

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 PATH

Investment Banking
Commercial Banking
Consulting
Start-Ups & Early Growth Cos.

CORPORATE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PATH

Strategic Planning
Business Development
Financial Analysis
Treasury Management
Investor Relations

INVESTMENTS PATH

Investment Banking
Portfolio Management Securities Analysis
Securities Sales & Trading
Risk Management
Private Equity and VC

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**

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**

FIN4571
**Real Estate Finance and
Advanced Modeling**

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

FIN 4535
**Fixed Income and
Structured Products**

FIN4560
Options and Futures

CORPORATE ADVISORY PATH

This learning path is geared toward students interested in the following activities:

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

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 start-up/emerging growth company.

CORPORATE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PATH

This learning path is geared toward students interested in the following activities:

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

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 start-ups. 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 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 PATH

This learning path is geared toward students interested in the following activities:

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

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.