

I. M&A SOURCE MASTER CERTIFICATIONS

The M&A Source Merger & Acquisition Master Certifications are proprietary designations that afford professional growth and marketability unlike any other in the M&A profession. This title distinguishes each of the holders as seasoned professionals who have a solid educational background, proven accomplishments in completing deals and a strong passion for the M&A Source and the M&A profession.

Successful completion of the Masters certification process significantly distinguishes M&A professionals within their field. The Master designation is the only one to require both educational credits and the successful completion of multiple middle-market transactions.

The M&A Source currently offers 2 Master Certifications:

Merger & Acquisition Master Intermediary (M&AMI): Primary Intermediary involved in the M&A deal making process and/or management of the M&A deal making process.

Merger & Acquisition Master Finance (M&AMFin): Primary lender (relationship manager) involved in the M&A acquisition financing process and/or management of the M&A acquisition financing process.

Certification:

Master Certification Requirements:

1. Membership in the M&A Source.
2. Completion of the Master's application. *

**Applicant will have a five-year window from the date of application to complete all requirements for the Master Designation. The time period can be from five years prior to receipt of application, five years after receipt of application or any combination of years prior and after as long as the total number of years is no greater than five.*

3. Complete the following education and experience requirements:

Requirements	
A. Experience	Proof of three (3) years full time deal making or lender experience in the past ten (10) years
B. Course Requirements	CBI plus twenty (20) credit hours or forty (40) credit hours for Non-CBIs or Coles College of Business Certified M&A Professional Program
C. M&A Source Conference Attendance	Attend at least two (2) M&A Source/Dealmaker Expos
D. Completed Transactions	Three (3) transactions over \$1.5 million USD

A. Experience:

Three years full time deal maker or lender experience within the prior ten years and current involvement in the M&A deal making or M&A acquisition financing process and/or management of the

M&A deal making process, or M&A acquisition financing process is required. If new to the profession, the M&A Source highly recommends joining the International Business Brokers Association (IBBA) and obtaining the Certified Business Intermediary (CBI) designation.

B. M&A Course Requirements:

If a CBI designation is held, acquire twenty (20) credits or, if no CBI designation is held, acquire forty (40) credits of M&A Source sponsored or approved courses (300 level and higher) over a five-year period or complete Coles College of Business Certified M&A Professional Program (CM&AP). [Click here](#) for M&A Source courses and descriptions. [Click here](#) for Coles College of Business Certified M&A Professional Program (CMAP).

C. M&A Source Conference Attendance:

Attend two M&A Source Conference/Deal Makers Expo in the past a five-year period.

D. Completed Transactions:

The member must submit proof of three (3) M&A transactions for which each must have a total of \$1.5 million USD or greater value*. The real estate value will be considered part of the transaction value as long as the real estate is an essential part of the business. Please submit one Master Transaction Submittal Form [Click here](#) per transaction and follow directions in providing the necessary documents as proof of the transaction.

**The transaction value shall be based upon the total value of all consideration received on or before the closing date, or to be received in some future date, by client, directly or indirectly in connection with the acquisition of client (Economic Benefit). Such consideration, whether cash, cash equivalents, notes payable to client or its successor beneficiaries, liabilities and guarantees released, liabilities assumed, earn outs, royalties, licensing fee, real properties sold or leased, non-competition agreements, consulting agreements, amounts above normalized rentals or job-related compensation, and securities.*

Master applicants are responsible for providing all course verification forms and transaction submittal forms.

Certification Completion/ Identification:

Individuals awarded the Master designation shall receive the appropriate Master's plaque or certificate from the M&A Source. The member may also include the appropriate designation by the initials "M&AMI" or the words "Merger & Acquisition Master Intermediary" for intermediaries or the initials "M&AMFin" or the words "Merger & Acquisition Master Finance" for lenders on business cards, seals, brochures, letterhead, and other promotional materials.

Recertification Requirements:

Upkeep of the Master designation is required. The recertification period is every 3 years commencing on the first day of January following the earning of the designation of certification thereof. If both a valid CBI and Master designation are held, then the recertification dates for both will become synchronized. A member who qualifies for the Master recertification automatically qualifies for the CBI recertification during the same period.

To recertify as an M&AMI or M&AMFin, the following requirements must be met:

- Be an M&A Source member in good standing
- Attend at least one M&A Source conference [16 credits]
- Pay the annual credentialing fee
- Earn a minimum of 36 credits through participation in the mandatory conference attendance (16 credits), approved education experiences or activities as noted in Sections A, B, C below.

