

## About the Finance Career Cluster Pathways

The Business, Marketing and Management Career Field includes four clusters of particular interest to business and marketing educators that address Finance, Business Management and Administration, Hospitality and Tourism and Marketing. The Information Technology Career Cluster is also available within the Communication and Information Systems Career Field.

The **Finance Cluster** includes those career opportunities that relate to making strategic decisions to report, obtain, save, protect and grow the financial assets of businesses and individuals. Individuals working in finance must have strong computation, analytical and interpersonal skills. Five pathways were identified for this cluster that includes: Accounting, Banking Services, Business Finance, Insurance and Securities and Investments.

**Accounting** encompasses careers that record, classify, summarize, analyze and communicate a business's financial information/business transactions for use in management decision-making. Accounting includes such activities as bookkeeping, systems design, analysis and interpretation of accounting information. Sample occupations include accountant, accounting clerk, auditor, bookkeeper, cost analyst, controller, financial planner, tax accountant, tax preparer and management accountant.

Primarily concerned with accepting deposits, lending funds and extending credit, the **Banking Services** pathway includes cash management, short-term investments, mortgages and other loans, credit cards and bill payment. Banking services are delivered via a number of different institutions, from commercial banks (the largest group) and other traditional means (savings and loans associations, credit unions and local banks) to newer ventures through insurance companies, brokerage houses and the Internet. Sample career opportunities include financial manager, loan officer or counselor, credit analyst, trust officer, mortgage broker, acquisitions specialist, branch manager, relationship manager and financial planner.

The **Business Finance** function in a company is to manage policy and strategy for (and the implementation of) capital structure, budgeting, acquisition and investment, financial modeling and planning, funding, dividends and taxation. Career opportunities include credit analyst, capital budgeting specialist, capital expenditure manager, financial analyst, project analyst, project finance manager, treasurer, cash manager and foreign exchange manager.

The **Insurance** industry, which exists to protect individuals and businesses from financial losses, delivers "products" that transfer risk from an individual or business to an insurance company. Sample career opportunities in Insurance include insurance agent, insurance broker, claim adjuster, compliance specialist, special investigator, underwriter, benefits consultant, producer, loss control manager, product manager, branch manager and financial planner.

The **Securities and Investments** industry consists of brokerage firms, investment banks and stock exchanges, all of which support the flow of funds from investors to companies and institutions. Related services include financial planning, asset management, hedge fund management and custody services.

Sample career opportunities include securities sales agent (broker), financial consultant, investment banker, mutual fund manager, financial analyst, trader, real estate developer and financial planner.

For each Pathway within the Finance Cluster, the Finance Career Cluster skill and knowledge statements (essential learnings) identify specific performance elements and measurement criteria that industry believes are important for effective job performance and career development. To access Nebraska's Finance Career Cluster Pathway knowledge and skill statements, visit <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/BMIT> - click on Finance in the About Us Section.

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