



Certification Testimonial

by Geoffrey Bretches, CHFP, CMPE

Last year the HFMA South Texas Chapter made a generous offer to all chapter members. We were offered a CHFP exam preparation course in the form of a series of live, interactive webinars, and the hardcopy study guide materials to go with it for no charge if we would purchase and complete the HFMA online course. Additionally, we were offered to be reimbursed for the CHFP exam should we pass the course by the end of February this year. The offer from our chapter was valued at \$1,800, quite an investment in chapter members willing to study for the exam.

I took the offer. Our Chapter Certification Chair, Joe Topinka, met me for lunch, encouraged me, and got me to commit by signing a course commitment form. (Sneaky!) Joe hosted each of the four class webinars and accompanying industry leader lunch sessions over the internet, encouraged each student, answered our questions, kept track of our progress, and made sure we had everything we needed for preparing for the exam, warning us that this was not an easy exam to pass.

The course study guide was written by Oregon Chapter's Christoph Stauder who taught the course. The guide included instruction in the body of knowledge required for certification; financial theory, financial analysis, compliance, budgeting, contracting and revenue cycle, via reading, case studies, and industry articles. Mr. Stauder explained the concepts necessary for passing the exam as he led us through the materials and through case study examples.

Prepared by the best, I took the CHFP exam at the Austin Community College proctoring center as scheduled through Castle Worldwide. I had taken other certification tests at this proctor center and found it a great place to focus and pound through an exam. Four hours were allowed. I finished in 2.5 hours, and then used an hour to go over the computation questions checking my math for the last time. With a sense of trepidation I hit the exam finish tab and winced as the screen flashed the Castle Worldwide feedback form to fill out! My heart skipped a beat on that one. Feedback finished I hit the finish key again and to my relief the results came back, "Passed!"

Our chapter rocks! This CHFP prep course by Christoph Stauder is top notch. Joe Topinka and Christoph Stauder are great teachers and supporters! I am very happy to have passed the exam and my certificate is already on the wall. Thank you Joe, Christoph, and the South Texas Chapter of HFMA! I look forward to becoming more connected in the chapter and to helping others prepare for the exam.

