



**General Securities Principal  
Qualification Examination  
(Series 24)**

**Content Outline**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Series 24 exam is the General Securities Principal Qualification Examination. The exam is developed and maintained by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). This content outline provides a comprehensive guide to the topics covered on the Series 24 exam. The outline is intended to familiarize exam candidates with the range of subjects covered on the exam, as well as the depth of knowledge required. Sample items are also included to acquaint candidates with the types of multiple-choice items used on the exam. It is recommended that candidates refer to the content outline as part of their preparation to take the exam. Candidates are responsible for planning their course of study in preparation for the exam.

## **PURPOSE OF THE EXAM**

The Series 24 exam is designed to assess the competency of entry-level General Securities Principals. It is intended to safeguard the investing public by helping to ensure that General Securities Principals are competent to perform their jobs. Given this purpose, the Series 24 exam seeks to measure the degree to which each candidate possesses the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to perform the critical functions of a General Securities Principal. For more information about the permissible activities of a General Securities Principal, please see FINRA Rule 1220(a), which is viewable in the FINRA Rule Manual through the following link: [www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org), or other applicable SRO rules.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The candidate must be associated with and sponsored by a FINRA member firm or other applicable self-regulatory organization (SRO) to be eligible to take the Series 24 exam. In order to register in this category, candidates must first qualify as a General Securities Representative (Series 7), United Kingdom Module of Series 7 (Series 17), Canada Module of Series 7 (Series 37 or 38), Securities Trader Representative (Series 57), Corporate Securities Limited Representative (Series 62), Investment Banking Representative (Series 79), or Private Securities Offerings Representative (Series 82). For more information on eligibility requirements, please see FINRA 1220(a), which is viewable in the FINRA Rule Manual through the following link: [www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org).

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

The FINRA member firm or other applicable SRO member firms that sponsors the applicant must file a Uniform Application for Securities Industry Registration or Transfer (Form U4) in the Central Registration Depository (CRD®) and request the General Securities Principal position on the Form U4.

## STRUCTURE OF THE EXAM

The exam consists of 150 multiple-choice items, which are distributed among the five major content areas listed in the table below.

**Job Functions and Number of Items by Job Function**

Job Functions		Number of Items
Function 1	Supervision of Registration of the Broker-Dealer and Personnel Management Activities	9
Function 2	Supervision of General Broker-Dealer Activities	45
Function 3	Supervision of Retail and Institutional Customer-Related Activities	32
Function 4	Supervision of Trading and Market Making Activities	32
Function 5	Supervision of Investment Banking and Research	32
Total		150

## DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CONTENT OUTLINE AND EXAM

The Series 24 content outline was developed based on the results of a job analysis study of General Securities Principals. The job analysis process included collecting data about the job functions, tasks and required knowledge of General Securities Principals from a wide variety of firms using numerous data collection techniques.

Under the guidance of FINRA staff, a committee of industry representatives (Committee) writes, reviews and validates all exam items to ensure and sustain the job relevance of the exam. Exam items are subject to multiple reviews prior to inclusion on the exam, and each item links directly to a component of the content outline. Items vary in difficulty and complexity. Each item has only one correct or best answer.

The bank of items changes frequently as a result of amendments to, or the introduction of, government and SRO rules and regulations, changes in industry practice, and the introduction of new products. Exam items and their statistical performance are analyzed routinely by FINRA staff and the Committee to ensure relevance to the functions of General Securities Principals. **Candidates are responsible for keeping abreast of changes made to the applicable rules and regulations as the exam is updated when new rules are introduced and when the rules are amended.**

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXAM

The exam is administered via computer. A tutorial on how to take the exam via computer is provided prior the exam. Each candidate's exam includes 10 additional, unidentified pretest items that do not contribute toward the candidate's score. The 10 items are randomly distributed throughout the exam. Therefore, each candidate's exam consists of a total of 160 items (150 scored and 10 unscored). There is no penalty for

guessing. Therefore, candidates should attempt to answer all items. Candidates will be allowed 3 hours and 45 minutes to complete the exam.

The test administrator will provide white boards/dry erase markers and basic electronic calculators to candidates, who must return these materials to the test center administrator at the end of the testing session. Some exam items may involve calculations. Only calculators provided by the test center administrators are allowed for use during the exam.

Candidates are not permitted to bring any reference material to their testing session. Severe penalties are imposed on candidates who cheat or attempt to cheat on FINRA-administered exams.

## **HOW THE EXAMINATION IS SCORED**

Following a well-established process known as standard setting, FINRA determines the passing score for the examination based on a number of factors including industry trends, historical exam performance and evaluations of content difficulty by a committee of industry professionals with the designated registration. For the Series 24 exam, the passing score is 70%. This passing score reflects the competency needed to hold the designated registration.

## **EQUATING OF TEST SCORES**

All candidate test scores have been placed on a common scale using a statistical adjustment process known as equating. Equating scores to a common scale accounts for the slight variations in difficulty that may exist among the different sets of exam questions that candidates receive. This allows for a fair comparison of scores and ensures that every candidate is held to the same passing standard regardless of which set of exam questions he or she received.

# SERIES 24 CONTENT OUTLINE

## **FUNCTION 1—Supervision of Registration of the Broker-Dealer and Personnel Management Activities**

- 1.1 Initiate or terminate the registration of the broker-dealer and physical office locations in the Central Registration Depository (CRD) System by filing, updating or amending appropriate documents

### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Difference between SEC, SRO and state requirements, including information about registration requirements and exemptions**
- **Form BD, Form BDW, Form BR**
- **Difference between Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) and Broker-Dealers (BD) and required registrations**

### FINRA By-Laws

#### Article IV—Membership

Section 1—Application for Membership

Section 3—Executive Representative

Section 5—Resignation of Members

Section 6—Retention of Jurisdiction

Section 7—Transfer and Termination of Membership

Section 8—Registration of Branch Offices

### FINRA Rules

3110—Supervision

3110(e)—Definitions

### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 3(a)(4)—Broker

Section 3(a)(5)—Dealer

Section 15—Registration and Regulation of Brokers and Dealers

Section 15(a)(1)

Rule 15a-6—Exemption of Certain Foreign Brokers or Dealers

Section 15(b)(1)

Rule 15b1-1—Application for Registration of Brokers or Dealers

Section 15(b)(2)(A)

