



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCE MAJORS

SUMMARY

Finance is a field that deals with the allocation of assets and liabilities over time under conditions of certainty and uncertainty. Finance can also be defined as the science of money management. Students are educated in the concepts, skills and techniques necessary in planning, raising funds, making investments and controlling costs.

SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE FINANCE MAJOR

- **Quantitative Analysis**— Using complex mathematical and statistical modeling, measurement and research
- **Teamwork**— Actively participating as a member of a team to move the team toward the completion of goals
- **Reading Comprehension**— Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work documents
- **Critical Thinking**— Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems
- **Attention to Detail**— Accomplishing tasks by considering all areas involved, no matter how small; showing concern for all aspects of the job; accurately checking processes and tasks; being watchful over a period of time
- **Problem Sensitivity**— The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong

POTENTIAL CAREERS

Financial Planning

- Certified Financial Planner
- Estate and Tax Planner
- Portfolio Manager

Corporate Finance

- Financial Analyst, Manager or Examiner
- Financial Risk Manager
- Reporting Manager
- Credit Department Manager
- Treasurer

Investment Banking

- Stockbroker
- Security Sales or Trading
- Financial Risk Manager
- Financial Reporting Manager

Public Accounting Firms

- Staff Accountant
- Audit Manager
- Tax Manager
- Partner

Commercial Banking

- Branch/Operations Manager
- Loan Officer

Government/Regulatory

- Examiner
- Auditor

Hedge Funds

- Investment Analyst
- Regulatory Compliance Officer
- Quantitative Analyst

TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

- State, local, and Federal government agencies
- Schools and Universities
- Non-Profit Agencies
- Banks
- Insurance Firms
- Trust Companies
- Real Estate Brokers
- Mutual Funds
- Investment Banking Firms
- Portfolio Management Firms

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS

- Financial Planner
- Financial Analyst
- Investor Relations Associate
- Budget Analyst
- Actuary
- Accountant
- Credit Analyst
- Attorney
- Commercial Real Estate Agent
- Business Teacher

ACTIVITIES ON THE JOB

- Advise Management activities at banks, brokerage firms, risk and insurance departments, or credit departments
- Coordinate and direct financial planning, budgeting, procurement, or investment activities of all or part of an organization
- Develop internal controls
- Evaluate costs data for budgets
- Prepare or direct preparation of financial statements, business activity reports, financial position forecasts, annual budgets, or other reports
- Forecast business, industry, or economic conditions
- Interpret data affecting investment programs
- Collect and analyze data to detect deficient controls and other red flags
- Inspect account books and accounting systems for efficiency, effectiveness, and use of accepted accounting procedures to record transactions
- Recommend actions to ensure compliance with laws and protect solvency of institutions

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications

- Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®): www.cfp.net/
- Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA®): www.cfainstitute.org
- Chartered Financial Consultant® (ChFC®): www.chfchigheststandard.com/
- Chartered Life Underwriter® (CLU®): www.cluhigheststandard.com
- Financial Risk Manager (FRM®): www.garp.org/frm
- Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA): www.caia.org

Organizations

- Association for Financial Professionals (AFP): www.afponline.org/
- American Finance Association (AFA): www.afajof.org/view/index.html
- American Bankers Association (ABA): www.aba.com/Pages/default.aspx
- Financial Management Association (FMA): www.fma.org, Student Chapter at Xavier
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA): www.gfoa.org
- American Association of Finance and Accounting (AAFA): www.aafa.com

Sources: College Board Book of Majors 2014, www.onetonline.org, the Harvard University Competency Dictionary 2014, and "Top 10 Jobs for Finance Majors"