

## FINANCE CAREER PLAN FIRST YEAR

Financial services is a broad industry with a wide variety of job functions. Your first year is a great time to explore the breadth of this industry and how it aligns with your interests. As you engage in career planning, be open to experiences outside of finance while being mindful of the skills you want to develop that are relevant to the finance industry. Check out the sophomore year finance career plan to help you in your next steps.

### ASSESS

- Connect with your career counselor to identify and reflect on your interests, values, and skills
- Reflect on how your interests, values, and skills align with a career in finance
- Examine how your values align with finance-related positions and employers

### EXPLORE

- Get involved in student organizations where you can explore your interests and build your skillset through different committees or positions
- Attend campus events sponsored by NCA, academic departments, and/or student organizations to explore the finance industry and financial careers
- Enroll in a range of courses that will allow you to explore your interests
- Speak with upperclassman you know pursuing careers in finance to learn about the process
- Build your awareness of markets and financial news that impact industries/divisions of interest to you via resources like: The Wall Street Journal, Morning Brew, Finimize

### DECIDE

- Conduct informational interviews with Northwestern alumni, industry experts, and/or personal contacts
- Consider summer opportunities that will introduce you to a professional work setting and help you develop new skills
- Attend NCA hosted events sponsored by employers in the financial service industry

### ACT

- Convert your high school resume into a professional document and enhance your document using VMock
- Create a LinkedIn and OurNorthwestern profile and build your network by finding and requesting connections with alumni and other professionals
- Utilize Northwestern Network Mentorship Program to find a mentor in the finance industry
- Actively use Handshake to create a public profile, indicate your career interests, review postings and explore events
- Pursue summer opportunities using targeted resumes and cover letters
- Enhance your Excel/spreadsheet skills through trainings, events, and/or hands-on experience