Develop quantitative skills through additional courses in math, statistics, and accounting. Many positions in finance require the ability to analyze and interpret data. Develop strong interpersonal and communication skills. Cultivate an eye for detail.

Gain experience through internships, summer, and part-time positions. Read The Wall Street Journal and other financial news magazines to become versed in current events and industry vocabulary. Seek leadership roles in finance-specific student professional associations. Research professional designations and licenses (e.g., Chartered Financial Analyst or Certified Financial Planner). Learn a language that is sought after in today’s business environment.

**AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY**
- Financial analysis
- Cash management
- Credit management
- Budget analysis
- Investment management
- Investor relations
- Financial reporting
- Payroll
- Claims analysis
- Mortgage loans
- Loan origination and packaging
- Branch management
- Operations
- Cash management
- Credit scoring and risk management
- Financial analysis
- Private banking

**COMMON EMPLOYERS**
- Private businesses of all sizes and types
- State and local government entities
- Internal Revenue Service
- Treasury Department
- Schools and universities
- Non-profit organizations
- Foundations
- Hospitals
- Commercial banks
- Credit unions
- Savings and loan associations
- Savings banks
- Mortgage banks
- Captive finance companies
- Life insurance firms
- Property and casualty insurance firms

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- American Association of Finance and Accounting
- American Finance Association
- Association for Financial Professionals
- Certified Financial Planners Board of Standards
- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority
- Financial Management Association
- Insurance Information Institute
- International Academy of Financial Management
- Investment Management Consultants Association
- National Association of Personal Financial Advisors
- National Association of Real Estate Brokers
- Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association

**STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD**
- Complete a finance-related internship
- Seek finance-related leadership roles in campus organizations
- Develop your digital technology competency including industry-specific software
- Create opportunities to sharpen your analytical skills (e.g., research with finance faculty)
- Develop proficiency in a sought-after language for international opportunities
- Talk to professionals in the industry to learn more about claims, underwriting, and risk management. Many good, entry-level positions exist in these areas.
- Initiative and sales ability are necessary to be a successful agent or broker.
- Develop strong verbal and written communication skills
- Take advanced statistics classes to prepare for a career in actuarial science
- Prepare to take the first in a series of actuarial examinations.
- Gain a solid background in business including marketing and accounting
- Complete an internship or co-op with a bank
- Demonstrate advanced proficiency in professionalism and work ethic competencies
- Complete a sales internship
- Demonstrate a highly motivated and entrepreneurial personality
- Research Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation
- Develop professional relationships through networking

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