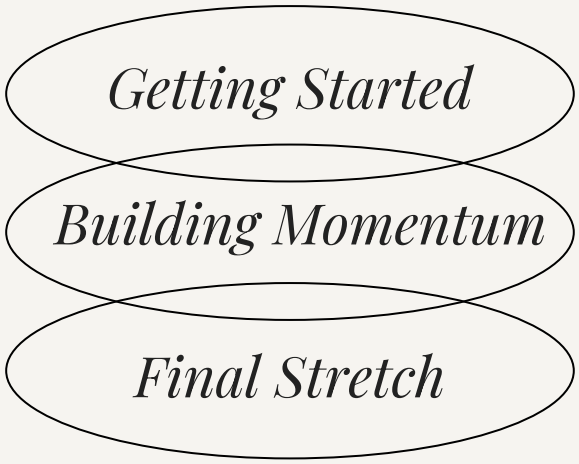
Northwestern
CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Breaking Into FINANCE

A step-by-step guide to your time at Northwestern



Explore the steps, experiences, and resources that can help you build financial skills, grow your network, and successfully launch a career in finance at Northwestern.

Getting Started:

suggested timing: First Year · Fall–Spring

- Start Early

Meet with your career advisor

- Take a self-assessment
- Select coursework
- Join finance clubs
- Build your network

Get Familiar with Recruitment Timelines

- Research career pathways
- Get started on Handshake

Building Momentum:

*suggested timing:*Sophomore Year · Fall–Summer

- Meet with your career advisor
- Strategize for your internship search

Apply for roles on Handshake

- Attend employer events
- Build your professional network
- Develop financial skills
- Apply for internships on Handshake

Final Stretch:

suggested timing: Junior–Senior Year · Fall–Spring

- Meet with your career advisor
- Develop a full-time job/graduate school search strategy
- Apply on Handshake
- Attend employer events
- Maintain and grow professional connections
- Accept offer!

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Getting Started:

Suggested Timing: First Year · Fall–Spring

- **Start early:** For highly competitive fields like investment banking, begin exploring and preparing as early as winter/spring of your first year.
- **Meet with your career advisor in Handshake:** NCA can help you research opportunities in finance and secure professional experiences.
- **Take a self-assessment:** Explore your career interests, professional values, and skills with an NCA advisor.
- **Select coursework:** Explore Northwestern's Roads to Business page for undergraduate opportunities to study business.
- **Join finance clubs:** Engage with finance clubs or become a treasurer for a non-business organization to explore finance, learn skills, and build your network.
- **Build your network:** Speak with upperclassmen and alumni in the industry about their experience.
- **Get Familiar with Recruitment Timelines:** Financial services recruiting often occurs in summer and early fall, though some large firms open applications as early as spring.
- **Research career pathways:** Explore areas such as investing, corporate finance, client advisory, and fintech, including industry trends and hiring timelines
- **Get started on Handshake:** Update your profile and career interests, register for events, and check out opportunities.

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Building Momentum:
Suggested Timing: Sophomore Year · Fall–Summer

- **Meet with your career advisor:** Develop an internship search strategy covering networking, resumes and cover letters, employer communication, interview preparation, and offer negotiation.
- **Strategize your Internship Search:** Identify the skills you want to develop, your preferred professional environment, and the areas of finance that interest you most.
- **Attend employer events**: Connect with employers through on-campus recruitment events and career fairs on Handshake.
- **Develop Financial skills:** Build skills needed for your desired field and technical interviews, such as financial valuation, stock pitches, Excel, or accounting.
- **Build your professional network:** Connect with upperclassmen, alumni, and professionals who can help you understand the recruitment process and industry.
- **Apply for Internships on Handshake:** Search for finance internships and use NCA's finance-specific job databases, newsletters, and Handshake Collections.

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Final Stretch:
Suggested Timing: Junior–Senior Year · Fall–Spring

- **Meet with your career advisor**: Partner with NCA to refine your approach for the full-time job search.
- **Develop a full-time job/graduate school search strategy**: Identify your target employers/schools, track application deadlines and requirements, and set goals.
- **Apply for postings on Handshake:** Explore postings, industry-specific databases and newsletters, and NCA-created Handshake job collections.
- **Attend employer events:** Connect with employers through on-campus recruitment events and career fairs. You can find events on Handshake.
- **Maintain and grow professional connections:** Reconnect with past mentors and managers while developing new connections with Northwestern alumni.
- **Accept offer and complete degree**: Congratulations! Your hard work has paid off!