administered by the CalHR, you will receive your score on-line upon completion of the on-line Qualifications Assessment process.

How do I find out where job vacancies exist after passing the exam/assessment?

You may conduct a job vacancy search on the CalCareers website at: www.calcareers.ca.gov. All State departments post job vacancies on the CalCareers website. The DFPI also posts its job vacancies on the DFPI's website at: www.dfpi.ca.gov/careers/. You must follow the filing instructions for each job vacancy and ensure your application is submitted/postmarked by the final filing date specified on the job vacancy announcement. Please note: To be considered for a job vacancy with the State of California, you must meet the minimum qualifications and either (1) have taken an exam/assessment for the particular classification; or (2) be a current State employee; or (3) have worked for the State in a civil service position.

How long is my list eligibility active after passing the exam/assessment?

If you are successful in an exam/assessment, your name will be placed on an eligible list for the classification tested for, thereby establishing list eligibility. Your list eligibility will expire after a certain timeframe. (This timeframe is specified on the exam/assessment bulletin of the classification you tested for and on your CalCareers eligibility record.) If you are not hired within that timeframe, you will need to take the exam/assessment again to reestablish your list eligibility. The Financial Institutions Examiner eligibility is one year (12 months).

What does it mean to be in the "top three ranks" on a certification list?

Names on an eligible list are listed in order of rank. Your rank is determined by your score. Candidates in the top three rank classes are considered "reachable" for hire and will be contacted by State departments for job vacancies. As those candidates are hired, decline positions, or become inactive, candidates in lower ranks will move up the list. This does not mean that you cannot apply for job vacancies unless you are contacted by a State department. If you meet the minimum qualifications for the classification and you have successfully passed the exam/assessment, you can apply for any job vacancy in that classification.

For additional information on the State's hiring process and/or to view a current listing of job vacancies and exam/assessments with the State of California, please visit CalCareers at www.calcareers.ca.gov. For questions regarding Financial Institutions Examiner job opportunities and the hiring-recruitment process, please contact the DFPI's, Career Outreach and Development Unit, via e-mail at: careers@dfpi.ca.gov.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXAMINER MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Either I

Education: Equivalent to graduation from college with a specialization in accounting, business administration, economics, finance, or a related business/management specialization. (Registration as a senior in a recognized institution will admit applicants to the examination, but they must produce evidence of graduation or its equivalent before they can be considered eligible for appointment.)

Or II

Completion of a prescribed professional accounting curriculum given by a residence or correspondence school of accountancy, including courses in elementary and advanced or intermediate accounting, auditing, cost accounting, and business law.

Or III

Completion of the equivalent of 16 semester hours of professional accounting courses given by a collegiate-grade residence institution, including courses in elementary and advanced or intermediate accounting, auditing, and cost accounting; and three semester hours of business law. (Persons who will complete course work requirements outlined under II and III above during the current quarter or semester will be admitted to the examination, but they must produce evidence of successful completion of the curriculum and the prescribed courses before they may be considered eligible for appointment.)

If you meet the minimum qualifications for the Financial Institutions Examiner classification, you are encouraged to apply for the exam/assessment at: <https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Exams/ExamBulletin.aspx?ExamControlId=1606>

The Department of Financial Protection and Innovation is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right to family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.