



Academic & Career Advising Guide

Master of Science in Finance

Updated: August 2016

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INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDE

The **Katz Academic & Career Advising Guide** is a program roadmap that enables students to customize the graduate school experience based upon their individual strengths and professional goals.

You can find important information about the Master of Science in Finance (MS Finance) curriculum, as well as suggestions for elective courses, co-curricular activities, professional organizations and certifications here. Used together with Gallup's StrengthsFinder 2.0 and regular appointments with your career and academic advisors, you will be empowered to individualize your experience and enhance your competitiveness in order to achieve your academic and career goals.

ACADEMIC & CAREER ADVISING

At Katz, we have a multi-faceted advising approach that is designed to provide every student with the best opportunity to achieve success. The faculty director, academic advisor, and career advisor take the lead on different aspects of your experience at Katz. They all work together to provide integrated advice to students about the program.

- The **faculty director** manages the curriculum and academic standards for the MS Finance program.
- The **academic advisor** provides day-to-day advising and support to students on many aspects of the program, including course selection, registration, graduation requirements, and general questions and concerns.
- The **career advisor** understands the students' career goals and coaches the student to construct a plan specifically tailored to their goals.

You may have wondered why you heard from your career and academic advisor before you even started the program. We are acutely aware that students who have been most successful in the past were singularly focused on post-graduation goals before they arrived on campus. With this knowledge in hand, we begin the process of focusing on your ultimate academic and career goals as early as possible.

As career goals come into focus, career advisors can then discuss the goals of each student with their academic advising counterparts. Career advisors and academic advisors work together to understand the ultimate goal of each student along with the skill sets the students will require in order to meet their goals. Then, they work with each student to construct curricular and co-curricular courses and activities specifically tailored to the individual student.

Faculty members frequently interact with both career and academic advisors. Career advisors provide recruiter feedback to faculty in regard to specific topics that give students a competitive advantage. Academic advisors then work with the faculty to determine which courses provide the student with specific knowledge that is most important to recruiters for the success of that individual student.

This process continues throughout the Katz experience and is designed to be completely transparent to the student while taking advantage of the 3 pillars of the Career Management Center:

- **Career Advice:** Career advising resources to put students on the right path based on their strengths and realistic professional objectives
- **Professional Development - Job Seeker Skills:** Ensuring that students develop business sophistication and appropriate communication, that are critical in today's job market
- **Employer Engagement:** Assisting students in connecting with industry professionals and employers that align with their career objectives and professional interests

CURRICULUM PLAN

In order to make the most of your Katz experience, it is critical that you work closely with your academic advisor, career advisor, and faculty director to assist you with appropriate course selection and sequencing that aligns with your professional aspirations. Information on course offerings, including course abstracts and schedules, can be found on [StudentNet](#) under the 'Class Schedule' tab.

Core courses

Core courses are required of all students and are intended to provide students with the foundational knowledge to be successful. Although some courses are offered in both the Fall and Spring semesters, students should take courses in the semester listed below:

Required Core Courses (Total 22.5 credits)	Credits	Semester
BACC 2401 Financial Accounting	3.0	Fall
BECN 2401 Economic Analysis for Managerial Decisions	3.0	Fall
BQOM 2401 Statistical Analysis	3.0	Fall
BFIN 2409 Financial Management – 1	1.5	Fall
BFIN 2410 Financial Management – 2	1.5	Fall
BFIN 2030 Valuation 1	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2145 Financial Modeling	3.0	Fall
BFIN 2039 Investment Management/Capital Markets	3.0	Spring
BFIN 2036 Corporate Finance	3.0	Spring

Elective courses

Elective courses are intended to provide depth of expertise in areas of interest to the student. The MS Finance program requires the completion of at least 7.5 credits of finance (BFIN) elective courses. Students, in general, may take any Katz masters finance course for elective credit. The following list includes the most popular finance electives:

Elective Courses* (Minimum 7.5 credits)	Credits	Semester
BFIN 2015 Short-Term Finance	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2042 Acquisition of Privately Held Companies	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2043 International Financial Management	3.0	Spring
BFIN 2051 Introduction to Derivatives	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2068 Markets and Trading	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2069 Fixed Income Securities	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2129 Energy Project Finance	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2130 Valuation 2	1.5	Spring

*see 'Class Schedule' in [StudentNet](#) for additional elective options

Co-Curricular Opportunities

A variety of opportunities to learn, improve, and practice professional business skills are available to Katz students. Specialized professional development workshops are designed to enhance those skills taught in the classroom and that are highly valued by employers.

