**Classrooms to Careers in Finance**

**Are you interested in**:

* Problem-solving, puzzles, sales, negotiating, and finding optimal or creative solutions
* Solving problems caused by unequal distribution of wealth, restricted access to credit, and/or economic factors which impact human welfare across the globe
* Helping people achieve their financial goals and improve their quality of life
* Investing money in various financial markets and accumulating wealth
* Marketing/selling financial products or services to individuals, families, and business clients
* Banking, the stock market, investments, and learning how people and companies get access to capital (money)
* Helping a company make sound business decisions, manage its money, and ensure its financial stability

**Brief one paragraph overview of the major and types of jobs:**

The finance minor combined with a degree in business administrations includes coursework focused on the basis of financial analysis, securing capital, pricing assets, managing financial resources, and making investments that grow wealth—from both the individual and corporate perspectives. Just as individuals need to borrow money to purchase a house or a car, companies borrow or raise money to make investments intended to grow or expand the business. Understanding the fundamentals of investments and the trade-off between risk and return is central to the study of finance.

The financial professionals who help make these transactions happen hold jobs as financial analyst, commercial bankers, financial planners, brokers, investment bankers, credit analysts, security traders, and portfolio managers. Financial managers typically manage a company’s finances, prepare financial reports, and help to achieve strategic goals by funding the initiatives. A portfolio manager selects financial products to invest, allocate clients’ money in investment portfolios, and manage investment risk so as to help investors/clients achieve their goal of wealth accumulation. Other career paths include insurance and real estate, though both would require additional licensing.

Students who study finance often enter careers where they work directly with clients or customers in the financial services industry. To be successful, the graduate needs a combination of strong communication, analytical, sales, negotiation, and teamwork skills.

**Or attend graduate school for:**

Movement into management levels and positions of responsibility may require an advanced study. Graduate programs in Finance include: Master of Science in Finance (MSF), Master of Science in Financial Engineering (MSFE), and Master of Business Administration in Finance Concentration (MBA in Finance). After earning the bachelor’s degree, it is common to have additional exams in order to obtain needed licenses or certificates such as Certificate of Financial Analyst (CFA), Financial Risk Manager (FRM), and Certificate of Financial Planning (CFP).

**Options for the major**

BS in Business Administration with a minor in Finance

* Entry-level careers in finance require an internship with responsibilities directly connected to financial duties.
  + Meredith places interns with Credit Suisse, one of the world’s top investment banks each year. To be selected, students need good grades and should have participated in resume workshops and mock interviews.

Students wanting to expand their knowledge and skills might consider adding:

* A major/minor in accounting or economics, which provides exceptional depth and makes a student very marketable in a variety of fields.
* A minor in marketing, recommended for students interested in careers in banking or financial services. A course in sales is strongly recommended.
* A major/minor in Communication or English, which provides an edge to a student who wants to become a journalist or reporter in media’s finance or business segment.
* A minor in Math or Computer Science, which provides a great advantage for job in the financial industry
* Membership in a student organization, especially service as the treasurer

**Professional Associations -**

Financial Management Association (FMA)

Risk Management Association (RMA)

Financial Planning Association (FPA)

**Career Outlook -**

Careers in the finance industry provide the highest monetary rewards for any business-related major. Graduates normally start at or over $50,000 annually. In the finance industry, majors other than finance receive higher salaries than their peers in other industries. A marketing major who sells financial products or services typically gets higher paid than a marketing person who sells other industry products while a financial engineer usually receives a higher salary than an engineer in manufacturing or computer science industry.

Salaries for those in financial careers start high and have considerable growth potential. The high salaries, however, correspond to demanding fiduciary responsibilities and the need to obtain and maintain licenses to trade securities.

In general, the job outlook for students who study finance is very positive.

**Job Outlook Comparison Through 2022**

* Financial Manager —9 percent, slower than average
* Financial Advisor—27 percent, much faster than average
* Financial Analyst —16 percent, faster than average
* Securities, Commodities and Financial Services Sales Agents—11 percent, about as fast as average

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ 2014-15 Occupational Outlook Handbook