

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



Strategy and Planning Focused Courses Cont.

- 8621 Project Management
- 8800 Operations Strategy

Economics Courses

Financial managers need a keen understanding of global markets, including the drivers of economic policy and economic conditions. Any courses offered by the GEM area will be useful—tailor your selection to your particular interests and/or the field you will be entering.

Interpersonal Skills

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.



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

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

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