Rule 15b1-3—Registration of Successor to Registered Broker or Dealer

Section 15(b)(8)

Rule 15b3-1—Amendments to Application

Section 15(b)(4)—Sanctions Against Brokers or Dealers

Section 15(b)(5)

Rule 15b6-1—Withdrawal from Registration

Section 15(b)(6)—Sanctions For Persons Associated with a Broker or Dealer

Section 15(c)(1)

Rule 15c1-3—Misrepresentation by Brokers, Dealers and Municipal Securities Dealers as to Registration

Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others  
Rule 17a-4(d)

Investment Advisers Act of 1940

Section 202(a)(11)

Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (SIPA)

Section 3(a)(2)(A)—Members of SIPC

## 1.2 Conduct hiring and registration of associated persons and maintenance of registration

### KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Prehire requirements based on background, disciplinary, complaint or financial history and the registration/affiliation
- Associated person registration requirements
- SEC, SRO and state requirements, including basic information about registration requirements
- Requirements for heightened supervision
- Forms U4 and U5 and required amendments
- Types of activities of associated or registered persons
- Regulatory element and firm element continuing education requirements

FINRA By-Laws

Article I—Definitions

Paragraph (rr)

Article III—Qualifications of Members and Associated Persons

Section 1—Persons Eligible to Become Members and Associated Persons of Members

Section 2—Authority of Board to Adopt Qualification Requirements

Section 3—Ineligibility of Certain Persons for Membership or Association

Section 4—Definition of Disqualification

Article V—Registered Representatives and Associated Persons

Section 1—Qualification Requirements

Section 2—Application for Registration

Section 3—Notification by Member to the Corporation and Associated Person of Termination;  
Amendments to Notification

Section 4—Retention of Jurisdiction

FINRA Rules

1010—Electronic Filing Requirements for Uniform Forms

1122—Filing of Misleading Information as to Membership or Registration

1210 —Registration Requirements

1220 —Registration Requirements

1230 —Persons Exempt from Registration

1240—Continuing Education Requirements  
2263—Arbitration Disclosure to Associated Persons Signing or Acknowledging Form U4  
3110(e)—Responsibility of Member to Investigate Applicants for Registration  
4517—Member Filing and Contact Information Requirements  
8311—Effect of a Suspension, Revocation, Cancellation, or Bar  
9500 Series—Other Proceedings

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 3(a)(39)

Section 15(b)(7)

Rule 15b7-1—Compliance with Qualification Requirements of Self-Regulatory Organizations

Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others

Rule 17a-3(a)(12)

Rule 17a-3(a)(13)

Rule 17a-3(a)(15)

Rule 17f-2—Fingerprinting of Security Industry Personnel

Section 15A(g)(2)

Rule 19h-1—Notice by a Self-Regulatory Organization of Proposed Admission to or Continuance in Membership or Participation or Association with a Member of Any Person Subject to a Statutory Disqualification, and Applications to the Commission for Relief Therefrom



## **FUNCTION 2—Supervision of General Broker-Dealer Activities**

### **2.1 Develop, implement and update firm’s policies, written supervisory procedures (WSP) and controls for applicable rules and regulations; and implement appropriate monitoring and testing**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Requirement to conduct periodic inspections and reviews of activities of personnel located at the Office of Supervisory Jurisdiction (OSJ), branch offices and associated office locations**
- **Appropriate testing of the firm’s procedures and controls including the CEO Certification**
- **Business and regulatory requirements for firm’s systems and technologies**
- **Requirement that all activities and systems have proper controls**
- **Requirements to implement and test the firm’s Business Continuity Plan (BCP)**

#### FINRA Rules

- 3110—Supervision
- 3110.12—Standards for Reasonable Review
- 3120—Supervisory Control System
- 3130—Annual Certification of Compliance and Supervisory Processes
- 4370—Business Continuity Plans and Emergency Contact Information
- 4517—Member Filing and Contact Information Requirements
- 8110—Availability of Manual to Customers

#### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

- Section 15(b)(2)(C)
  - Rule 15b2-2—Inspection of Newly Registered Brokers and Dealers
- Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
  - Rule 17a-3(a)(22)
  - Rule 17a-4(e)(7)

### **2.2 Supervise the conduct of associated persons**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Regulatory requirements to manage conflicts of interests**
- **Regulatory requirements related to personal trading, private securities transactions and outside business and other activities**

#### FINRA Rules

- 2010—Standards of Commercial Honor and Principles of Trade
- 2020—Use of Manipulative, Deceptive or Other Fraudulent Devices
- 2060—Use of Information Obtained in a Fiduciary Capacity
- 2150—Improper Use of Customers’ Securities or Funds; Prohibition Against Guarantees and Sharing in Accounts
- 2320—Variable Contracts of an Insurance Company
- 2341—Investment Company Securities

3110(d)—Transaction Review and Investigation  
3210—Accounts at Other Broker-Dealers and Financial Institutions  
3240—Borrowing From or Lending to Customer  
3270—Outside Business Activities of Registered Persons  
3280—Private Securities Transactions of an Associated Person  
5210.01—Publication of Transactions and Quotations – Manipulative and Deceptive Quotations

#### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 9 (a) and (e)—Prohibitions Against Manipulation of Security Prices  
Section 10—Regulation of the Use of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices  
    Rule 10b-1—Prohibition of Use of Manipulative or Deceptive Devices or Contrivances With Respect to Securities Exempted from Registration  
    Rule 10b-3—Employment of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices by Brokers or Dealers  
    Rule 10b-5—Employment of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices  
    Rule 10b5-1—Trading “On the Basis Of” Material Nonpublic Information in Insider Trading Cases  
    Rule 10b5-2—Duties of Trust or Confidence in Misappropriation Insider Trading Cases  
    Rule 10b-17—Untimely Announcements of Record Dates  
    Rule 10b-18—Purchases of Certain Equity Securities by the Issuer and Others  
Section 15(c)(1)  
    Rule 15c1-1—Definitions  
    Rule 15c1-2—Fraud and Misrepresentation  
Section 15(g)  
Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others  
    Rule 17a-3(a)(1)  
Section 20A—Liability to Contemporaneous Traders for Insider Trading  
Section 21—Investigations; Injunctions and Prosecution of Offenses  
Section 21A—Civil Penalties for Insider Trading  
Section 32—Penalties

