## Table 2.1 provides an illustrative overview of some common professional accounting qualification designations worldwide.

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|  | Region | Regulating Body | Requirements | Scope | Global Recognition |
| Certified Public Accountant (CPA) | Primarily the United States | Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA&CIMA) |  Education: A bachelor’s degree with a specified number of accounting and business courses.   Exam: Pass the Uniform CPA Examination.   Experience: Typically involves 1-2 years of relevant work experience.   Ethics: Some states require passing an ethics exam. | Broad, covering auditing, taxation, financial accounting, and managerial accounting. | US, recognised worldwide |
| The Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA®) | Global | Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA&CIMA) |  Education: A bachelor’s degree.   Professional qualification: Candidates must be members of either AICPA or the CIMA   Exam: Pass the CIMA exams or GCMA exam.   Experience: Typically involves 1-2 years of relevant work experience in management accounting. | Focuses on three areas of knowledge Enterprise, Performance and Financial. Typically for careers in management accounting and strategic business roles. | Recognised worldwide |
| CPA | Primarily Commonwealth countries (UK, Canada, India, Australia, etc.) | CPA Australia |  Education: A bachelor’s degree with a specified number of accounting and business courses or CPA Foundation exam.   Exam: Pass the professional level exams.   Experience: Minimum of three years work experience. | Broad, covering auditing, taxation, financial accounting, management accounting. | Recognised worldwide |
| Chartered Accountant (CA) | Primarily Commonwealth countries (UK, Canada, India, Australia, etc.) | Various, including ICAEW (England and Wales), ICAS (Scotland), CAI (Ireland), ICAI (India), etc. |  Education: Varies, but usually requires a degree or equivalent.   Exam: Series of professional exams (e.g., ACA for ICAEW).   Experience: 3-5 years of training under a qualified accountant.   Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is required. | Focuses on, auditing, taxation, financial accounting. Can vary based on country. | Commonwealth countries, Recognised worldwide |
| Certified Management Accountant (CMA) | Global | Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) |  Education: Bachelor’s degree.   Exam: Two-part exam covering financial reporting, planning, performance, and control, as well as financial decision making.   Experience: Two years of management accounting or financial management experience. | Focuses on management accounting and strategic management. | Recognised worldwide |
| Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) | Global | CFA Institute |  Education: Bachelor’s degree or equivalent work experience.   Exam: Three levels of exams covering investment management, financial analysis, ethics, and professional standards.   Experience: Four years of professional work experience in investment decision-making. | Primarily focused on investment analysis, portfolio management, and financial research. | Recognised worldwide |
| Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) | Global | The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) |  Education: Bachelor’s degree.   Exam: Three-part exam covering internal audit basics, practice, and knowledge elements.   Experience: Two years of internal audit experience or equivalent. | Focuses on internal auditing, risk management, and governance. | Recognised worldwide |
| Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) | Global | ACCA |  Education: Completion of ACCA’s foundational or professional qualification.   Exam: 13 professional exams (some exemptions for relevant qualifications).   Experience: Three years of relevant work experience. | Comprehensive, covering financial and management accounting, auditing, taxation, and law. | Recognised worldwide |
| Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) | Global | Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) |  Education: Bachelor’s degree or equivalent professional experience.   Exam: Four-part exam covering fraud prevention and deterrence, financial transactions and fraud schemes, investigation, and law.   Experience: Two years of professional experience in a field related to fraud examination. | Specialised in fraud detection, prevention, and investigation. | Recognised worldwide |