

WHY BECOME A CERTIFIED QUALITY AUDITOR?

As a Certified Quality Auditor (CQA) you will understand the standards and principles of quality and the auditing techniques of examining, questioning, evaluating, and reporting to determine a quality system's adequacy and deficiencies. The CQA analyzes all elements of a quality system and assesses its degree of compliance (conformity) to established criteria and standards.

What New Skills and Techniques Will You Learn?

- Understand the various types of quality audits as well as the steps involved in planning, conducting, and closing out an audit.
- Improve communication skills by learning techniques for presenting, interviewing, and tactical conflict resolution.
- Analyze audit results and customer satisfaction to implement changes that resolve internal issues and improve processes.
- Learn how to utilize quality tools such as Pareto charts, flowcharts, and plan-do-check-act (PDCA) as well as process improvement techniques like Six Sigma.
- Identify methods for estimating, mitigating, and controlling risk: FMEA, HACCP, and CTQ.

What Is the Value to Your Company?

- CQAs provide confidence to your company that processes and procedures are assessed consistently in order to better implement effective changes.
- Employing a CQA professional will allow your company to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of actions taken by the auditee.
- A CQA provides insights to management on critical issues and effectively monitors compliance with standards.
- A CQA ensures that your company's policies, procedures, and practices meet the standards and requirements of customers and regulators.

What Is the Value to You?

- Provides you with an internationally recognized credential and validates your expertise and knowledge in planning, conducting, and reporting a quality audit, whether it is a quality system, process, or product audit.
- CQAs earn \$79k per year; compared to those without a certification who earn \$71k (national average).*

*Please see the current Quality Progress Salary Survey at: asq.org/qualityprogress/.



Qualifications and Requirements for CQA Certification

Candidates must have eight years of on-the-job experience in one or more of the areas of the body of knowledge. A minimum of three years of this experience must be in a decision-making position. Candidates must have worked in a full-time, paid role. Paid intern, co-op, or any other course work cannot be applied toward the work experience requirement.

Education

Candidates who have completed a degree from a college, university, or technical school can waive some part of the eight-year experience requirement as follows:

- Diploma from a technical or trade school—one year waived
- Associate's degree—two years waived
- Bachelor's degree—four years waived
- Master's or doctorate degree—five years waived

Quality Auditor Learning Resources and Certification Preparation

- Certified Quality Auditor Certification Preparation Training (on-site and online learning)
- *The ASQ Auditing Handbook, Fourth Edition*
- ASQ Audit Division—an ASQ professional network with 10,000+ members

Recertification Required?

Yes, every three years.

How to Enroll for Certification

Visit asq.org/cert

MARKETPLACE INFORMATION

COMMON JOB FUNCTIONS

Accountant
Operating Systems
Quality Assurance Professional
Quality Auditor
Quality Control Inspector
Quality Engineer
Quality Manager
Scientist
Specialist Project Manager
Supplier Quality Engineer
Testing Manager

COMMON INDUSTRIES

Accounting
Construction
Energy
Engineering
Finance and Insurance
Government
Information Technology
Manufacturing
Medical Devices
Retail
Transportation

Key Market Trends

- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the job market for employment auditors is projected to grow 11 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations.
- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of 2015 nearly two-thirds of all quality auditing positions were found in the manufacturing industry.