

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS IN THE NSA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

[The list does not include every designation that appears in the directory.]

ABA® – Accredited Business Accountant **or**

ABAsm – Accredited Business Advisor

ATAsm – Accredited Tax Advisor

ATPsm – Accredited Tax Preparer

The ABA, ATA, and ATP credentials, offered by NSA's Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation (ACAT), identify professionals who have demonstrated knowledge and proficiency through examination and/or course work and who maintain their accreditation through a significant program of continuing professional education.

—The **ABA** (Accredited in Accountancy) requires three years of related work experience and successful completion of a national exam that tests technical proficiency in financial accounting, compilation services, business consulting services, taxation, business law, and ethics. Credential holders specialize in the needs of small- to mid-size businesses and financial services to individuals and families.

—The **ATA** requires five years of experience (tax preparation, compliance, tax planning and consulting), completion of coursework, and expertise in handling the sophisticated tax needs of highly compensated clients and owners of closely held businesses, including evaluating qualified retirement plans and recommending advanced estate planning techniques.

—The **ATP** requires three years of experience in tax preparation, completion of course work, and thorough knowledge of the tax code and preparation of technically accurate individual, corporate and partnership tax returns.

ABV – Accredited in Business Valuation

CA – Chartered Accountant

CEP – Certified Estate Planner

CFA – Chartered Financial Analyst

CFC – Certified Financial Consultant

ChFC – Chartered Financial Consultant

CFE – Certified Fraud Examiner

CFP – Certified Financial Planner

CFSA – Certified Financial Services Auditor

CIA – Certified Internal Auditor

CMA – Certified Management Accountant

CPA – Certified Public Accountant

CTP – Certified Tax Preparer

EA – Enrolled Agent

ECS – Elder Care Specialist

LPA – Licensed Public Accountant

PA – Public Accountant

PFS – Personal Financial Specialist