

FINANCE CAREER PLAN SOPHOMORE YEAR

Within the finance industry, you may be recruiting for both your sophomore summer internship and your junior summer internship at the same time; this is because the **junior summer finance internship** applications and interviews can occur as early as the winter quarter of your sophomore year.

ASSESS

- Articulate how your skills and interests align with a career in finance
- Develop and practice a professional introduction
- Meet with a career adviser to learn how to prepare for the recruitment process
- Evaluate your stressors and identify coping mechanisms that are effective for you

EXPLORE

- Identify alumni with similar backgrounds and experiences using LinkedIn and Our Northwestern
- Conduct informational interviews with alumni, industry experts, and/or personal contacts
- Elevate your leadership experience within your student organizations by chairing a committee, initiating a project or managing a budget
- 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

- Focus on selecting academic major(s), minor(s), and certificate program(s)
- Identify your target areas within finance as it relates to your fulltime job pursuits
- Pursue summer opportunities that allow you to develop a relevant skillset
- Prioritize maintaining a strong academic record, including course selections and GPA

ACT

For your Sophomore Year Summer Internship

- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile to reflect your experiences and impact
- Secure a summer internship that will develop and/or enhance a relevant skillset

For your Junior Year Summer Internship

- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile to reflect your experiences and impact
- Review company career pages, create a profile and sign up for employer communications (NOTE: Some employers may have early identification initiatives for particular populations)
- Conduct informational interviews with financial professionals in the sectors you are targeting
- Participate in career treks and employer-hosted events (some may occur as early as fall quarter)
- Study and review technical financial concepts/models and how to apply them
- Prepare for various types of interviews questions (behaviorial, technical) and formats (phone, video or virtual, in-person)
- Apply for your junior year internship – applications may open during the winter quarter of your sophomore year
- Once you accept an internship/full-time job, do not continue to pursue opportunities or engage in interviews with other employers