Potential Careers

NMU’s Accounting/Corporate Finance Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

- Actuarial Science
- Benefits
- Branch Management
- Capital Services and Mergers & Acquisitions
- Cash/Credit Management
- Cash Management
- Commercial Lending
- Corporate Credit Analysis
- Credit Scoring and Risk Management Claims Analysis
- Customer Service
- Financial/Budget Analysis
- Financial Reporting
- Investment Management
- Investor Relations
- Loss Control
- Mortgage Loans
- Operations
- Originations and Packaging
- Payroll
- Portfolio Management
- Real Estate
- Risk Management
- Sales
- Trust Management
- Underwriting

Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

College of Business
301 Cohodas
906-227-2900
www.nmu.edu/business

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Beta Alpha Psi (Accounting and Finance Club)
http://myweb.nmu.edu/~bap

Business Professionals of America (BPA)
www.bpa.org

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.cfainstitute.org Chartered Financial Analyst Institute
www.afponline.org Association for Financial Professionals
www.imanet.org Institute of Management Accountants

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Accounting

Corporate Finance

Professionals in corporate finance specialize in assisting organizations in generating funds necessary to support and expand business operations, put together acquisitions, manage cash resources, and ensure future economic stability. Working in corporate finance, you could find yourself supporting an international company or a local business looking to break into the global market. Professionals hit the ground running, taking responsibilities and problem solving their way to success.

As long as you perform well, corporate finance positions are comparatively stable. However, as a finance officer you do not work on commission, or other incentive programs, rather your success is based on your ability to create financial plans that will strengthen an organization in the long run. Many consider corporate finance positions as among the best in the industry.

The old stereotype that financial officers do nothing but crunch numbers all day is fading quickly. Thanks to computers who do the number crunching, finance officers now spend their time assessing reports generated by computers. Thus the need has increased for intelligent and dynamic communicators and analysts in all aspects of the financial world.

Skills and Competencies

The skills necessary to work in corporate finance are varied, but most positions require strong analytical and problem solving skills, good communication skills, flexibility and adaption abilities, and computer skills (including spreadsheets, mainframes, presentation software, etc.). Because of the expanding global economy, many employees of large companies have opportunities to work with international companies both at home and abroad. If you speak a foreign language and understand the corporate finance in a global context, then your value as an employee will grow infinitely.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Business Core
ACT 230 Principles of Accounting I (4 cr.)
ACT 240 Principles of Accounting II (4 cr.)
FIN 351 Financial Management I (4 cr.)
MGT 221 Business Law I: Legal Environment of Business (4 cr.)
MGT 240 Organizational Behavior & Management (4 cr.)
MGT 325 Operations Management (4 cr.)
MGT 344 Managerial Communication (4 cr.)
MKT 230 Introduction to Marketing (4 cr.)

Accounting
ACT 301 Financial Accounting I (4 cr.)
ACT 302 Financial Accounting II (4 cr.)
ACT 311 Cost Accounting (4 cr.)
ACT 321 Federal Income Taxation (4 cr.)
ACT 403 Accounting III (4 cr.)
ACT 441 Auditing (4 cr.)
ACT Electives (12 cr.) (ACT 431 required for CPA exam)
CIS 112 Microsoft Applications for Business
Students (2 cr.)
CIS 212 Computer Assisted Problem Solving for Business (2 cr.)

Finance (choose 20 cr. from the list)
FIN 352 Financial Management II (4 cr.)
FIN 354 Money & Capital Markets (4 cr.)
FIN 413 New Venture Finance: Capital... (4 cr.)
FIN 420 Financial Statement Analysis (4 cr.)
FIN 458 International Financial Management (4 cr.)
FIN 460 Employee Benefits & Retirement Planning (4 cr.)
FIN 461 Management of Financial Institutions (4 cr.)
FIN 462 Investment Analysis (4 cr.)
FIN 463 Portfolio Management (4 cr.)
FIN 491 Internship in Finance (1-4 cr.)
FIN 495 Variable Topics in Finance (1-4 cr.)
FIN 498 Directed Study in Finance (1-4 cr.)

Other Required Courses
EC 201, EC 202, MA 103/104/111/115/161, MA 171, PY 100, & SO 101/113

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Professional certification is another opportunity to increase skills and qualifications, and a variety of associations offer professional certification programs. The CFA Institute provides Chartered Financial Analyst designation to investment professionals. The Association for Financial Professionals (AFP) provides the Certified Cash Manager designation. The Institute of Management Accountants offers the Certified in Financial Management designation.

Complete an internship. Develop strong computer skills. Strong analytical skills are crucial in this industry. Earn an MBA to reach the highest levels of corporate finance.

Take additional courses in statistics, marketing, and entrepreneurship to best prepare for future careers.

Job Outlook

Median annual earnings of financial managers were $88,000 in 2015, while those that specialized in the local government sector had annual earnings of $69,000 in the same year. New job opportunities are housed in the new international business model. Other hot spots include high-technology and manufacturing fields.