

Undergraduate Finance Learning Paths

Summary

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	Corporate Financial Management Path	Investments Path	Real Estate Path
<p>Example positions:</p> <p>Investment Banking Commercial Banking Consulting Start-Ups & Early Growth Cos.</p>	<p>Example positions:</p> <p>Strategic Planning Business Development Financial Analysis Treasury Management Investor Relations</p>	<p>Example positions:</p> <p>Investment Banking Portfolio Management Securities Analysis Securities Sales and Trading Risk Management Private Equity and VC</p>	<p>Example positions:</p> <p>Real Estate Brokerage R/E Investment Advisor R/E Asset/Portfolio Management R/E Securities Analysis R/E Development</p>

Suggested Programs

ACC3502 Intermediate Accounting I: Finance	ACC3502: Intermediate Accounting I: Finance	ACC3502: Intermediate Accounting I: Finance	FIN3511: Residential Real Estate
FIN3515: Corporate Financial Management	FIN3515: Corporate Financial Management	FIN3520: Security Valuation	FIN3512: Real Estate Transactions and Law
FIN3520: Security Valuation	FIN3535: Financing and Valuing Sustainability	FIN3560: Financial Markets and Instruments	FIN3520: Security Valuation
FIN3560: Financial Markets and Instruments	FIN3560: Financial Markets and Instruments	FIN4520: Babson College Fund I	FIN3535: Financing and Valuing Sustainability
FIN4510: Corporate Finance Modeling and Decision Tools	FIN3565: Real Estate Development	FIN4521: Babson College Fund II	FIN3555: Real Estate Investment
FIN4530: Investments	FIN4510: Corporate Finance Modeling and Decision Tools	FIN4530: Investments	FIN3560: Financial Markets and Instruments
FIN4540: Corporate Financial Strategy	FIN4540: Corporate Financial Strategy	FIN 4535: Fixed Income and Structured Products	FIN3565: Real Estate Development
FIN4570: Global Financial Management	FIN4570: Global Financial Management	FIN4560: Options and Futures	FIN4530: Investments
		FIN4570: Global Financial Management	FIN 4535: Fixed Income and Structured Products
			FIN4571: Real Estate Finance and Advanced Modeling

Related Activities

Babson Investment Club Babson Investment Banking Association Investment Banking Trip 85 Broads		Babson Investment Club Babson VC-PE Club Babson Investment Management Association Babson Trading Competition Rotman International Trading Competition CFA Program Investment Banking Trip 85 Broads	Real Estate Club
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Corporate Financial Management Path

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.

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
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Corporate Advisory Path

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.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investment Banking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commercial Banking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Private Equity and Venture Capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Start-ups and Early Growth Companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consulting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Consulting Firms → Accounting Firms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Strategic Planning → Business Development → Finance

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Investments Path

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.

The courses in this learning path are 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.

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

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| ➤ Mutual and Pension Funds/ Insurance Companies
→ Portfolio Manager
→ Securities Analyst | ➤ Money Management Companies |
| ➤ Securities Sales and Trading | ➤ Private Equity and Venture Capital |
| ➤ Commercial Bank Trust Officer | ➤ Real Estate |
| ➤ Risk Management | |