

The CFA® Practical Skills Module (PSM) Checklist

Pick the right module, budget your time, and protect your exam results, on one page.

THE GOLDEN RULE: No completed PSM by the results-release date = your exam results are voided. One module is required at every level (I, II, III).

Step 1: Pick your module (choose ONE at your level)

LEVEL I	Financial Modeling (best for analyst/research roles) • or Python Programming Fundamentals
LEVEL II	Analyst Skills • Python Programming Fundamentals • or Python, Data Science & AI
LEVEL III	Portfolio-focused options (e.g. Portfolio Development & Construction) plus pathway-aligned modules, confirm the live menu in your CFA account.

You cannot reuse the same module at a later level, plan your sequence.

Step 2: Budget your time

Each module takes **10 to 20 hours**, realistically one focused weekend or a few evenings over two weeks. Best window for most candidates: the week **right after** your exam, while the material is fresh and prep pressure is off. Never let a PSM steal hours from mocks and practice in your final pre-exam weeks.

Step 3: The deadline that protects your results

Your PSM must be **100% complete before your exam window's results-release date**. Find that date in your CFA Institute account and set a reminder **two weeks earlier** as your personal cut-off, that buffer absorbs any technical glitch or busy week.

Step 4: Your completion checklist

- ☐ Confirmed the PSM requirement and my level's module menu in my CFA Institute account
- ☐ Chosen the module whose skill I'll actually use at work
- ☐ Noted my exam window's results-release date + set a reminder 2 weeks before
- ☐ Blocked a weekend (or evenings) to complete the 10 to 20 hours
- ☐ Finished all videos, guided practice, questions and case studies, status shows COMPLETE
- ☐ Confirmed completion is recorded in my account before results season

Your next step: turn the requirement into a pass.

A PSM proves applied skill, but the exam still decides everything. Pair it with a structured study system: SchweserNotes, a 3,500+ question QBank, and 6 full-length mock exams make both the exam and your PSM far easier.

Explore the Kaplan Schweser CFA Premium Pack →

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