So you want to work in corporate finance...

Careers in corporate finance involve providing detailed analysis of a firm’s decisions and providing recommendations on how to finance the firm’s activities. In order to properly evaluate these decisions, individuals in the role of Corporate Finance Associate need strong functional knowledge and an understanding of the strategic interaction between operations and finance.

**Functional Skills**

**Financial Analysis**

Strong analytical skills dominate for the first five years of a corporate finance professional’s career, and there is heavy emphasis on functional knowledge. Technical expertise in corporate financing and the ability to resolve complicated financial challenges are critical.

*Recommended Courses for Functional Knowledge of Finance and Accounting*

These courses establish the foundations for evaluating the economic impacts of decisions.

- 8171  International Corporate Finance
- 8190  Taxation and Management Decisions
- 8423  Corporate Financial Strategies
- 8470  Corporate Financing

*Recommended Courses for Understanding Sources and Markets for Financing*

These courses examine financial markets that are relevant to the financing needs and decisions from the issuer’s point of view.

- 8410  Financial Statement Analysis
- 8490  Financial Institutions and Markets
- 8625  Mergers and Acquisitions

*Specialty Topics*

Select from these courses depending on the needs of specific job positions or industries.

- 8125  Storytelling with Data
- 8290  Venture Capital Leadership
- 8395  Communicating Financial and Sustainability Performance
- 8453  Entrepreneurial Finance and Private Equity
- 8639  Corporate Financial Restructuring

**Problem Solving**

Are you drawn to solving complex problems in new and innovative ways? You’ll apply intellectual curiosity and superior research skills to address a company’s biggest challenges. The need for strategic thinking grows as one progresses to the role of Chief Financial Officer.

*Strategy and Planning Focused Courses*

These courses examine the broad strategic factors that need to be addressed, the governance structures that drive decision making, and issues related to communicating performance.

- 8013  Strategic Corporate Governance
- 8310  Competitive Dynamics
- 8400  General Managers Taking Action
- 8465  Management Planning and Control Systems
Leadership
Teamwork and Persuasion
Interpersonal Skills

Leadership
In order to develop and build exceptional teams of senior financial analysts and corporate finance managers, garner trust with cross-functional teams, and create lasting change inside an organization, you will need to draw on exceptional leadership skills. Below is a list of particularly well suited courses in leadership.

- 7619 Paths to Power
- 8274 Leadership When it Really Counts
- 8429 Managing Conflict & Leveraging Consensus
- 8619 Leading Teams
- 8706 Leadership, Diversity and Leveraging Difference

Teamwork and Persuasion
Corporate finance roles offer an excellent opportunity to build relationships, network, and partner with a variety of individuals to achieve a shared vision and outstanding results. Chief Financial Officers must communicate the company’s priorities throughout the organization and communicate proactively with the board of directors and investors.

- 7605 Strategic Communication
- 8320 Leadership Communication During Times of Disruption and Transformation

The need for strong interpersonal and leadership skills grows as one progresses from a Senior Financial Manager to the role of Chief Financial Officer. Many alumni emphasize the importance of the courses discussed below and highly recommend them to current students.

Note: 7603 Valuation in Financial Markets is a prerequisite for most Finance electives.