



Financial and Investment Planning is a pathway within the **Finance Career Cluster**. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are 16 Career Clusters.

Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The Finance Career Cluster prepares learners for careers in financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management.

There are four pathways in this cluster:

- Banking and Related Services
- Business Financial Management
- Financial and Investment Planning
- Insurance Services

Employment Outlook

A **Financial Manager** is an example of a career in this pathway. The job outlook for this profession is good. Nationally, the number of jobs for financial managers is expected to grow through the year 2014. Financial managers who have accounting, finance, and computers skills should do well (Career Information System, 2007). The starting salary for financial managers in Texas is \$68,988 (Texas Workforce Commission, 2007). Nationally, the salary range for financial managers is \$59,490 to \$112,320 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007).

Using this brochure

Inside you will find a suggested **program of study** that has lots of helpful information. The model is an example of the types of courses and extended learning experiences that are important for the **Financial and Investment Planning Career Pathway**. Use this model to plan your course schedule, educational experiences, and career choices.

At the top of the model, you will find **career goals** with the corresponding **O*NET code**. The O*NET code is an official classification of jobs and can be used to locate career-related information. Your teacher, counselor, or media center should be able to help you locate further information.

The upper left side of the model highlights the **core courses and career-related electives** in high school that will help prepare you for your career goal. This model is based upon the Recommended High School Graduation Plan and can easily be adapted for the Distinguished Achievement High School Graduation Plan.

The upper right side of the model highlights examples of **extended learning experiences** that can enhance your knowledge and skills for your career goal. You will find examples of curricular activities, such as participation in Career and Technology Student Organizations like BPA or FBLA, career learning experiences, service learning activities, and extracurricular activities.

The lower left side of the model indicates **industry licensures/certifications** and **on-the-job training experiences** that may be available while still in high school. This section also highlights the various levels of **postsecondary education** and examples of **career options** available to you once you have completed that level of education and training.

The lower right side of the model contains examples of **professional associations** available for financial investment professionals. Many of these organizations allow preprofessional membership while enrolled in a postsecondary program. Most organizations have websites which can be easily located by entering the organization name in available search engines.



Thinking about a career in Financial Investment?

This career pathway may be for you! In the Financial and Investment Planning pathway, employees help businesses and individuals make decisions about their investments (Career Information System, 2007). Look inside to see the suggested coursework and learning opportunities that will prepare you for an exciting and rewarding career.