



*Together, Reducing  
Fraud Worldwide*

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## About the ACFE

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and the premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with nearly 80,000 members, the ACFE is reducing the incidence of fraud and white-collar crime worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession.



Founded in 1988 by [Dr. Joseph T. Wells, CFE, CPA](#), a former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Agent, the ACFE has become the largest anti-fraud organization in the world. ACFE members in more than 160 countries have investigated more than two million cases of suspected criminal and civil fraud.

Members of the ACFE include CPAs, auditors, lawyers, investigators, law enforcement officers, security professionals, executives, managers and anyone whose job involves preventing, detecting or deterring fraud. The ACFE supports members and the anti-fraud profession by providing conferences, seminars and other training events year-round, while also offering self-study and online learning opportunities, manuals, software and other resources for fighting fraud.

## Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs)

The ACFE established and administers the [Certified Fraud Examiner \(CFE\) credential](#). Globally preferred by employers, the CFE credential denotes proven expertise in fraud prevention, detection, deterrence and investigation. Members with the CFE credential gain a professional advantage and quickly position themselves as leaders in the global anti-fraud community.



## Experience and Integrity

The standards for CFE certification are set by the [ACFE's Board of Regents](#), who are elected by CFEs and drawn from the most experienced members of the profession. Generally, CFE candidates must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and possess two or more years of professional experience in a field related to fraud deterrence and detection.

To become a CFE, candidates must pass the rigorous CFE Exam, which tests their knowledge in the key areas of fraud examination. CFEs are required to complete at least 20 credit hours of continuing professional education annually to ensure that they remain informed and educated.

## History

The idea that sparked the formation of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) occurred in 1985, stemming from a casual conversation between Dr. Joseph T. Wells, an accountant turned FBI agent, and the foremost criminologist in the country, Donald Cressey. At that time, fraud detection and deterrence were handled by two disparate groups: accountants who didn't know anything about investigating fraud, and investigators, who didn't know anything about accounting. "What you need to do is combine these disciplines," Cressey matter-of-factly suggested. A few years later, Wells did just that. The culmination of this insight led to the formation of a common body of knowledge known today as fraud examination and forever bridged a gap.

## Working to Understand Those Who Commit Fraud

Research by the ACFE and others shows that fraud is a problem more common than most people realize. Often, frauds are perpetrated by employees who have been with the company for many years and who are highly intelligent. The reasons an individual may "cross the line" are numerous. The ACFE has sought to understand more about fraud by talking with those who have committed it. Only by understanding the motivations of individuals can we hope to find ways to prevent fraud by helping to relieve the pressure or other situations that may lead to fraud.