Wall Street Prep

- The Katz Career Management and Katz Finance Club typically hosts Wall Street Prep's **Financial and Valuation Modeling** seminar at the University of Pittsburgh each Fall semester. This intensive 2-day weekend seminar is led by former investment bankers with applied expertise in financial and valuation modeling methodologies, and bridges the gap between academics and the real world. Student price is \$199.00.
- [Register for Wall Street Prep HERE - Oct 29-30, 2016](#)

Interview Skills

- Interviews typically include a **behavioral interview** component. The interviewer is interested in discovering how you have acted in specific situations in the past. Because of this, we recommend that you reflect (think and write) on your academic and work experiences so that you can quickly remember and communicate these brief stories during an interview. See the Career Connection resource library for "*Complete List of Behavioral Interview Questions*".
- Some finance and many consulting interviews usually have a **case interview** component. Because of this, we recommend that you practice and master your case interviewing skills.
 - [Case in Point](#) – Marc Cosentino, President, has over 23 years of case interview prep experience. His book is entitled, "*Case in Point: Complete Case Interviewing Preparation*" at is approximately \$25 plus shipping and handling.
 - A helpful and quick review guide is the [Vault Guides on Case Interviewing and Case Interviewing Practice](#) – FREE through Vault link in Career Connection.
- Take advantage of opportunities to practice your interview skills. Make an appointment with an **Executive-in-Residence (EIR)** and be sure to participate in "**Mock Interview**" days.

CAREER PLANNING

Typically the amount of prior work experience plays an integral role in the level at which you are hired within an organization, especially in the big consulting firms and multi-national corporations. Whether you are a career starter, career switcher or career enhancer, Katz research shows that those with an MS Finance degree are hired into the following functional areas:

[Corporate Financial Management](#)
[Financial Institutions \(Client Facing Roles\)](#)
[Investment Management](#)
[Financial Consulting](#)

Please access Vault through [Career Connection](#) to learn more about various careers in finance. Some specific job types to consider include:

- Financial Analyst
- Portfolio Specialist
- Business Valuation Analyst
- Corporate Communications Specialist

Corporate Financial Management

Corporate financial management (CFM) is one of the most important roles within a corporation, regardless of industry or the good/service provided. Employees performing corporate finance roles must ensure that the corporation maintains its liquidity and remains solvent, undertakes value-increasing projects and acquisition opportunities, and is able to finance such opportunities using internal and external sources of funds. Effective CFM results in appropriate returns to labor and capital and the maximization of shareholder wealth.

Corporate finance positions include accounting, tax, treasury, financial planning & profitability analysis (corporate financial analysis), investor relations, business development and M&A (mergers and acquisitions). Internal contacts typically include sales, marketing, IT, operations, and human resources. External contacts typically include investment banks, law firms, accounting firms and credit rating agencies.

Suggested Elective Courses

Courses	Credits	Semester
BFIN 2015-Short-term Finance	1.5	Summer
BFIN 2031-Creating Value Through Restructuring	1.5	Fall
BFIN 2036-Corporate Finance	3.0	Spring
BFIN 2043-International Financial Management	3.0	Spring
BFIN 2051-Introduction to Derivatives	1.5	Spring

Bolded course are strongly encouraged for this particular career path.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

Clubs: Finance, Real Estate, Consulting

Case Competitions: Katz Invitational Case Competition, Daniel's Race and Case, Boston University Grand Business Challenge in Digital Healthcare, MIT OpsSimCon. In addition, each year there are 2 – 3 internal case competitions held at Katz and sponsored by companies such as American Express, Crane, and Deloitte. See [Experience Based Learning](#) on StudentNet for further details about case competitions.

Professional Organizations

[AICPA- The American Institute of CPAs](#)

[Pittsburgh Association for Financial Professionals](#)

[Financial Management Association International](#)

External Certifications

[Certified Treasury Professional](#)

Financial Institutions (Client Facing Roles)

Many of the client facing roles within financial institutions may be found in commercial and investment banks. Commercial banks provide loans, maintain checking and savings accounts, safeguard money and valuables, process credit and payment services to individuals, small businesses and large organizations. Some commercial banks also have investment banking divisions.

Investment banking institutions provide many different finance-related services which can include underwriting, advising and facilitating mergers and acquisitions or other corporate reorganizations, raising capital for companies by issuing equity or debt securities, acting as intermediary between an issuer of securities and the investors, and managing assets. Specific areas of investment banking include: Corporate Finance, Mergers & Acquisitions, Public Finance, Syndicate, Institutional Sales, Retail Sales, Trading, Over-the-Counter Trading, Research, and Operations.

Client facing roles, such as Private Wealth Management, may be found outside of these two entities.

