

Investment Adviser Representative

Continuing Education

COURSE CATALOG



CE Requirements

The North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) has implemented a continuing education requirement for individuals who are qualified as investment adviser representatives (IARs). The requirement will help promote heightened regulatory compliance while also helping IARs remain knowledgeable of current regulatory requirements and best practices to better serve their clients.

IARs must complete 12 hours of NASAA-approved CE courses on an annual basis. The 12 hours consist of the following:

- 6 credits in Products and Practices
- 6 credits in Ethics and Professional Responsibility

However, an IAR who's also an agent of a FINRA member firm (i.e., one who's dually registered) and is in compliance with FINRA's CE requirement may be excluded from the Products and Practices component. This person is only required to complete 6 credits of Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

All courses must be delivered by a CE provider that's been approved by both the North American Administrators Association (NASAA) and Prometric. STC is an approved provider.

Application of the Requirement

Every IAR who's registered in a jurisdiction that adopts the model rule will be subject to its CE requirements. The program applies to all registered IARs of both state registered and federal covered investment advisers in that jurisdiction.

Program Flexibility

IARs are able to select courses from an approved CE provider that appeal to their interests and business models.

STC's IAR CE Courses

- Each STC course is 1.0 credit
- Once a course is successfully completed, the IAR will receive a certificate of completion and STC will submit completion information to FINRA.
- STC's IAR CE courses are approved for a range of prestigious professional designations. Along with the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification, STC's 2025 and 2026 approved IAR CE courses are also recognized by the Investments & Wealth Institute (IWI) for three of its certification designations – Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA), Certified Private Wealth Advisor (CPWA), and Retirement Management Advisor (RMA). This means that you can fulfill your continuing education requirements for these designations through STC's comprehensive courses all at no additional cost.

**Please Note: Any courses taken in previous years cannot be repeated for credit.*

Ethics and Professional Responsibility Courses

The Ethics and Professional Responsibility component is designed to ensure ongoing knowledge and competency related to the duties and obligations that IARs have to their clients including, but not limited to, issues related to the fiduciary duty owed to each client.

Account Recommendations and Retail Investors

Along with examining the differences between brokerage and advisory accounts, this course will emphasize the importance of providing investors with full and fair disclosure of conflicts of interest as well as adhering to the provisions of Reg BI.

Advising Senior Investors

This module examines some of the special considerations and warning signs when dealing with senior investors. Through the use of timely case studies, readers will gain insight into the best practices when providing advice to these investors.

Application of Regulation Best Interest (Reg BI)

This course examines how Reg BI applies to financial services firms and their registered persons by focusing on the obligations they assume as fiduciaries and the details of the Client Relationship Summary document that must be provided to clients.

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Building Trust Through Ethical Practices

This course delivers practical guidance for investment adviser representatives who are seeking to meet fiduciary, ethical, and regulatory obligations. Through real-world case studies and clear frameworks, participants learn to manage conflicts of interest, implement transparent communication and documentation practices, safeguard client data, and design policies that satisfy SEC expectations.

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ESG and Ethics

This course analyzes ESG investing by detailing how environmental, social, and governance factors, ethical frameworks, and disclosure rules impact risk, return, and corporate conduct. Coverage of rating methodologies, regulatory developments, and sector-specific case studies will equip IARs with the ability to identify material issues, spot greenwashing, and integrate ESG data into disciplined portfolio analysis.

ESG Disclosure Requirements

This course describes environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing (also referred to as socially responsible investing). An outline is provided of the key ESG factors along with an explanation of what ESG investors seek when selecting investments. Discussion includes the opposition to ESG investing, as well as legislation to prevent its use in certain government investments.

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Ethics and Artificial Intelligence

This course explains the functional and capability classifications of artificial intelligence and analyzes how advisory firms deploy robo-advisers, machine-learning portfolio tools, and related applications within fiduciary and regulatory constraints. Coverage includes the essential ethical framework, common AI-specific risks, and a compliance roadmap that embeds disclosure, controls, and supervisory procedures into an adviser's code of ethics.