A. Educational Experiences may include the following:

1. Attendance at an additional M&A Source or IBBA conference [16 credits]
2. Speaker, workshop instructor or panel moderator at an M&A Source conference [4 credits]
3. Attend or instruct additional M&A Source sponsored or approved courses including Coles College of Business M&A related courses [attendees receive course credits; instructors receive [1.5 x course credits].]
4. Complete Coles College of Business Certified M&A Professional Program [40 credits]
5. Outside education courses [one credit/course hour, eight (8) credits maximum]

Courses offered by the following associations and at the discretion of the M&A Source Credentialing Committee will be accepted. Verification of completion will be determined by course description and completion certificate. The course must be a structured educational "course" (not a workshop or seminar) and must be at least 4 hours in duration. Please submit the Outside Education Approval Form [click here](#) for all requests.

- American Bar Association
 - American Society of Appraisers
 - Institute of Business Appraisers
 - American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
 - National Association of Realtors
 - International Franchise Association
 - NEBB Institute
 - Exit Planning Institute
6. Lead Subject Matter Expert (SME) for an M&A Source course [4 credits per course hour; 4-hour course = 16 credits; 8-hour course = 32 credits]
 7. Contributing Subject Matter Expert (SME) for an M&A Source course [2 credits per course hour; 4-hour course = 8 credits; 8-hour course = 16 credits]

B. M&A Source Activities may include:

1. Officer or Governor of M&A Source [12 credits per year]
2. M&A Source committee chair [8 credits per year]
3. M&A Source committee participation [4 credits/year]

Committees are selected and approved by the M&A Source Board of Governors. Each term lasts one year and credits earned through committee participation will be added to individual records at the

end of the year. Committee members must attend at least 60% of committee meetings, calls, or activities in order to receive credit.

4. Contribute to M&A Source publications [1 credit per submission, maximum of 4 credits]
Note: Article must be published to receive credit
5. Submit to Headquarters a published article that mentions the M&A Source [2 credits per instance, maximum of 4 credits/year]/year],

C. Business Transactions:

1. Submit proof of M&A transactions in which the total transaction value* is \$1.5 million USD or greater (ten (10) credits per transaction). The real estate value will be considered part of the transaction value as long as the real estate is an essential part of the business. Submit one Master Transaction Submittal Form [click here](#) for each transaction and follow directions in providing the necessary documents as proof of the transaction.

**The transaction value shall be based upon the total value of all consideration received on or before the closing date, or to be received in some future date, by client, directly or indirectly in connection with the acquisition of client (Economic Benefit). Such consideration, whether cash, cash equivalents, notes payable to client or its successor beneficiaries, liabilities and guarantees released, liabilities assumed, earn outs, royalties, licensing fee, real properties sold or leased, non-competition agreements, consulting agreements, amounts above normalized rentals or job-related compensation, and securities*

2. M&AMI's or M&AMFin's who own/manage a firm will be allowed to use a transaction from a broker or lender they manage to count towards their recertification requirements and the broker/lender is also allowed to use the same transaction. If multiple brokers/lenders are working as a team on a transaction, then all can list the same transaction for recertification.

Resignation/Revocation:

The candidacy or Master designation of any member may be terminated by his/her resignation in writing to the M&A Source Headquarters or by revocation by the M&A Source's Board of Governors following a recommendation of revocation by the M&A Source Credentialing Committee or upon the occurrence of one or more of the following events:

1. Failure to pay any amounts due to the M&A Source
2. Loss of good standing membership in the M&A Source
3. Failure to complete the requirements for the designation within five (5) years of application for admission to the Master program or the recertification of the designation in the three (3) year re-certification period
4. Violation of the M&A Source policies and procedures and/or rules and regulations
5. Misrepresentation, either intentional or otherwise, of experience or other qualifications
6. Any legal charges which, in the opinion of the M&A Source Credentialing Committee, reasonably establish the M&AMI's or M&AMFin's noncompliance with those standards required by the M&A Source

Forfeiture:

Any M&AMI or M&AMFin whose designation is terminated shall immediately return his/her Master certificate, if one was issued, and any other similar items (pins, plaques, etc.). In addition, his/her store of stationery and other renderings mentioning the M&AMI or M&AMFin designation must be

immediately destroyed. It is specifically understood that the member or former member may not verbally or in print make reference to "former M&AMI," "past M&AMI", "former M&AMFin", "past M&AMFin" or the like.

Invalidation of Credits:

Termination for any reason shall automatically invalidate all credits toward the designation or recertification that have previously been awarded by the M&A Source Credentialing Committee.

Reinstatement of Candidacy:

In the event a member whose candidacy has been terminated applies for reinstatement, his/her credits invalidated by prior termination of candidacy shall not automatically be restored by reinstatement of candidate status but shall be reviewed by the Credentialing Committee with power to restore or decline all or part of such credits.