Suggested Elective Courses

Courses	Credits	Semester
BFIN 2015-Short-term Finance	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2130-Valuation 2	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2031-Creating Value Through Restructuring	1.5	Fall
BFIN 2042-Acquisition of Privately Held Companies	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2051-Introduction to Derivatives	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2068-Markets and Trading	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2069-Fixed Income Securities	1.5	Spring

Bolded course are strongly encouraged for this particular career path.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

Clubs: Finance, Real Estate, Consulting

Case Competitions: Katz Invitational Case Competition, CFA Institute Research Challenge, Daniel's Race and Case, Boston University Grand Business Challenge in Digital Healthcare, MIT OpsSimCon. In addition, each year there are 2 – 3 internal case competitions held at Katz and sponsored by companies such as American Express, Crane, and Deloitte. See [Experience Based Learning](#) on StudentNet for further details about case competitions.

Professional Organizations

[American Bankers Association](#)

[Association for Corporate Growth Pittsburgh \(ACG Pittsburgh\) – Student rate available](#)

[Investment Banking Institute](#)

[Pittsburgh Association of Financial Professionals](#)

Investment Management

At its core, Investment Management refers to the buying and selling of investments within a portfolio, typically for high net worth investors and institutional investors. Under Investment Management, a lead investment manager, as well as a team of support managers, works with clientele in order to define investment objectives, to provide investment research and recommendations, and, often, to manage the portfolio on behalf of the client. Investment management can also include banking, budgeting, and taxes.

Positions under Investment Management include equity research, portfolio research, investment sales and marketing, private wealth management, investment research, private equity/venture capital, and real estate investment management.

Suggested Elective Courses

Courses	Credits	Term likely to be offered
BFIN 2130-Valuation 2	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2031-Creating Value Through Restructuring	1.5	Fall
BFIN 2042-Acquisitions of Privately Held Company	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2043-International Financial Management	3.0	Spring
BFIN 2068-Markets and Trading	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2051-Introduction to Derivatives	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2069-Fixed Income Securities	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2124-Investment Banking and Venture Capital	1.5	Fall/Summer

Bolded course are strongly encouraged for this particular career path.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

Clubs: Finance, Real Estate

Case Competitions: Katz Invitational Case Competition, CFA Institute Research Challenge, Daniel's Race and Case, Boston University Grand Business Challenge in Digital Healthcare, MIT OpsSimCon. In addition, each year there are 2 – 3 internal case competitions held at Katz and sponsored by companies such as American Express, Crane, and Deloitte. See [Experience Based Learning](#) on StudentNet for further details about case competitions.

Professional Organizations

[CFA Institute](#)

[Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association](#)

External Certifications

[CFA Charter](#) As a CFA partner school, the finance curriculum covers 70% of the topics on the CFA exam.

Financial Consulting

Financial consultants are hired by clients to advise and assist in optimizing their finance function and its underlying processes and systems. Additional tasks include developing and presenting financial strategies and plans; performance improvement projects within finance, cost and profitability management and solutions, systems selection and deployment, and finance outsourcing.

Financial Advisory – Advises clients on executing deals, business valuation, managing business controversy and disputes, and maintaining regulatory compliance. CFA is typically preferred.

Risk Consulting – Includes the identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks, and the impact mitigation of events that have the potential to adversely impact a company’s capital and/or reputation. This area allows for improved risk intelligence, strengthened decision making and business strategy, thus driving corporate governance and improved business performance.

Suggested Elective Courses

Courses	Credits	Term likely to be offered
BFIN 2130-Valuation 2	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2031-Creating Value Through Restructuring	1.5	Fall
BFIN 2068 Markets and Trading	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2069-Fixed Income Statements	1.5	Spring
BFIN 2124-Investment Banking and Venture Capital	1.5	Fall/ Summer
BFIN 2051-Introduction to Derivatives	1.5	Spring

Bolded course are strongly encouraged for this particular career path.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

Clubs: Finance, Real Estate, Consulting

Case Competitions: Katz Invitational Case Competition, Daniel’s Race and Case, Boston University Grand Business Challenge in Digital Healthcare, MIT OpsSimCon. In addition, each year there are 2 – 3 internal case competitions held at Katz and sponsored by companies such as American Express, Crane, and Deloitte. See [Experience Based Learning](#) on StudentNet for further details about case competitions.

Professional Organizations

[CFA Institute](#)

[Association for Corporate Growth Pittsburgh \(ACG Pittsburgh\) – Student rate available](#)

[Pittsburgh Association of Financial Professionals](#)

External Certifications

[CFA Charter](#) As a CFA partner school, the finance curriculum covers 70% of the topics on the CFA exam.

[Financial Risk Manager \(FRM\)](#)