Ethical Concerns in a Rising Interest Rate Market

The course provides context into historical rates, including the relatively low interest rates that have existed over the last 10 years and the recent increase in interest rates. The impact that rising interest rates has on the prices of securities, risk measurements, and valuation techniques for both stocks and bonds will be examined.

Ethical Considerations for Dually Registered Personnel

This course examines the multiple challenges and conflicts of interest that firms face if they're dually registered as both a broker-dealer and investment adviser. The process that firms use to deal with these challenges will be explained by examining both Regulation Best Interest (Reg BI) and an investment adviser's Code of Ethics.

Ethical Considerations with Complex Products

Some investors are willing to include complex products in their investment portfolios if they meet their objectives. This course will examine some of the more popular complex products, including structured products, floating rate notes, asset-backed securities, and exchange-traded products.

Ethical Decision Making for IARs

This course focuses on the ethical issues that professionals face in the financial industry. Through the analysis of current issues and case study application, users will gain an understanding of how a person's behavior and attitude can impact the integrity of the industry. Topics include insider trading, best execution, and political contributions.

Ethical Decision Making for IARs 2.0

In an advisory relationship, it's extremely important for an investment adviser to consistently demonstrate an ethical approach. This course will examine an investment adviser's fiduciary responsibility as well as the requirement to create and implement a code of ethics.

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Ethics in Volatile Markets

This course examines the drivers of market volatility, client behavioral responses, and fiduciary obligations that govern advisory actions in turbulent periods. Instruction covers risk-management frameworks, communication techniques, regulatory documentation standards, and ethical trade-execution practices that safeguard client interests while maintaining compliance.

Ethical Practices of IARs

Investment advisers are required to create a written code of ethics that sets forth standards of conduct that advisory personnel are expected to follow, but also addresses numerous conflicts of interest that must be addressed. Through the use of case studies and careful review of Regulation Best Interest, this course will provide an understanding of a adviser's obligations.

Ethics and Trading by Investment Advisers

Investment advisers must act ethically when executing trades for their customers, but also must ensure that their representatives minimize or disclose conflicts of interest and don't trading on material, non-public information. This course will address these concerns as well as the manner in which trades are executed.

The Ethics of Managing IRAs

For so many investors who want to accumulate long-term assets, individual retirement accounts (IRAs) are the obvious choice. This course will examine the different types of IRAs, but will also consider the ethical requirements of financial professionals who recommend them.

Examining the SEC's Marketing Rule

This course explores the key terms associated with "advertisements" that are introduced in the SEC's Marketing Rule. Since the rule now permits advisers to use testimonials, endorsements, third-party ratings, and performance advertising, the specific conditions and requirements for their use/inclusion will be covered.

Fiduciary Obligations of IARs

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The course clarifies how a fiduciary's duties of care and loyalty differ from basic suitability standards and frames these obligations within Regulation Best Interest and Form CRS requirements. By detailing best-practice approaches to recommendations, conflict management, disclosure, and written compliance policies, the course demonstrates how investment advisers safeguard client interests and limit regulatory risk.

IARs and Communication with the Public

The prevalence of advisory firms promoting their businesses through advertising cannot be overlooked. This course will examine industry rules regarding the different forms of communication with the public and will provide case studies to increase understanding.

IARs - Dealing with Customers

This course examines the relationship between IARs and their clients, including the disclosures they provide. Analysis of the brochure rule, acting as a solicitor, and the creation of advisory contracts will also be covered. Finally, the ethical importance of making suitable recommendations will be reviewed, along with rules regarding advisory advertising and correspondence.

IARs and Wrap Fee Accounts

For some clients, being charge one fee for advisory service and transaction execution is appropriate. This course will examine these wrap fee account, specific required disclosures, and the emphasis on suitability determination.

Insider Trading and Investment Advisers

Investment advisers are increasingly monitored due to their frequent interactions with the issuers whose securities populate their investment portfolios. After an examination of recent regulatory actions, readers are presented with case studies to gain an understanding of appropriate and ethical responses.

Insider Trading and Investment Advisers (IAR CE)

This course examines the ethical issues that impact investment advisers and their representatives as it relates to the trading on material, non-public information. A specific focus will be on the filings that investment advisers must make related to the activities of their IARs.

