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## Evaluating Retirement Advisor Designations

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By Editor Test     *Mon, Jun 24, 2013*

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*A well-informed comparison of the Retirement Management Analyst (RMA), Retirement Income Certified Professional (RICP) and the Certified Retirement Counselor (CRC) designations. A link will take you to Advisor Perspectives, where this article recently appeared.*

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With more than 50 certification programs based on the withdrawal phase of the planning lifecycle, advisors are faced with a paralyzing choice about which designation provides the most valuable curriculum. The issues surrounding withdrawal planning differ starkly from those encountered during the accumulation phase.

An April 2013 [report](#) by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau highlighted the consumer confusion over this issue. This confusion undoubtedly extends to financial advisors as well. Let's look at which programs are best positioned to allow advisors to guide their clients through retirement. I will highlight three of the more prominent and rigorous programs aimed at building knowledge about retirement income.

These include the International Foundation for Retirement Education's (InFRE) [Certified Retirement Counselor](#)® (CRC®), The American College's [Retirement Income Certified Professional](#)® (RICP®), and the Retirement Income Industry Association's (RIIA) [Retirement Management Analyst](#)<sup>SM</sup> (RMA<sup>SM</sup>).

Full disclosure: I am personally involved with two of these designation programs. I am employed by the RICP® sponsoring organization and contribute to its curriculum. I am a former curriculum director for the RMA<sup>SM</sup>, and I still participate in educational programs.

(To read further, go to:

[http://advisorperspectives.com/newsletters13/Retirement\\_Income\\_Designations.php](http://advisorperspectives.com/newsletters13/Retirement_Income_Designations.php))