

# 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.

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## 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).\*

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\*Please see the current Quality Progress Salary Survey at: [asq.org/qualityprogress/](http://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](https://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.