### 2.3 Supervise compensation practices of member, associated persons and other parties

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Networking arrangements**
- **Payments for referrals**
- **Cash and non-cash compensation arrangements**
- **Gifts**

#### FINRA Rules

1230 —Persons Exempt from Registration  
2040—Payments to Unregistered Persons  
2320(g)—Member Compensation  
3160—Networking Arrangements Between Members and Financial Institutions  
3220—Influencing or Rewarding Employees of Others

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 3(a)(4)(B)—Exception for Certain Bank Activities

Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others

Rule 17a-3(a)(19)

## **2.4 Supervise the development, evaluation and delivery of products and services offered by the broker-dealer**

### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Products and their risk characteristics and appropriate accounts**
- **Industry initiatives, developments, new and existing rules**
- **Requirements to train associated persons concerning products and services**  
**Requirements to conduct due diligence on new products and services and continue risk assessment of existing products and services**
- **Ongoing risk assessment of listing products and services**

FINRA Rules

1014(a)(9)—Standards for Admission

1017—Application for Approval of Change in Ownership, Control, or Business Operations

2111.05(a)—Components of Suitability Obligations

2310—Direct Participation Programs

2320—Variable Contracts of an Insurance Company

2330—Members' Responsibilities Regarding Deferred Variable Annuities

2341—Investment Company Securities

3110—Supervision

3120—Supervisory Control System

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 3—Definitions and Application of Title

Section 3(a)(10)—Security

Section 3(a)(11)—Equity Security

Rule 3a11-1—Definition of the Term "Equity Security"

Section 3(a)(12)—Exempted Security

Rule 3b-5—Non-Exempt Securities Issued Under Governmental Obligations

Securities Act of 1933

Section 3(b)—Additional Exemptions

Regulation A—Conditional Small Issues Exemption

Section 4(2) Transactions by an Issuer Not Involving Any Public Offerings

Section 4(6) Transactions Involving Offers or Sale by an Issuer Solely to One or More Accredited Investors Up To the Section 3(b) Maximum

Rule 144—Persons deemed Not To Be Engaged in a Distribution and Therefore Not Underwriters

Investment Company Act of 1940

Section 2—Definitions

Section 3—Definition of Investment Company

Section 4—Classification of Investment Company  
 Section 5—Sub-Classification of Management Companies  
 Section 8—Registration of Investment Companies  
 Section 8(b)—Filing Requirements for Investment Companies  
     Form N-1A—Registration Statement of Open-End Management Investment Companies  
 Section 11—Offers of Exchange  
 Section 12—Functions and Activities of Investment Companies  
     Rule 12b-1—Distribution of Shares by Registered Open-End Management Investment Company  
 Section 13—Changes in Investment Policy  
 Section 19—Payments or Distributions  
     Rule 19a-1—Written Statement to Accompany Dividend Payments by Management Companies  
     Rule 19b-1—Frequency of Distribution of Capital Gains  
 Section 22—Distribution, Redemption, and Repurchase of Redeemable Securities  
 Section 22(c)—Regulation of Underwriters and Dealers by Commission  
     Rule 22c-1—Pricing of Redeemable Securities for Distribution, Redemption and Repurchase  
 Section 22(d)—Persons To and Through Whom Redeemable Securities May be Sold  
     Rule 22d-1—Exemption from Section 22(d) to Permit Sales of Redeemable Securities at Prices  
         Which Reflect Sales Loads Set Pursuant to a Schedule  
     Rule 22d-2—Exemption from Section 22(d) for Certain Registered Separate Accounts  
 Section 22(e)—Suspension of Rights of Redemption  
     Rule 22e-1—Exemption from Section 22(e) During Annuity Payment Period of Variable Annuity  
         Contracts Participating in Certain Registered Separate Accounts  
 Section 23—Distribution and Repurchase of Securities: Closed-End Companies  
 Section 35—Unlawful Representations and Names  
 Section 37—Larceny and Embezzlement

#### Trust Indenture Act of 1939

Section 305—Securities Required To Be Registered Under Securities Act  
 Section 306—Securities Not Registered Under Securities Act  
 Section 307—Qualification of Indentures Covering Securities Not Required To Be Registered  
 Section 309—When Qualification Becomes Effective; Effect of Qualification

## **2.5 Take disciplinary or corrective actions relating to the conduct of associated persons; address regulatory actions regarding violations or potential violations of securities industry laws, rules and regulations; and address customer and industry disputes**

### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Proper handling and resolution of customer and industry disputes**
- **FINRA and SEC disciplinary processes**
- **Reporting requirements for customer complaints and other events**

#### FINRA Rules

2080—Obtaining an Order of Expungement of Customer Dispute Information from the Central  
     Registration Depository (CRD) System  
 4513—Records of Written Customer Complaints  
 4530—Reporting Requirements

- 8000 Series—Investigations and Sanctions
  - 8120—Definitions
  - 8210—Provision of Information and Testimony and Inspection and Copying of Books
  - 8310—Sanctions for Violation of the Rules
  - 8312—FINRA BrokerCheck Disclosure
  - 8320—Payment of Fines, Other Monetary Sanctions, or Costs; Summary Action for Failure to Pay
- 9000 Series—Code of Procedure
  - 9110—Application
  - 9120—Definitions
  - 9130—Service; Filing of Papers
  - 9140—Proceedings
  - 9210—Complaint and Answer
  - 9230—Appointment of Hearing Panel, Extended Hearing Panel
  - 9250—Discovery
  - 9260—Hearing and Decision
  - 9310—Appeal to or Review by National Adjudicatory Council
  - 9350—Discretionary Review by FINRA Board
  - 9370—Application to SEC for Review
- 12000 and 13000 Series—Code of Arbitration Procedure for Customer/Industry Disputes
  - Part I—Interpretive Material, Definitions, Organization and Authority
    - IM-12000 and IM-13000—Failure to Act Under Provisions of Code of Arbitration Procedure for Customer/Industry Disputes
    - 12105 and 13105—Agreement of the Parties
    - 13200—Required Arbitration
  - Part II—General Arbitration Rules
    - 12200—Arbitration Under an Arbitration Agreement or the Rules of FINRA
    - 12201—Elective Arbitration
  - Part VIII—Simplified Arbitration and Default Proceedings
    - 12800 and 13800—Simplified Arbitration
    - 12801 and 13801—Default Proceedings
- 14000 Series—Code of Mediation Procedure
  - 14104—Mediation Under the Code
  - 14105—Effect of Mediation on Arbitration Proceedings
  - 14109—Mediation Ground Rules

