



Undergraduate FINANCE LEARNING PATHS



The Undergraduate Finance Learning Paths are designed to help students select courses to develop the skills necessary to pursue certain careers. The Learning Paths are not meant to restrict students' initiative and creativity, but rather help guide them as they prepare for the future.

For information regarding the Finance concentration, please consult the "Undergraduate Finance Course Descriptions and Prerequisite" guide.

Corporate Advisory

Investment Banking, Commercial Banking, Consulting, Startups & Growth Cos.

This learning path is designed to prepare you for **positions in firms that provide financial and strategic advice to corporate clients**. Key issues that clients may face include evaluating strategic initiatives (e.g., geographic or market expansion via acquisition), analyzing tactical initiatives (e.g., short-term funding needs), and evaluating issues regarding capital structure (e.g., optimal debt-equity mix) and firm ownership (e.g., liquidity objectives, generational transfer).

Although this learning path has been associated traditionally with investment banking positions, it also is well suited for careers in commercial banking, corporate finance advisory groups at consulting and accounting firms, venture capital firms, and private equity funds. The skills developed in this path are also useful to those interested in starting their own company or working for a startup/emerging growth company.

Corporate Financial Management

Strategic Planning, Business Development, Financial Analysis, Treasury Management, Investor Relations Accounting

This learning path is designed to prepare you for **positions in corporate finance, where you will use decision-making skills to create value for shareholders/owners**. These positions will tend to be most attractive to those with a strong interest in participating in the growth and development of organizations over extended time periods. Such positions can be found in the corporate finance departments of mid-size to large firms, as well as within small entrepreneurial startups. There are few geographical constraints on these positions, as this function is performed wherever there is a corporate headquarters.

Success in corporate finance relies on a combination of strong accounting, analytical and interpersonal skills. Typical activities include performing discounted cash flow analyses of proposed investments (including new products, mergers, and acquisitions), estimating costs of capital, meeting with commercial and investment bankers to address financing needs, presenting to rating agencies (Moody's and S&P), and managing investor relations. An effective corporate financial manager is a strategic thinker, capable of seeing how a firm's activities come together to create shareholder value.

Investments

Investment Banking, Portfolio Management, Securities Analysis, Securities Sales & Trading, Risk Management, Private Equity and VC, Hedge Funds, Family Offices

This learning path is designed to help students develop a working knowledge of the core areas of investment management, including asset valuation, portfolio management, derivatives, and quantitative analysis. The goal is to equip students with the skills necessary to make sound investment decisions in a rapidly changing investment world. Students may be interested in applying to manage money through the Babson College Fund. Students may go on to achieve the Chartered Financial Analysis (CFA) designation, widely considered to be the qualification of choice in the investment management industry.

Most students following this learning path are preparing themselves for positions as Portfolio Managers or Analysts at companies that manage investments for institutions or individuals or for their own account. Although such careers are often on what is known as the "buy side" of the investment profession, some students may go on to work on the "sell side" as analysts or in securities sales and trading at investment banks.

»» What areas of finance interest you?

Corporate Advisory Path

Geared toward students interested in:

- »» Investment Banking
- »» Commercial Banking
- »» Private Equity & Venture Capital
- »» Consulting
Consulting Firms, Accounting Firms
- »» Startups & Early Growth Companies
Strategic Planning, Business Development, Finance

Suggested Courses:

- ACC3502
Intermediate Accounting I: Finance
- FIN3515
Corporate Financial Management
- FIN3520
Security Valuation
- FIN3560
Financial Markets and Instruments
- FIN4510
Corporate Finance Modeling and Decision Tools
- FIN4530
Investments
- FIN4540
Corporate Financial Strategy

Corporate Financial Management Path

Geared toward students interested in:

- »» Strategic Planning
- »» Treasury Management
- »» Financial Analysis
- »» Cash Management
- »» Business Development
- »» Financial Analysis
- »» Investor Relations

Suggested Courses:

- ACC3502
Intermediate Accounting I: Finance
- FIN3515
Corporate Financial Management
- FIN3535
Financing and Valuing Sustainability
- FIN3560
Financial Markets and Instruments
- FIN3565
Real Estate Development
- FIN4510
Corporate Finance Modeling and Decision Tools
- FIN4535
Fixed Income and Structured Products
- FIN4571
Real Estate Finance and Advanced Modeling

Investments Path

Geared toward students interested in:

- »» Mutual & Pension Funds/
Insurance Companies
- »» Securities Sales and Trading
- »» Commercial Bank Trust Officer
- »» Risk Management
- »» Asset Management Companies
- »» Private Equity & Venture Capital
- »» Real Estate

Suggested Courses:

- ACC3502
Intermediate Accounting I: Finance
- FIN3520
Security Valuation
- FIN3560
Financial Markets and Instruments
- FIN4520
Financial Trading Strategies and Risk Management
- FIN4520 / FIN4521
Babson College Fund
- FIN4530
Investments
- FIN4535
Fixed Income and Structured Products
- FIN4545
Alternative Investments
- FIN4560
Options and Futures