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Reduction in the Lock-in Period for Regular Pathway Candidates
Introduction of Financial Planning Questionnaire

FPSB India currently mandates a lock-in period of 60 days for the candidates registering through the Regular Pathway in either Education Provider mode or Self Study mode. The lock-in period is in the spirit of "4 Es" criteria of the CFP^{CM} Certification Program, viz. Education, Examination, Experience and Ethics; and is in alignment with enabling a student to complete at least 360 hours' study before he is eligible to take an attempt at the examination.

Reference is also drawn to the Education Providers' Meet 2011 conducted by FPSB India at Mumbai on 3rd October, 2011. There was a concurrence during the Meet to reduce the said lock-in period having concern to the difficulties being faced by the student community due to a 60-day lock-in period (from the date of activation of registration) for writing examination in view of 1-year Registration window for completing the Program. FPSB India submits in this regard as follows:

1. The lock-in period is intended to demonstrate the commitment and the seriousness of the student/candidate as well as that of Education Provider to the curriculum of CFP^{CM} Certification Program before a student enrolls for examination.
2. There should be a process of induction of the candidate in the CFP^{CM} Certification Program not with a view to write one or more exams in a short span but gaining an overall knowledge of all the components of Financial Planning and their application with respect to day-to-day finances of a household.
3. Towards achieving this objective, and as a self-fulfilling exercise enabling a candidate to appreciate the application of Personal Finance in everyday life of people, FPSB India has come out with a [Financial Planning Questionnaire](#) for the students to fill the same in consultation with three different households and submit to FPSB India for review.
4. The lock-in period from the current 60 days is accordingly reduced to 30 days with immediate effect.

However, this will be conditional as FPSB India desires that the student/candidate should undergo a process to comprehend the domain of personal finance on which he would be trained in the subsequent period. The candidate would be required to submit the completed Questionnaire formats by three individual households (three separate families) within the span of 30 days from his/her activation of registration. In the absence of receipt of three completed formats, the lock-in period for writing exams will be extended by a further period of 30 days, or till such period that we receive the completed formats.

The [Financial Planning Questionnaire](#) has also been placed under “FPSB India’s Standard Documents” on our website for students to download the same, print and get filled in consultation with three families/households. Needless to say, this will increase a candidate’s comprehension of the domain of personal finances managed by a household and at the same time spread the awareness of Financial Planning, CFP^{CM} Certification, FPSB India and its Education Providers. This is also intended to enrich a candidate’s knowledge about what is in store for him to learn in the period of 1 year of his registration with the Education Provider or through self study.

All three completed formats together will have to be couriered by the candidate directly to FPSB India. The data of all formats submitted will be captured by FPSB India and an analysis of trends in personal finances and financial behaviour of Indian public will be published from time to time. FPSB India also intends to apprise a Financial Planning Score to the household and the candidate which would serve as a brief analysis of the household’s financial situation.

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