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

- Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
  - Rule 17a-3(a)(18)
  - Rule 17a-4(e)(6)
  - Rule 17a-4(j)

**2.6 Develop and maintain policies, procedures and controls relating to the creation and retention of books and records**

**KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- Record retention requirements

- **Electronic records storage requirements**

FINRA Rules

- 3170—Tape Recording of Registered Persons by Certain Firms
- 4510 Series—Book and Records Requirements
- 4511—General Requirements
- 4570—Custodian of Books and Records

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

- Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
  - Rule 17a-3(a)(21)
  - Rules 17a-3(g) and 17a-3(h)(1)
  - Rule 17a-4(b)(7)
  - Rule 17a-4(f)
  - Rule 17a-4(g)
  - Rule 17a-4(i)
  - Rule 17a-4(l)
- Rule 17a-7—Records of Nonresident Brokers and Dealers

## **2.7 Supervise compliance with financial responsibility requirements and funding and cash management**

**KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Reporting requirements of firm capital condition**
- **Requirements to segregate customer securities and funds**
- **Requirement to report short interest**
- **Introducing and clearing arrangements**
- **SEC requirements for extensions of credit and related disclosure**

FINRA Rules

- 1021—Foreign Members
- 2261—Disclosure of Financial Condition
- 4120—Regulatory Notification and Business Curtailment
- 4160—Verification of Assets
- 4210—Margin Requirements
- 4220—Daily Record of Required Margin
- 4230—Required Submission for Extension of Time under Regulation T and SEC Rule 15c3-3
- 4240—Margin Requirements for Credit Default Swaps
- 4311—Carrying Agreements
- 4330—Customer Protection—Permissible Use of Customers' Securities
- 4340—Callable Securities
- 4360—Fidelity Bonds
- 4540—Reporting Requirements for Clearing Firms
- 4560—Short-Interest Reporting
- 6274 and 6350A/B—Clearance and Settlement

## Securities Exchange Act of 1934

### Section 3(a)(12)

Rule 3a12-9—Exemption of Certain Direct Participation Program Securities From the Arranging Provisions of Sections 7(c) and 11(d)(1)

### Section 1—Regulation of the Use of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices

Rule 10b-16—Disclosure of Credit Terms in Margin Transactions

### Section 8—Restrictions on Borrowing by Members, Brokers and Dealers

Rule 8c-1—Hypothecation of Customers' Securities

### Section 11(d)(1)—Extension of Credit

Rule 11d1-1—Exemption of Certain Securities from Section 11(d)(1)

Rule 11d1-2—Exemption From Section 11(d)(1) For Certain Investment Company Securities Held by Broker-Dealers as Collateral in Margin Accounts

Rule 15c1-9—Use of Pro Forma Balance Sheets

### Section 15(c)(2)

Rule 15c2-1—Hypothecation of Customers' Securities

Appendix D—Satisfactory Subordination Agreements

Rule 15c2-5—Disclosure and Other Requirements When Extending or Arranging Credit in Certain Transactions

### Section 15(c)(3)

Rule 15c3-1—Net Capital Requirements for Brokers or Dealers

Rule 15c3-2—Customers' Free Credit Balances

Rule 15c3-3—Customer Protection—Reserves and Custody of Securities

### Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others

Rule 17a-3(a)(11)

Rule 17a-3(a)(14)

Rule 17a-4(b)(2)

Rule 17a-4(b)(3)

Rule 17a-4(b)(5)

Rule 17a-4(b)(8)

Rule 17a-5—Reports To Be Made by Certain Brokers and Dealers

Rule 17a-11—Notification Provisions for Brokers and Dealers

Rule 17f-1—Requirements for Reporting and Inquiry With Respect to Missing, Lost, Counterfeit or Stolen Securities

## Federal Reserve Board Regulation T—Credit by Brokers and Dealers

## Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (SIPA)

Section 3—Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC)

Section 5—Protection of Customers

Section 9—SIPC Advances

Section 14—Prohibited Acts

## Sarbanes—Oxley

Section 404—Management Assessment of Internal Controls

## **FUNCTION 3—Supervision of Retail and Institutional Customer-Related Activities**

### **3.1 Supervise new account opening and ongoing maintenance of existing accounts**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- Requirement to obtain specified customer information
- Requirement to verify that accounts comply with Customer Identification Program (CIP)
- Bank Secrecy Act and USA PATRIOT Act
- Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
- Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)
- Anti-Money Laundering regulations
- Asset transfer processes
- Required documentation for account changes
- Privacy of customer information
- Detect, prevent and mitigate identity theft

#### FINRA Rules

2010—Standards of Commercial Honor and Principles of Trade

2140—Interfering With the Transfer of Customer Accounts in the Context of Employment Disputes

2231—Customer Account Statements

3250—Designation of Accounts

3310—Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program

Supplementary Material

.01 Independent Testing Requirements

.02 Review of Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Person Information

4512—Customer Account Information

11870—Customer Account Transfer Contracts

#### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others

Rule 17a-3(a)(9)

Rule 17a-3(a)(17)

Rule 17a-4(c)

Rule 17a-4(e)(8)

Rule 17a-8—Financial Recordkeeping and Reporting of Currency and Foreign Transactions

SEC Regulation S-P—Privacy of Consumer Financial Information and Safeguarding Personal Information

SEC Regulation S-ID – Identity Theft Red Flags



### 3.2 Monitor, review and approve speaking engagements and other communications with the public

#### KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Social media and electronic communications guidelines
- Differences among research, retail and institutional communications and correspondence
- Various approval and filing requirements
- “Do Not Call” list requirements

#### FINRA Rules

- 2210—Communications with the Public
- 2211—Communications with the Public About Variable Life Insurance and Variable Annuities
- 2212—Use of Investment Companies Rankings in Retail Communications
- 2213—Requirements for the Use of Bond Mutual Fund Volatility Ratings
- 2214—Requirements for the Use of Investment Analysis Tools
- 2216—Communications with the Public about Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs)
- 3170—Tape Recording of Registered Persons by Certain Firms
- 3230—Telemarketing
- 5230—Payments Involving Publications that Influence the Market Price of a Security

