



Economics Career Development Office

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Banking and Finance Career Guide

About Banking and Finance

Finance is a specialized branch of economics concerned with the origination and management of money, credit, banking and investment. Typical areas of finance are corporate finance, investments, financial institutions, and risk management.

- **Corporate finance** is the study of how firms raise funds from investors, how they invest those funds in return generating projects, and how they distribute those returns back to investors.
- **Investments** is the study of securities (stocks, bonds, etc.) and the markets in which they trade.
- **Financial institutions** is the study of banks and other institutions which bring together the suppliers and users of funds.
- **Risk management** is the study of how individuals and firms can limit their exposures to the volatility of existing financial positions.

Economics fosters an analytical mindset and quantitative skills, which are beneficial in a broad variety of roles in both the banking and finance fields:

- Learn more about specific financial careers [HERE](#) and review the chart at the end of this guide
- Learn about the Top 10 Banking Jobs [HERE](#)

Recommended Courses

Core Electives in the major

- Econ 400 Applied Introductory Econometrics
- Econ 435 The Financial System
- Econ 460 Economic Forecasting

- Econ 464 International Trade and Finance
- Econ 441 Analytical Public Finance
- Econ 666 Advanced International Finance

Applied Electives in the major

- Econ 300 Introduction to Finance
- Econ 320 Investment Theory
- Econ 330 Money and Banking

Suggested Courses Outside of the Department of Economics

- Gen Bus 306 Bus Analytics I / Gen Bus 307 Business Analytics II
- Finance 205 Financial Modeling in Excel
- Finance 305 Financial Markets, Institutions, and Economic Activity
- Finance 325 Corporation Finance
- Finance 330 Derivative Securities
- Finance 410 Bank Management
- Finance 420 Investment Banking and Capital Markets

Relevant Majors & Certificates

Majors:

- [Finance, Investment, and Banking](#) (Business School)
- [Personal Finance](#) (SOHE)

Certificates:

- [Accounting Fundamentals](#) (Business School)
- [Risk Management & Insurance](#) (Business School)
- [Business](#) (Business School)
- [Summer Certificate in Business Fundamentals](#) (Business School)

Finance Related Student Organizations

- [Capital Management Club](#)
- [Economics Student Association](#)
- [Fantasy Sports & Finance Club](#)
- [Federal Reserve Challenge](#)
- [Finance & Investment Society](#)
- [Investment Banking Club](#)
- [Sales, Trading & Asset Management Society](#)
- [Society of Personal Investments](#)
- [Wealth Management Group](#)
- [Women in Finance & Accounting](#)

Search <https://win.wisc.edu/organizations> for additional student organizations.

Gain Technical Skills

- [Bloomberg for Education](#): use your @wisc.edu email to register for FREE access. Bloomberg Market Concepts is an eight-hour, self-paced e-learning course that covers four modules – Economics, Currencies, Fixed Income, and Equities. Learn more at [Bloomberg Market Concepts Certification](#)
- [Forage](#) offers FREE financial job simulations & skill building courses offered by leading employers
- [DoIt Software Training for Students](#): Free workshops including Microsoft Excel, Python and more!
- [LinkedIn Learning](#): Free access to online trainings approved by LinkedIn, including Excel, Corporate Finance Foundations Certificate, Finance Foundations, Understanding Capital Markets, and Financial Modeling Foundations.
- [SSCC Training Classes](#): Free classes on various software including Stata and R

Job and Internship Search Resources

- [Handshake](#) - Find internships and jobs, as well as info sessions and workshops on campus
- [Indeed](#) – Search for internships and jobs by job title, company name, city, state and more
- [MyVisaJobs](#) – Find U.S. employers who have historically sponsored international employees
- [LinkedIn](#) – Create a professional social media profile to connect with future employers; follow companies of interest to learn about new job postings

Finance/Business Specific Job Search Sites:

- [eFinancial Careers](#)
- [Financial Job Bank](#)

Recruitment Timelines: For internships or new grad jobs starting in the summer, larger financial or banking firms (i.e.; Wall Street) tend to host information sessions (typically virtual) and promote these offerings in

Handshake during April/May or August/September. Application periods are as early as 12-18 months BEFORE roles begin (i.e.; sophomores could be applying in the spring semester/early summer for summer internships occurring AFTER their junior year). For non-Wall Street roles, applications seasons typically follow standard recruitment cycles of the first 6-8 weeks of fall and spring semesters (late August to late October and late January to late March).

Exploratory and Diversity Programs:

- [Knowtern.com database of Diversity Programs](#) in finance, tech, and consulting
- Investopedia's [Best Programs Improving Diversity and Inclusion in Financial Services](#)
- [The Sadie Collective](#) offers a variety of programs focused on the success of Black women in economics and related fields (finance, policy, etc.) including an Exploring Career Pathways Conference and Research Symposium.
- To find opportunities at other companies, explore the careers section of company websites and/or opportunities are often posted in Handshake.