Investment Advisers and Custody Issues

This course focuses on the ethical issues that professionals face in the financial industry. Through the analysis of current issues and case study application, users will gain an understanding of how a person's behavior and attitude can impact the integrity of the industry. Topics include insider trading, best execution, and political contributions.

Investment Advisers and Their Code of Ethics

This course reviews the SEC's standards and provisions under the required code of ethics set by Rule 204A-1. Along with defining the persons to whom the rules apply, case studies will address the various concerns that SEC examiners have found in their review. Additionally, amendments to the policy and procedures that the SEC believes will enhance an investment adviser's code of ethics are examined.

Investment Advisers - Avoiding Common Compliance Problems

This course focuses on common deficiencies identified by NASAA after a study of investment advisers. Topics include issues related to maintenance of books and records, registration and disclosure, advisory contracts, privacy policies, advertising, advisory fees, supervision of IARs, maintaining custody of client assets, maintaining financial strength, investment activities, and the use of solicitors.

Investment Advisers - Conflicts of Interest and Form ADV

This course examines an adviser's Form ADV and some of the different conflicts that must be disclosed in the form. Through the use of case studies, readers will gain insight and understanding into the consequences of failing to provide adequate disclosure.

Market Manipulation

Market manipulation can destroy investor confidence in the markets and damage a firm's reputation. This course will examine the different forms of manipulation and the different rules and provisions that have been established to combat it.

NASAA and Protecting Clients

As one of the oldest organizations devoted to protecting investors, NASAA's regulatory framework impacts both broker-dealers and investment advisers. The course will examine the Uniform Securities Act as well as model rules and statements of policy to understand the importance of state securities laws.

Political Contributions by Investment Advisers

Investment advisers are subject to SEC Rule 206(4)-5 which is designed to restrict "pay-to-play" practices of advisers that seek to manage money for state and local governments in return for political contributions. This course examines the persons to whom this rule applies, as well as the result of a triggering contribution.



Prudent Investor Standard

This course examines the Prudent Man Rule's evolution into the Uniform Prudent Investor Act, along with highlighting influences from ERISA, the Investment Advisers Act, and the Modern Portfolio Theory. The course provides details on how trustees balance diversification, liquidity, and credit considerations while adhering to fiduciary standards, but also identifies common violations such as self-dealing, commingling, and breaches of impartiality.

Regulation Best Interest (Reg BI)

This course examines Reg BI, which is a package of rules and interpretations that enhance the quality and transparency of the relationships that retail investors have with broker-dealers and/or investment advisers. Attention is also paid to the Fiduciary Interpretation of the rule to clarify the duty that IAs owe to their clients.

Regulation Best Interest 2.0

Reg BI has increased the transparency of the relationship that retail investors have with broker-dealers and/or investment advisers. This course will analyze the key obligations established by Reg BI - Disclosure, Care, Conflict of Interest, and Compliance.

Social Media and Investment Advisers

This course examines the risks that investment advisers face when using social media and will reinforce the obligations that they have under the advertising, books and records, and compliance rules of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Products and Practices Courses

The Products and Practices component is designed to ensure ongoing knowledge and competency related to investment products, strategies, standards, and compliance practices relevant to the investment advisory industry.

Actively Managed ETFs

For clients who are seeking a return that will exceed a benchmark based on the expertise of the portfolio manager, actively managed ETFs are an appealing investment. This course will examine the key terms, history, and structure of actively managed ETFs.

Alternative Investments

To diversify their portfolios, many investors seek investments that provide uncorrelated returns and alternative investments can be the solution. Although alternative investments are generally, riskier than stocks or bonds, they provide an opportunity for higher returns. The course will examine DPPs, hedge funds, private equity, venture capital, and private debt.

Asset Allocation

To build an investment portfolio for a client, there are numerous client factors to consider. These factors will help an adviser determine the correct asset allocation for the client's portfolio. This course will examine different investments as well as the importance of balancing risk and reward.