#### Securities Act of 1933

- Section 10(b)
  - Rule 482—Advertising by an Investment Company as Satisfying Requirements of Section 10
- Section 17(a)
  - Rule 156—Investment Company Sales Literature

#### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

- Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
  - Rule 17a-3(a)(20)
  - Rule 17a-4(b)(4)

#### Investment Company Act of 1940

- Section 34(b)
  - Rule 34b-1—Sales Literature Deemed To Be Misleading

#### Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (SIPA)

- Section 15(d)—Advertising

### **3.3 Review securities transactions, recommendations and account activity, and verify that required disclosures are made**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Best interest obligations and suitability requirements**
- **Requirement to recognize red flags, investigate and escalate potential issues**
- **Commission and markup regulations**
- **Requirements to provide disclosures concerning products, risks, services, costs and fees**

#### FINRA Rules

- 2040—Payments to Unregistered Persons
- 2090—Know Your Customer
- 2111—Suitability
- 2114—Recommendations to Customers in OTC Equity Securities
- 2121—Fair Prices and Commissions
- 2122—Charges for Services Performed
- 2124—Net Transactions with Customers
- 2130—Approval Procedures for Day-Trading Accounts
- 2232—Customer Confirmations
- 2251—Forwarding of Proxy and Other Issuer-Related Materials
- 2264—Margin Disclosure Statement
- 2265—Extended Hours Trading Risk Disclosure
- 2266—SIPC Information
- 2267—Investor Education and Protection
- 2268—Requirements When Using Pre-dispute Arbitration Agreements for Customer Accounts
- 2270—Day-Trading Risk Disclosure Statement
- 2310(b)(2)—Direct Participation Programs
- 2342—“Breakpoint” Sales
- 3150—Holding of Customer Mail
- 3260—Discretionary Accounts
- 4210(f)(8)(B)—Day Trading
- 4514—Authorization Records for Negotiable Instruments Drawn from a Customer’s Account

#### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

- Section 10—Regulation of the Use of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices
  - Rule 10b-10—Confirmation of Transactions
  - Rule 15l-1—Regulation Best Interest
- Section 15(c)(1)
  - Rule 15c1-7—Discretionary Accounts
- Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
  - Rule 17a-3(a)(8)
  - Rule 17a-4(b)(6)
  - Rule 17a-14—Form CRS, for Preparation, Filing and Delivery of Form CRS

## **FUNCTION 4—Supervision of Trading and Market Making Activities**

### **4.1 Supervise order entry, routing and execution**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Requirements to implement and enforce trader mandates and to restrict traders to assigned aggregation units**
- **Market making and quoting activities**
- **Requirements to comply with Regulation SHO**
- **Various execution venues, order routing, best execution obligations and Regulation NMS**
- **Various restrictions on trading systems and capital and credit limits**
- **Volatility trading pauses**
- **Prohibited trading activities**
- **Escalation requirements upon discovery of a prohibited activity**

#### FINRA Rules

##### 5200 Series—Quotation and Trading Obligations and Practices

5210—Publication of Transactions and Quotations

5220—Offers at Stated Prices

5240—Anti-intimidation/Coordination

5250—Payments for Market Making

5260—Prohibition on Transactions, Publication of Quotations, or Publication of Indications of Interest during Trading Halts

5270—Front Running of Block Transactions

5280—Trading Ahead of Research Reports

5290—Order Entry and Execution Practices

##### 5300 Series—Handling of Customer Orders

5310—Best Execution and Interpositioning

5320—Prohibition against Trading Ahead of Customer Orders

5330—Adjustment of Orders

5340—Pre-Time Stamping

##### 6100 Series—Quoting and Trading in NMS Stocks

6120—Trading Halts

6121—Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility

6190—Compliance with Regulation NMS Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility

##### 6200 Series—Alternative Display Facility

6220—Definitions

6272—Character of Quotations

6273—Normal Business Hours

##### 6400 Series—Quoting and Trading in OTC Equity Securities

6432—Compliance with the Information Requirements of SEA Rule 15c2-11

6433—Minimum Quotation Size Requirement for OTC Equity Securities

6435—Withdrawal of Quotations in an OTC Equity Security in Compliance with SEC Regulation M

## 6440—Trading and Quotations Halt in OTC Equity Securities

### Nasdaq Rules

- 4121—Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility
- 4611—Nasdaq Market Center Participant Registration
- 4612—Registration as a Nasdaq Market Maker
- 4613—Market Maker Obligations
- 4617—Normal Business Hours
- 4619—Withdrawal of Quotations and Passive Market Making
- 4750 Series—Nasdaq Market Center—Execution Services
  - 4751—Definitions
- 4761—Adjustment of Open Quotes and/or Orders

### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

- Section 10—Regulation of the Use of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices
  - Rule 10b5-1—Trading “On the Basis Of” Material Nonpublic Information in Insider Trading Cases
- Section 15(c)(2)
  - Rule 15c2-7—Identification of Quotations
  - Rule 15c2-11—Initiation or Resumption of Quotations without Specified Information
- Section 15(c)(3)
  - Rule 15c3-5—Risk management controls for brokers or dealers with market access
- Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
  - Rule 17a-3(a)(1) through (a)(7)

### SEC Regulation SHO

- Rule 200—Definition of “Short Sale” and Marking Requirements
- Rule 203—Borrowing and Delivery Requirements
- Rule 204—Close-Out Requirements

## 4.2 Confirm proper booking and settlement of trades

### KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Trade confirmation requirements and disclosures
- Buy-in and close-out requirements

### FINRA Rules

- 6274 and 6350A/B—Clearance and Settlement
- 11100 Series—Scope of Uniform Practice Code
- 11200 Series—Comparisons or Confirmation and “Don’t Know Notices”
- 11300 Series—Delivery of Securities
  - 11320—Dates of Delivery
  - 11361—Units of Delivery—Stocks
  - 11362—Units of Delivery—Bonds
  - 11363—Units of Delivery—Unit Investment Trust Securities
  - 11364—Units of Delivery—Certificates of Deposit for Bonds
- 11400 Series—Delivery of Securities with Draft Attached