Sample Job Titles *Learn more about these roles and how they function [HERE](#)

- Loan Officer
- Equity Trader
- Financial Analyst
- Hedge Fund Administrator
- Economic Analyst
- Portfolio Manager
- Quantitative Analyst
- Investment Banker
- Asset Manager
- Financial Advisor

Additional Resources for Career Exploration

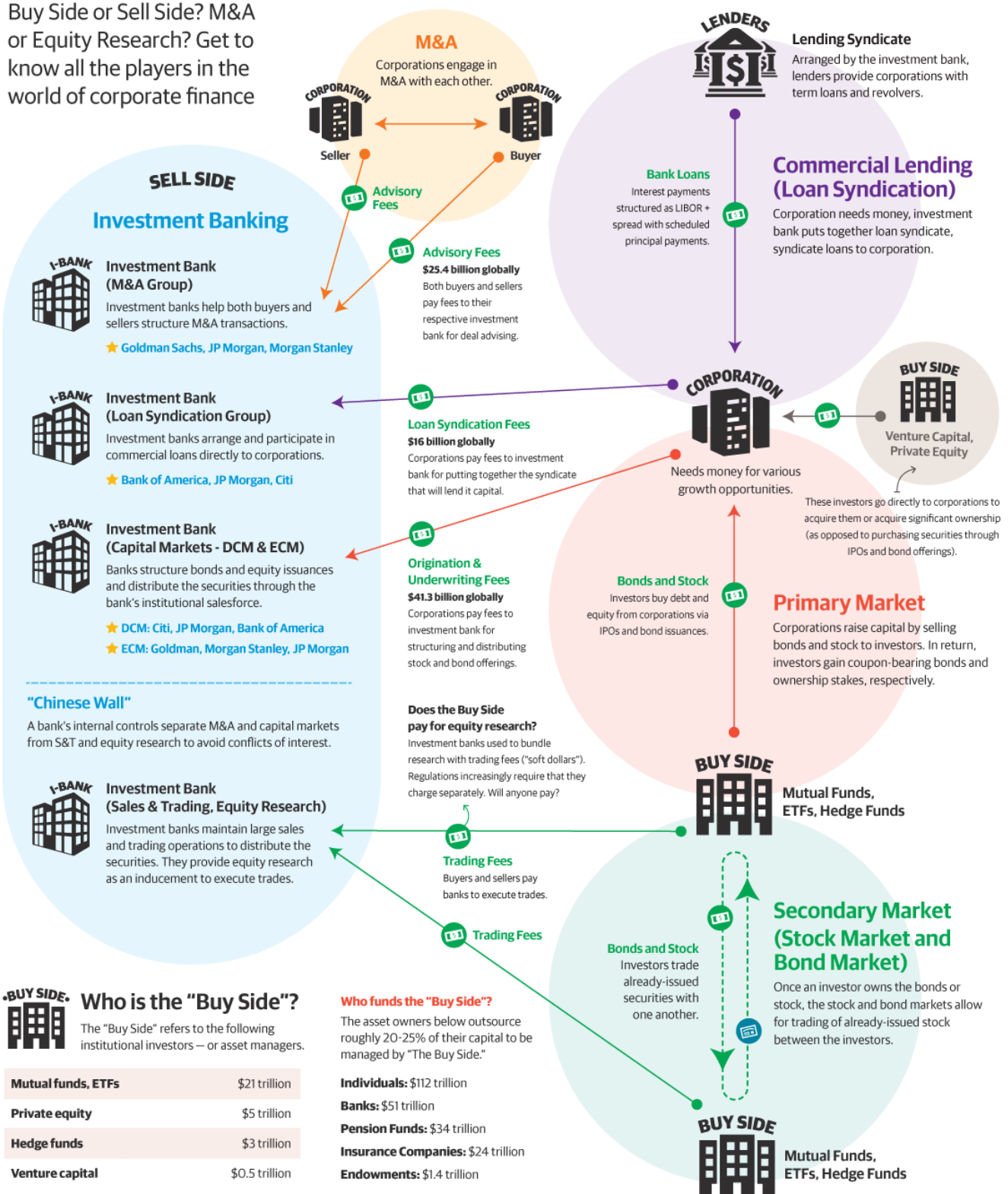
- [Economic Career Development Office](#) – Get career guidance, resume and cover letter reviews, and interview tips.
 - **Econ Investment Banking Recruitment Guide for Economics Students** is available via the [ECDO Canvas page](#) within the “Careers in Finance for Econ Majors” module.
 - [Career Chats with Econ Alumni](#) – several of these recorded sessions feature UW Econ Alumni in different finance roles.
- [Consulting, Finance, Management & Client Relations Career Community](#) for UW L&S students
 - Enroll in the [Exploring Career in Finance Canvas Course](#).
- [Wall Street Oasis](#) - Follow or join conversations about finance careers, job search, strategies and interview tips by using the Wall Street Oasis Forum Community
- [Vault's Best Banking Firms Rankings](#) – Learn about top ranked banking and finance firms.

Gain Industry Knowledge

- Keep up to date with financial, economical, political and entertainment news with the [The Wall Street Journal](#) and [Investopedia](#)
- [Fannie Mae](#) – Learn about one of the most premier financial institutions
- [Morningstar](#) – Learn about financial investments

So you want a career in finance?

Buy Side or Sell Side? M&A or Equity Research? Get to know all the players in the world of corporate finance



Source: "Buy Side vs. Sell Side," wallstreetprep.com