Reinstatement of the M&AMI or M&AMFin Designation:

Any member whose designation has been terminated, revoked or by resignation or for any reason other than one of a disciplinary character may be reinstated in good standing by a majority vote of the M&A Source Credentialing Committee, provided:

- The applicant remits an M&AMI or M&AMFin Extension to the Credentialing Committee.
- If the applicant was in arrears on the date the membership was terminated, a deposit covering all annual dues or other indebtedness to the M&A Source must be included.
- The applicant for reinstatement has paid a reinstatement fee.
- The applicant for reinstatement has met all continuing education and recertification requirements under which he/she would have been affected if it had not been for the period of termination.
- If the application is made within the twelve (12) month period, and is granted by the Credentialing Committee, the applicant may continue to use the M&AMI or M&AMFin designation.
- If the period of termination exceeds twelve (12) months, the applicant must follow the M&AMI/M&AMFin reinstatement guidelines below.
- If reinstated by the Credentialing Committee, the M&AMI's or M&AMFin's next recertification date shall be at the end of the 3rd year from the date the committee made such reinstatement decision.

The following M&AMI or M&AMFin reinstatement guidelines are for any individual who has let his/her M&AMI or M&AMFin lapse more than twelve (12) months:

- If the applicant maintained their M&A Source membership the applicant must submit an M&AMI/M&AMFin Reinstatement Application and associated fee. The applicant will have a three (3) year window to complete the M&AMI/M&AMFin recertification process. The time period can be from three (3) years prior to receipt of the reinstatement application, three (3) years after receipt of the reinstatement application, or any combination of years prior and after as long as the total number of years is not greater than three (3). Note: ***The applicant may not use the M&AMI/M&AMFin designation until the recertification process is completed.***

- If the applicant did not maintain their M&A Source Membership:
The applicant must rejoin the M&A Source and pay the appropriate dues. The applicant must submit an M&AMI/M&AMFin Reinstatement Application and the associated fee. The applicant must complete the M&AMI/M&AMFin recertification process within three (3) years of submitting the M&AMI/M&AMFin reinstatement application. ***Note: The applicant may not use the M&AMI or M&AMFin designation until the recertification process is completed.***

The M&AMI/M&AMFin reinstatement date will be used when calculating all Lifetime M&AMI requirements.

Lifetime M&AMI/M&AMFin and Lifetime M&AMI/M&AMFin - Retired:

The M&A Source has adopted a "Lifetime M&AMI" and "Lifetime M&AMFin" status policy to be offered to any current holder of the M&AMI/M&AMFin that has maintained an active M&A Source member for a minimum period of fifteen (15) years, held the designation for at least twelve (12) years.

- A Lifetime M&AMI/M&AMFin will be required to maintain their membership status and pay the annual fees for maintenance of the M&AMI/M&AMFin designation. There will be no other requirements for conference attendance and education.
- If a designee should decide to apply for the Lifetime M&AMI/M&AMFin status, all reference to the letters "M&AMI" or "M&AMFin" and the term "Merger & Acquisition Master Intermediary" or "Merger & Acquisition Master Finance" must be removed from documentation and replaced with the term "Lifetime M&AMI" Or "Lifetime M&AMFin". Download Lifetime M&AMI/M&AMFin Request Form. [Click here](#)

The M&A Source has adopted a "Lifetime M&AMI - Retired" and a "Lifetime M&AMFin – Retired" status policy to be offered to any Lifetime M&AMI member who is no longer an active M&A intermediary or lender.

- The member will be required to submit an affidavit or other proof that they are no longer an active M&A intermediary or lender.
- The member will be exempt from dues and maintenance fees and will be given the membership rate when attending an M&A conference or education course.
- If a designee should decide to apply for the Lifetime M&AMI/M&AMFin - Retired status, all reference to letters "M&AMI/M&AMFin" and the term "Merger and Acquisition Master Intermediary" or "Merger and Acquisition Master Finance" must be removed from documentation and replaced with the term "Lifetime M&AMI – Retired" or "Lifetime M&AMFin – Retired".

Fellow of the M&A Source:

Fellowship is a lifetime award that is one of the highest honors bestowed by the M&A Source. The Fellow Award recognizes and honors M&A Source members who have made sustained and significant contributions to the Association.

The key words for this award are "sustained and significant." The Fellowship is awarded to members who distinguished themselves sufficiently to warrant prestigious recognition.

The criteria for consideration are membership in the M&A Source for 10 consecutive years or longer and made significant contributions to the Association. Candidates must also be an M&AMI or M&AMFin in good standing or served at least one full term as Chairperson of the M&A Source.

Significant contributions to the Association are defined as any two (2) of the following:

- Service of at least one three-year term on the Board of Governors
- Service of at least one full year as a Committee Chairperson (as defined by the Board of Governors)
- Service as a Chairperson of a Task Force (as defined by the Board of Governors)
- Presenter of at least two (2) M&A Source conference workshops/panel discussions
- Instructor of at least two (2) M&A Source educational courses
- Lead Subject Matter Expert (LSME) in writing an M&A Source educational course
- Completion of the 2nd M&AMI recertification period, or is in at least the 7th year of being an M&AMI.

M&A Source members who meet the above criteria should contact M&A Source headquarters for consideration for the Fellow of the M&A Source Award.