- 11500 Series—Delivery of Securities with Restrictions
  - 11520—Delivery of Mutilated Securities
  - 11550—Assignments and Powers of Substitution; Delivery of Registered Securities
  - 11574—Certificate in Name of Deceased Person, Trustee, etc.
- 11600 Series—Delivery of Bonds and Other Evidences of Indebtedness
  - 11620—Computation of Interest
  - 11630—Due-Bills and Due-Bill Checks
  - 11640—Claims for Dividends, Rights, Interest, etc.
  - 11650—Transfer Fees
- 11700 Series—Reclamations and Rejections
  - 11740—Marking to the Market
- 11800 Series—Close-Out Procedures
  - 11810—Buy-In Procedures and Requirements
  - 11820—Selling-out
  - 11840—Rights and Warrants
  - 11860—COD Orders
- 11900 Series—Clearance of Corporate Debt Securities

#### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

##### Section 15(c)(6)

- Rule 15c6-1—Settlement Cycle

### 4.3 Review executions for compliance with trade reporting requirements

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Trade reporting facilities for various types of securities**

#### FINRA Rules

- 4515—Approval and Documentation of Changes in Account Name or Designation
- 6100 Series—Quoting and Trading in NMS Stock
  - 6140—Other Trading Practices
  - 6150—Obligation to Provide Information
  - 6160—Multiple MPIDs for Trade Reporting Facility Participants
  - 6170—Primary and Additional MPIDs for Alternative Display Facility Participants
  - 6181—Timely Transaction Reporting
  - 6182—Trade Reporting of Short Sales
  - 6183—Exemption from Trade Reporting Obligation for Certain Alternative Trading Systems
- 6200 Series—Alternative Display Facility
  - 6220—Definitions
  - 6230—Use of Alternative Display Facility Data Systems
  - 6240—Prohibition from Locking or Crossing Quotations in NMS Stocks
  - 6250—Quote and Order Access Requirements
  - 6271—Registration as an ADF Market Maker or an ADF ECN
  - 6275—Withdrawal of Quotations
  - 6281—Reporting Transactions in ADF-Eligible Securities
- 6300A Series—FINRA/Nasdaq Trade Reporting Facilities

- 6320A—Definitions
- 6380A—Transaction Reporting
- 6620 Series—Reporting Transactions in OTC Equity Securities and Restricted Equity Securities
- 6700 Series—Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine (TRACE)
  - 6710—Definitions
  - 6720—Participation in TRACE
  - 6730—Transaction Reporting
  - 6740—Termination of TRACE Service
  - 6750—Dissemination of Transaction Information
  - 6760—Obligation to Provide Notice
- 6800 Series – Consolidated Audit Trail Compliance Rule
  - 6810 – Definitions
  - 6820 – Clock Synchronization
  - 6830 – Industry Member Data Reporting
  - 6890 – Recordkeeping
- 7100 Series—Alternative Display Facility
  - 7110—Definitions
  - 7120—Trade Reporting Participation Requirement
  - 7130—Trade Report Input
  - 7170—Termination of Access
- 7200A Series and 7300 Series—FINRA/Nasdaq Trade Reporting Facility and OTC Reporting Facility
  - 7210A/7310—Definitions
  - 7220A/7320—Trade Reporting Participation Requirements
  - 7230A/7330—Trade Report Input
  - 7240A/7340—Trade Report Processing
  - 7270A/7370—Violation of Reporting Rules
- Nasdaq Rules
  - 4750 Series—Nasdaq Market Center—Execution Services
    - 4751—Definitions
    - 4755—Order Entry Parameters
    - 4756—Entry and Display of Quotes and Orders
    - 4757—Book Processing
  - 4758—Order Routing 5001—The Qualification, Listing, and Delisting of Companies
  - 5400 Series—Nasdaq Global Market
- Securities Exchange Act of 1934
  - Section 3—Definitions and Application of Title
    - Section 3(a)(23)(A)—Clearing Agency
    - Section 3(a)(38)—Market Maker
      - Rule 3b-1—Definition of “Listed”
      - Rule 3b-8—Definition of “Qualified OTC Market Maker,” “Qualified Third Market Maker,” and “Qualified Block Positioner”
  - Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
    - Rule 17a-3(a)(16)
    - Rule 17a-4(b)(11)
  - Provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Related to Penny Stocks
    - Section 3(a)(51)

- Rule 3a51-1—Definition of Penny Stock
- Section 15(h)—Requirements for Transactions in Penny Stocks
- Rule 15g-1—Exemptions for Certain Transactions
- Rule 15g-2—Penny Stock Disclosure Document Relating to the Penny Stock Market
- Rule 15g-3—Broker or Dealer Disclosure of Quotations and Other Information Relating to the Penny Stock Market
- Rule 15g-4—Disclosure of Compensation to Brokers or Dealers
- Rule 15g-5—Disclosure of Compensation of Associated Persons in Connection With Penny Stock Transactions
- Rule 15g-6—Account Statements for Penny Stock Customers
- Rule 15g-9—Sales Practice Requirements for Certain Low Priced Securities
- Rule 15g-100—Schedule 15G—Information To Be Included in the Document Distributed Pursuant to 17 CFR 240.15g-2

SEC Regulation ATS—Regulation of Exchanges and Alternative Trading Systems

SEC Regulation M

- Rule 103—Nasdaq Passive Market Making
- Rule 105—Short Selling in Connection with a Public Offering

Regulation NMS—National Market System

- Rule 600—NMS Security Designation and Definitions
- Rule 602—Dissemination of Quotations in NMS Securities
- Rule 604—Display of Customer Limit Orders
- Rule 605—Disclosure of Order Execution Information
- Rule 606—Disclosure of Order Routing Information
- Rule 607—Customer Account Statements
- Rule 611—Order Protection Rule
- Rule 612—Minimum Pricing Increments
- Rule 613 – Consolidated Audit Trail

SEC Regulation SHO

- Rule 200—Definition of “Short Sale” and Marking Requirements
- Rule 203—Borrowing and Delivery Requirements

## **FUNCTION 5—Supervision of Investment Banking and Research**

### **5.1 Develop and maintain policies, procedures and controls; and supervise related investment banking activities**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **Public and private offering regulations**
- **Requirements to conduct and document due diligence of issuers**
- **M&A, tender offers, corporate financial advisory and valuation services**
- **Fundamental terms of loan documents**
- **Terms of bankruptcy and the potential claims and priorities of investors**
- **Corporate annual and quarterly reports**
- **Requirements for information barriers**

