



Celebrate The Holidays With Certification



By Gail Scarboro-Hritz, AS, CHFP

National certification is the holiday gift that keeps giving. Please consider giving yourself the gift of certification this year. The Certified Healthcare Financial Professional designation and the HFMA Fellow designation have been awarded to many of your friends and colleagues in HFMA and we want you in the ranks of certified members in the Georgia HFMA chapter. Certification is an achievement that enhances your career opportunities and distinguishes you among industry professionals. Please congratulate Georgia HFMA Chapter immediate past President Susan Clark on passing the Patient Financial Services exam at the Fall Institute in Savannah.

We are committed to providing you with education and study materials through the Georgia HFMA chapter national certification lending library and by conducting certification study sessions at Institutes. You need to take the first step by checking out or purchasing a CORE or Specialty Exam study guide. The 2009-2010 certification study guides for the CORE and Specialty exams are available for “check out” by contacting Barbara Noon at bnoon@bellsouth.net. Barbara is happy to assist you in acquiring these materials.

When the Chapter purchased the HFMA National Certification Coaching Course, a limited number of “free” applications were a part of the package. A few of these free applications remain available. Please contact Gail Scarboro-Hritz when you are ready to apply for an exam and she will send you one of the remaining free applications. These are available on a first come first served basis. They may be used to apply for a CORE exam or a specialty exam, including Accounting & Finance, Patient Financial Services, Managed Care, and/or Practice Management exams. Gail may be reached by phone at 404 274 6201 or by email at ghritz@ethospartnershc.com.

Please contact Gail Scarboro-Hritz if you would like to schedule a Study Buddies session in your area to prepare for the CORE or any of the specialty exams. For more information on Study Buddies sessions scheduled in the Atlanta area, please watch for Chapter email blasts and/or PR News updates.

Details about certification may be reviewed by going to www.hfma.org and clicking on the “certification” button on the left side of the page. The following conditions must be met to apply for the CHFP:

- Two years total as a regular HFMA member
- Two years of professional experience in the healthcare finance industry
- Sixty semester hours of college coursework from accredited institution or sixty professional development contact hours

- Successful completion of the HFMA Core certification exam
- Successful completion of one HFMA specialty certification exam (Specialty exams include: Accounting & Finance, Financial Management of Physician Practices, Managed Care, and Patient Financial Services)
- References from a current elected chapter officer and your CEO or supervisor
- Submission of conforming application with one-time fee within 24 months of successfully completing the first exam

The following conditions must be met to apply for the Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA) designation.

- Five years total as a regular or advanced HFMA member
- Bachelor degree or 120 semester hours from an accredited college or university
- Reference from an HFMA Fellow or current elected chapter officer
- Volunteer activity in healthcare finance within three years prior to applying for FHFMA, including one of the following:
 - ▶ Earn the Follmer Bronze Award
 - ▶ Volunteer in the chapter and earn two Founders points (under current system) for two consecutive years
 - ▶ Volunteer service for two years in a healthcare industry organization within the past three years
- Submission of conforming application with one-time fee

Both CHFP and FHFMA status may be maintained by earning 90 professional development contact hours every 3 years and retaining HFMA membership. All such professional development contact hours must be reported by you on the national web site, except those maintained by national directly for national educational events.

To discuss your interests in certification, please feel free to contact Gail or Barbara as follows.

*Gail Scarboro-Hritz at (404) 274 – 6201 or GHritz@ethospartnershc.com
Barbara Noon at (404) 316 – 2252 or BNoon@bellsouth.net*