Basic Option Positions

This course examines the fundamental concepts of options, including intrinsic value, time value, premium, and in-, at-, or out-of-the-money. Attention will be paid to an investor's strategy, breakeven point, maximum gain, maximum loss, and the different uses of options (speculation, hedging, or generating income).

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Closed-End Funds

This course presents a concise, data-driven examination of closed-end funds, with a focus on explaining their structure, trading mechanics, and the regulatory framework that differentiates them from mutual funds and ETFs. Content includes premium/discount dynamics, IPO pricing, leverage use, interval funds, BDCs, fund categories, and the associated tax considerations. Upon completion, IARs will be able to assess, compare, and position closed-end vehicles in a manner that's consistent with fiduciary and compliance standards.

Complex Option Positions

This course goes beyond basic options and explores the different advanced option strategies. The focus will be on analyzing the uses and potential results of spreads and straddles, as well as the use of volatility (VIX) options.

Digital Assets

The term "digital asset" means anything that's stored digitally, is uniquely identifiable, and able to be used to realize value. This course will examine the different forms of digital assets, review the short history of these assets, and consider the ever-expanding regulatory environment.

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ERISA and Retirement Plans

This course examines the purpose for enacting ERISA and how its reporting, disclosure, participation, and funding standards govern private-sector retirement plans. Instruction covers fiduciary duties, Department of Labor enforcement, non-discrimination and vesting tests, plan types from defined-benefit pensions to PEPs, and the impact of SECURE Acts, CARES, and recent court rulings on fees and cybersecurity. The goal is to equip plan sponsors and advisers with the ability to apply statutory requirements, manage compliance risk, and structure plans that meet current federal guidelines.

ESG Disclosure Requirements 2.0

For investors who believe in socially responsible investing, ensuring that a company complies with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles is important. This course examines the arguments for and against ESG investing, as well as the SEC's attempts to standardize ESG disclosures.

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Financial Analysis

This course shows how financial analysis supports sound investment decisions. Fundamental and technical approaches will be contrasted while linking the balance sheet, income statement, and cash-flow statement to gauge liquidity, profitability, and solvency. Information is provided involving calculating core ratios, performing top-down fundamental analysis, and applying valuation methods. Quantitative findings are integrated with qualitative factors so that well-supported investment conclusions can be generated.

Equity Securities

This course examines the characteristics of common stocks, preferred stocks, rights, and warrants. Emphasis is placed on how stocks are classified by capitalization and investment type as well as the process by which investment recommendations are made.

Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)

For investors who want a mutual fund-like investment that allows for active trading, ETFs are perfect. This course covers the history and structure of different ETFs, the common fees and expenses, as well as the associated regulations.

Funding a Child's Education

This course explores the different options that are available to meet a child's future educational needs. Coverage will include prepaid tuition plans, 529 savings plans, Coverdell ESAs, as well as accounts for minors.

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Hedging a Portfolio

This course examines the development of risk management and shows how derivatives (e.g., options, futures, forwards, swaps, and inverse ETFs) can offset market, interest rate, currency, and other systematic exposures. Hedge construction, option-premium drivers (delta, gamma, theta, vega), and the trade-offs between static structures and dynamically rebalanced portfolios will be examined. Practical examples illustrate protective puts, covered calls, collars, futures, and swap-based solutions for institutional mandates.

IARs and Annuities

This course closely examines the different types of annuities, but pays most of the attention to variable annuities. Details of how annuities work and the specific suitability requirements are included.

IARs and Family Offices

To save time and money, family offices take advantage of an exemption from registration under the Investment Advisers Act. This course will examine the primary purpose of family offices, as well as the various investments and strategies they utilize for their unique clients.

IARs and Equity Options

For those who are interested in learning how options work, this is the course to choose. This course will examine the risks and rewards of buying or selling call or put options. Additionally, details will be provided on some of the quantitative methods that investors use to value options.

IARs and Insurance Products

As fiduciaries, investment advisers must provide clients with products and services that are in their clients' best interests. Since the needs of clients may include insurance products, this course will ensure that IARs are knowledgeable of their characteristics and risks.

IARs and Real Estate Investing

In an effort to diversify their investment portfolios, many investors turn to real estate-related assets. This course will examine real estate investment trusts (REITs) and real estate limited partnerships, but also some of the important registration requirements and exemptions associated with these securities.