#### **FINRA Rules**

- 2262—Disclosure of Control Relationship with Issuer
- 2269—Disclosure of Participation or Interest in Primary or Secondary Distribution
- 5110—Corporate Financing Rule—Underwriting Terms and Arrangements
- 5121—Public Offerings of Securities with Conflicts of Interest
- 5122—Private Placements of Securities Issued by Members
- 5123—Private Placements of Securities
- 5130—Restrictions on the Purchase and Sale of Initial Equity Public Offerings
- 5131—New Issue Allocations and Distributions
- 5141—Sale of Securities in a Fixed Price Offering
- 5150—Fairness Opinions
- 5160—Disclosure of Price and Concessions in Selling Agreements
- 5190—Notification Requirements for Offering Participants
- 6130—Transactions Related to Initial Public Offerings
- 6760—Obligation to Provide Notice
- 11880—Settlement of Syndicate Accounts

#### **Nasdaq Rules**

- 4614—Stabilizing Bids
- 4624—Penalty Bids and Syndicate Covering Transactions

#### **Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

- Section 3—Definitions and Application of Title
  - Rule 3a4-1—Associated Persons of an Issuer Deemed Not To Be Brokers
  - Rule 3b-6—Liability for Certain Statements by Issuers
- Section 10—Regulation of the Use of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices
  - Rule 10b-9—Prohibited Representations in Connection With Certain Offerings
- Section 12—Registration Requirements for Securities
- Section 12(a)
- Section 12(g)
- Section 12(j)



- Section 12(k)—Trading Suspensions; Emergency Authority
- Section 13—Periodical and Other Reports
  - Rule 13a-1/Rule 15d-1—Requirement of annual reports
  - Rule 13a-11/Rule 15d-1—Current reports on Form 8-K
  - Rule 13a-13/Rule 15d-13—Annual reports on form 10-K
  - Rule 13a-13/Rule 15d-13—Quarterly reports on Form 10-Q
  - Rule 13d-1—Filing of Schedules 13D and 13G
  - Rule 13e-3—Going Private Transactions by Certain Issuers or Their Affiliates
    - Schedule 13E-3 Filing Requirement
  - Rule 13e-4—Tender Offers by Issuers
    - Schedule 13E-4—Filing Requirement
  - Rule 13f-1—Reporting by Institutional Investment Managers of Information with Respect to Accounts Over Which They Exercise Investment Discretion (Schedule 13F)
- Regulation 13A—Reports of Issuers of Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12 Annual Reports
- Section 14—Proxies
  - Rule 14a-6—Filing Requirements (Proxy Statement) on Form 14A
  - Rule 14e-1—Unlawful Tender Offer Practices
  - Rule 14e-2—Position of Subject Company with Respect to a Tender Offer
  - Rule 14e-3—Transactions in Securities on the Basis of Material, Nonpublic Information in the Context of Tender Offers
  - Rule 14e-4—Prohibited Transactions in Connection with Partial Tender Offers
  - Rule 14e-5—Prohibiting Purchases Outside of a Tender Offer
- Section 15(c)(1)
  - Rule 15c1-5—Disclosure of Control
  - Rule 15c1-6—Disclosure of Interest in Distributions
  - Rule 15c1-8—Sales at the Market
- Section 15(c)(2)
  - Rule 15c2-4—Transmission or Maintenance of Payments Received in Connection with Underwritings
- Section 16—Directors, Officers and Principal Stockholders
  - Rule 16a-1—Definition of Terms
  - Rule 16a-2—Persons and Transactions Subject to Section 16
  - Rule 16a-3—Reporting Transactions and Holdings
- Section 17—Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others
  - Rule 17a-2—Recordkeeping Requirements Relating to Stabilizing Activities
- Securities Act of 1933
  - Section 2(a)(11)
    - Rule 144—Persons Deemed Not to be Engaged in a Distribution and Therefore Not Underwriters
    - Rule 144A—Private Resales of Securities to Institutions
  - Section 2(a)(3)
    - Rule 145—Reclassification of Securities, Mergers, Consolidations, and Acquisitions of Assets
  - Section 3(a)(11)
    - Rule 147—“Part of an Issue,” “Person Resident” and “Doing Business Within,” for Purposes of Section 3(a)(11)
    - Rule 147A—Exemptions to facilitate intrastate and regional securities offerings

- Section 4—Exempted Transactions
- Section 7—Information Required in Registration Statement
- Section 8—Taking Effect of Registration Statements and Amendments Thereto
- Section 11—Civil Liabilities on Account of False Registration Statement
- Section 12—Civil Liabilities Arising in Connection With Prospectuses and Communications
  - Rule 159—Information Available to Purchaser at Time of Contract of Sale
- Section 15—Liability of Controlling Persons
- Section 17—Fraudulent Interstate Transactions
- Section 23—Unlawful Representations
  - Rule 175—Liability for Certain Statements by Issuers
  - Rule 412—Modified or Superseded Documents

Regulation C—Registration

- Rule 405—Definition of Terms
- Rule 415—Delayed or Continuous Offering and Sale of Securities (Shelf Registration)

Regulation D—Rules Governing the Limited Offer and Sale of Securities without Registration Under the Securities Act of 1933

- Rule 501—Definitions and Terms Used in Regulation D
- Rule 502—General Conditions To be Met
- Rule 503—Filing of Notice of Sales
- Rule 504—Exemption for Limited Offerings and Sales of Securities Not Exceeding \$5,000,000
- Rule 506—Exemption for Limited Offers and Sales Without Regard to Dollar Amount of Offering

Regulation S—Rules Governing Offers and Sales Made Outside the U.S. Without Registration Under the Securities Act of 1933

- Rule 901—General Statement
- Rule 902—Definitions
- Rule 903—Offers or Sales of Securities by the Issuer, a Distributor, Any of Their Respective Affiliates, or Any Person Acting on Behalf of Any of the Foregoing; Conditions Relating to Specific Securities
- Rule 904—Offshore Resales

17 C.F.R. Part 210—Regulation S–X —Form and Content of and Requirements for Financial Statements, Securities Act of 1933, Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Investment Company Act of 1940, Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975

17 C.F.R. Part 229—Regulation S–K—Standard Instructions for Filing Forms Under Securities Act of 1933, Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975—Regulation S–K

