



Credentials Check

With more and more accountants entering the valuation arena, it's important to know the background and training of the professionals you may hire. Ask for references, and look for certifications showing that they are trained valuation experts.

Also, new credentials are now extending into the litigation arena. Both the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts (NACVA) and the Institute of Business Appraisers (IBA) are now offering litigation-specific designations.

Here's a recap of some of the most popular credentialing organizations and their requirements:

ABV: Accredited in Business Valuation

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
Requirements: CPA license and AICPA membership; 150 hours of relevant experience or 6+ business valuations; comprehensive exam.

AVA: Accredited Valuation Analyst

National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts (NACVA)
Requirements: NACVA membership; business degree or MBA; 2 years of related work experience or 10+ business valuations; 6 references; 1 recommendation; 5-day training program; 2-part exam, including complete case study.

BVAL: Business Valuator Accredited for Litigation

Institute of Business Appraisers (IBA)
Requirements: IBA membership; a business appraisal-related designation from IBA, American Society of Appraisers (ASA), AICPA or NACVA; 5-day training program and testimony clinics; 2 attorney references; 4-hour written exam.

CBA: Certified Business Appraiser

Institute of Business Appraisers (IBA)

Requirements: IBA membership; 4-year degree plus 90 hours of upper level coursework (at least 24 through IBA); 10,000 hours of appraisal experience; 4 references; 2 demonstration reports; 6-hour written exam.

CFFA: Certified Forensic Financial Analyst

National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts (NACVA)

Requirements: NACVA membership; one of several valuation credentials or levels of education; substantial experience in litigation consulting; 8-day training program; 3 references; 2-part exam.

CVA: Certified Valuation Analyst

National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts (NACVA)

Requirements: CPA license and NACVA membership; 5-day training program; 6 references; 2-part exam, including complete case study.