Interest Rates, the Economy, and Investments

From homeowners to investors, interest rates are such an important factor when making decisions. This course will introduce the basic concept of interest, as well as interest rates and the history of lending. The relationship between the economy, interest rates, and the Federal Reserve will also be analyzed.

Introduction to Annuities

This course examines the process by which annuities are funded (the accumulation phase) and the process by which benefits are received (the annuitization phase). The tax implications of these investments and suitability concerns are also addressed.

Introduction to Securities Analysis

This course examines some of the different metrics and valuation techniques that are used in fundamental analysis. The approach of a technical analyst is also reviewed, including charts, pricing patterns, and different technical theories.

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Investment Companies

This course examines the Investment Company Act's core provisions as well as current SEC directives regarding the practical operation of mutual funds and other pooled vehicles. Readers will analyze fund governance, share-class cost structures, and NAV calculations, then apply quantitative tools (e.g., breakpoints, expense ratios, risk-adjusted metrics) to align specific fund types with stated client objectives and regulatory standards.

Investing in Hedge Funds

Hedge funds are private investment pools that can pursue risky investments to generate high returns for their wealthy clients. This course will define important terms and examine the creation and history of hedge funds. Content also includes, hedge fund strategies, as well as their advantages and disadvantages.

Life Insurance Basics

This course defines the basic terms associated with insurance policies and the parties to the contract. Since the needs of clients can be quite different, the characteristics of the different types of life insurance policies are examined along with the various riders and policy provisions.

Life Insurance Products

IARs are required to always act in their clients' best interests. To do so, the recommendation of a life insurance product may be necessary. This course will examine term insurance, permanent insurance, and variable life insurance. Because taxes can be such an important factor in financial planning for clients, the tax treatment of the different plans will also be explored.

Municipal Bond Basics

This course goes beyond simply comparing general obligation and revenue bonds by examining the process of analyzing a municipality's debt and the ratings assigned. An overview of tax benefits provided by municipal bonds and the unique tax implications created by their sale will also be covered.

Mutual Fund Basics

This course examines the terminology, structure, and advantages associated with mutual funds. Additional areas of focus include the method by which shares are purchased and sold, the associated sales charges that may be assessed, and the characteristics of the different types of funds.

Private Capital

This course analyzes private capital markets by contrasting them with public markets and detailing the structures, strategies, and risk-return drivers of private equity, venture capital, and private credit funds. The course also examines fund suitability, key market participants, leveraged and growth buyouts, direct-lending structures, and evaluation tools, such as internal rate of return (IRR), multiple of invested capital (MOIC), and public market equivalent (PME).

Retirement Planning Basics

Through the use of real examples, this course explains how important it is to put money away early to take advantage of the benefits of compounding. The impact that inflation has on retirement assets will be considered. Finally, the different retirement plans and their unique characteristics will be presented.

Retirement Plans 2.0

Planning for retirement is one of the most important, yet challenging, things to do. This course will examine the different types of retirement plans and the required steps in the planning process. Using numerical examples, readers will gain an appreciation for all of the elements that go into assisting people with their retirement goals.

Treasury Securities

Many investors will reach a point at which they want safety and liquidity in their investments. When that happens, Treasury securities will become a focus. This course will describe the different Treasury securities, will examine the process used to issue them, and will review some of the more technical aspects of analyzing them.

Understanding SEC Filings

As clients seek assistance from investment advisers in creating their investment portfolios, IARs need to be knowledgeable about the various industries and the companies that operate within those industries. This video course provide details regarding the different reports that are filed by SEC reporting companies, insiders, issuers of securities, and investment advisers.

Variable Annuities 2.0

Although often compared to mutual funds, variable annuities offer three features that are not found with mutual funds—tax-deferred earnings, a death benefit, and annuity payouts that can provide guaranteed income for life. These features and details related to the structure and tax treatment of annuities will be examined in this course.

Getting Started

For more information on STC's Investment Adviser Representative CE or to schedule a demo of our industry-leading programs, please contact us at:

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