Regulation M–A—Mergers and Acquisitions

Regulation AB—Asset–Backed Securities

Regulation M

- Rule 100—Preliminary Note; Definitions (“stabilization” and “stabilizing”)
- Rule 101—Activities by Distribution Participants
- Rule 102—Activities by Issuers and Selling Security Holders During a Distribution
- Rule 104—Stabilizing and Other Activities in Connection With an Offering

Regulation FD—Fair Disclosure

Hart–Scott–Rodino Act

15 U.S.C. Section 18a—Premerger Notification and Waiting Period

## 5.2 Review and approve investor disclosure materials, pitch books and marketing materials

### KNOWLEDGE OF:

- **Communication regulations related to new issues**
- **Public notices excluded from the definition of prospectus**

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 15(c)(2)

Rule 15c2-8—Delivery of Prospectus

Securities Act of 1933

Section 2(a)(10), Section 2(a)(11), Section 4(3), Section 5—Prohibitions Relating to Interstate Commerce and the Mails, Section 7—Information Required in Registration Statement and Section 10—Information Required in Prospectus

Rule 134—Communications Not Deemed a Prospectus

Rule 135—Notice of Proposed Registered Offerings

Rule 135a—Generic Advertising

Rule 137—Publications or Distributions of Research Reports by Brokers or Dealers That Are Not Participating in an Issuer's Registered Distribution of Securities

Rule 142—Definition of “Participates,” and “Participation,” as Used in Section 2(11), in Relation to Certain Transactions

Rule 153a—Definition of “Preceded By a Prospectus” as Used in Section 5(b)(2) of the Act, in Relation to Certain Transactions Requiring Approval of Security Holders

Rule 163—Exemption from Section 5(c) of the Act for Certain Communications By or On Behalf of Well-Known Seasoned Issuers

Rule 163A—Exemption from Section 5(c) of the Act for Certain Communications Made By or On Behalf of Issuers More Than 30 Days Before a Registration Statement Is Filed

Rule 164—Post-Filing Free Writing Prospectuses in Connection with Certain Registered Offerings

Rule 168—Exemptions From Sections 2(a)(10) and 5(c) of the Act For Certain Communications of Regularly Released Factual Business Information and Forward-Looking Information

Rule 169—Exemptions From Sections 2(a)(10) and 5(c) of the Act For Certain Communications of Regularly Released Factual Business Information

Rule 172—Delivery of Prospectus

Rule 174—Delivery of Prospectus by Dealers; Exemptions Under Section 4(3) of the Act

Rule 175—Liability for Certain Statements by Issuers

Rule 405—Definitions of Terms

Rule 424—Filing of Prospectuses, Number of Copies

Rule 427—Contents of Prospectuses Used After Nine Months

Rule 430—Prospectus for Use Prior to Effective Date

Rule 430A—Prospectus in a Registration Statement at the Time of Effectiveness  
Rule 430B—Prospectus in a Registration Statement After Effective Date  
Rule 433—Conditions to Permissible Post-Filing Free Writing Prospectuses  
Rule 460—Distribution of Preliminary Prospectus

### **5.3 Develop and maintain policies, procedures and controls; and supervise activities relating to research**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- **What constitutes research**
- **Research report approval and dissemination processes**
- **Disclosure requirements for analysts who make public appearances**

#### FINRA Rules

2241—Research Analysts and Research Reports

#### Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 3(a)(35)

Section 28(e)

#### Securities Act of 1933

Section 2(a)(10) and Section 5—Prohibitions Relating to Interstate Commerce and the Mails

Rule 138—Publications or Distributions of Research Reports by Brokers or Dealers About Securities Other Than Those They Are Distributing

Rule 139—Publications or Distributions of Research Reports by Brokers or Dealers Distributing Securities

#### SEC Regulation AC—Analyst Certification

## SAMPLE ITEMS

The following sample items are included to provide an introduction to the basic formats of multiple-choice items used on the exam. The sample items do not reflect the difficulty level of actual exam items. Candidates who familiarize themselves with these formats may be able to improve their test-taking skills so their performance on the exam will better reflect their knowledge of the areas tested. An asterisk indicates the correct answer to each sample item.

**Closed-Stem:** The stem (the part that poses the question) is a complete sentence and thus concludes with a question mark. The options (answer choices) may be complete or incomplete sentences.

**Example:** The designation of the person or persons permitted to trade on behalf of a corporation is usually found in which of the following?

- (A) Corporate resolutions\*
- (B) Articles of incorporation
- (C) Listings on the company website
- (D) Registration statements

**Open-Stem (Sentence Completion):** The stem is an incomplete statement, and the options represent conclusions to the sentence.

**Example:** Round lot trades in Nasdaq securities must be reported within:

- (A) 10 seconds of execution.\*
- (B) 90 seconds of execution.
- (C) 5 minutes of execution.
- (D) 20 minutes of execution.

**Except or Not:** "Except" or "not" is used when the task is to select the response option that is an exception to the principle or rule stated in the stem. In such cases, the stem may be open or closed.

**Example:** In determining whether to approve a change from the exempt status of a member firm under SEC Rule 15c3-3, FINRA considers each of the following **except**:

- (A) the type of business the firm conducts.
- (B) the amount of the firm's errors and omissions insurance coverage.\*
- (C) the firm's current financial condition.
- (D) the firm's procedures for safeguarding customer assets.

## REFERENCES

Listed below are government and SRO websites that provide information about rules and other information candidates may find useful in preparing for the exam. In addition to information about rules, the SRO may publish glossaries of terms, explanations of securities products, and compliance procedures. Candidates are encouraged to refer to the SRO websites for information memos or Regulatory Notices concerning amendments to rules and the announcement of new rules that may relate to the exam. Candidates can purchase copies of federal securities laws and SEC rules through the network of federal government printing offices. However, some of this information may be available on the SRO and pertinent federal government (*e.g.*, the SEC) websites. It is recommended that candidates refer to the content outline as part of their preparation to take the exam. Candidates are responsible for planning their course of study in preparation for the exam. FINRA produces only the content outline and is not involved with, nor does it endorse, any particular course of study.

**Financial Industry Regulatory Authority  
(FINRA)**  
[www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org)

**Securities Industry/Regulatory Council  
on Continuing Education**  
[www.cecouncil.com](http://www.cecouncil.com)

**Securities and Exchange Commission  
Office of Investor Education and Advocacy**  
[www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)

**Nasdaq OMX**  
[www.nasdaqomx.com](http://www.nasdaqomx.com)