Pascack Valley Regional High School District

Pascack Hills High School, Montvale, New Jersey Pascack Valley High School, Hillsdale, New Jersey

Course Name: Financial Investments

Born on: July, 2022 Current Revision: July, 2023

Board Approval 8/28/23

PVRHSD CURRICULUM MAP

Grade Level: 10-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The goal of the Financial Investments course is to educate and extend student knowledge of financial responsibility and the practice of sound investing strategies. The course will focus on the diverse investment strategies individuals use to seek out a positive return. The course will require that students explore topics of how corporate finance works and the corporate structures of businesses. Students will analyze financial statements, estimate risk and return, and evaluate corporate stocks, bonds, and other financial securities.

Recommended Text: <u>Essentials of Investments</u>

Student Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, the student will:

- Utilize their business/finance vocabulary to partake in investing discussions
- Differentiate between savings and investing
- Explain the risks and rewards of investing
- Define stock market and explain how stock markets work
- Define and research mutual funds
- Analyze financial data from articles, charts, and the stock tables
- Explain the functions of the Federal Reserve System
- Explain the history of Social Security, financing of Social Security and benefits paid
- Explain retirement investments including IRAs, Roth IRAs, 401Ks, 403Bs, and pension plans
- Simulate investment decisions through hands-on investing simulations
- Negotiate the complex world of investment strategies
- Compare research from various sources to make informed financial decisions
- Communicate their research orally and in writing to the class
- Collaborate in online communities and use technology to solve problems, collect data, and make decisions

Interdisciplinary Connections

This course emphasizes real-world math and writing skills.

Grade Level: 10-12

NJSLS 9.1, 9.3: Rapid advancements in technology and subsequent changes in the economy have created opportunities for individuals to compete and connect on a global scale. In this increasingly diverse and complex world, the successful entrepreneur or employee must not only possess the requisite education for specific industry pathways but also employability skills necessary to collaborate with others and manage resources effectively in order to establish and maintain stability and independence.

Content/Topic:	Key learning items/concepts:	Observable Proficiencies and Skills:	NJSLS	Benchmark Performance and Assessments	Suggested Materials
Unit I – Introduction to Finance and Investing Time: 1-2 Weeks Content Statement: In this unit students will be introduced to the finance and	Define an investment. Distinguish between real assets and financial assets. Identify different types of financial markets and the major participants in each of those markets.	Proficiencies and Skills: Students will better understand the benefits of investing and investment strategies. Students will understand the business cycle and how it reacts to the markets.	9.3.12.FN.1 9.3.12.FN.2 9.3.12.FN.3 9.3.12.FN.4 9.3.12.FN.5 9.3.12.FN.6 9.3.12.FN.7 9.3.12.FN.8 9.3.12.FN.8	Homework assignments F Class activities F: Presentations Class participation Research Career Plan	Selection of primary sources Suggestion(s): EconEdLink FDIC's Money Smart
investment marketplace. Discussions on why investing is important for short and long term goals and the various types of investments can offer benefits for different types of investors.	Explain the economic functions of financial markets and how various securities are related to the governance of the corporation	Differentiation for Diverse Learners/Accommodations Special Ed/504: Re-teaching and review Graphic organizers Guided questions and note taking	9.3.12.FN.10 9.3.12.FN.11 9.3.12.FN.12 9.3.12.FN.13 9.3.12.FN.14 9.1.12.CFR.4 9.1.12.FI.4 9.1.12.FP.2	Investing Plan Entrepreneur Opportunities Teacher observations In class assignments In class discussions Collaborative work Individual Projects	Hands on Banking MoneySKILL Council For Economic Education - Investing
Essential Question: What are the major areas in finance? Why is finance important for a business to analyze? What are the goals when looking for investment opportunities?		ML: Provide student with essential vocabulary At Risk Students: Provide an Outline for writing assessments Gifted and Talented: Vary level of reading and primary source documents Elevated vocabulary Individual presentation Provide choices of modes working	9.1.12.FP.5 9.1.12.PB.1 9.1.12.PB.2 9.1.12.PB.5 9.1.12.RM.2	Quizzes F Tests S	

Content/Topic:	Key learning items/concepts:	Observable Proficiencies and Skills:	NJSLS	Benchmark Performance and Assessments	Suggested Materials
Unit II – Types of Investment vehicles. Time: 2-4 Weeks Content Statement: In this unit, students will learn the different types of investment vehicles best suited for a company and an investor. Students will also discover why companies finance investments to reach company goals. Essential Question: 1. Why does a company need to generate capital? 2. What are the strategies of issuing stock and bonds?	Understand the reason for capital financing. Choosing between financing via debt vs. equity. Distinguish among the major assets that trade in money markets and in capital markets.	Proficiencies and Skills: Students will investigate the various investment products for the individual and companies. Students will begin building a portfolio of investment products. Differentiation for Diverse Learners/Accommodations Special Ed/504: • Re-teaching and review • Graphic organizers • Guided questions and note taking ML: • Provide student with essential vocabulary At Risk Students: • Provide an Outline for writing assessments Gifted and Talented: • Vary level of reading and primary source documents • Elevated vocabulary • Individual presentation • Provide choices of modes working	9.3.12.FN.1 9.3.12.FN.2 9.3.12.FN.3 9.3.12.FN.4 9.3.12.FN.5 9.3.12.FN.6 9.3.12.FN.7 9.3.12.FN.8 9.3.12.FN.9 9.3.12.FN.10 9.3.12.FN.11 9.3.12.FN.12 9.3.12.FN.13 9.3.12.FN.14 9.1.12.CFR.4 9.1.12.EG.4 9.1.12.EG.6 9.1.12.FI.2 9.1.12.FP.5 9.1.12.FP.7 9.1.12.PB.2 9.4.12.CI.1 9.4.12.CI.2 9.4.12.CI.2 9.4.12.IML.1 9.4.12.IML.1 9.4.12.IML.2 9.4.12.TL.2 9.4.12.TL.3 9.4.12.TL.4	Homework assignments F Class activities F: Presentations Class participation Research Career Plan Investing Plan Entrepreneur Opportunities Teacher observations In class assignments In class discussions Collaborative work Individual Projects Quizzes F Tests S	Selection of primary sources Suggestion(s): EconEdLink FDIC's Money Smart Hands on Banking MoneySKILL

PVRHSD CURRICULUM MAP

Content/Topic:	Grade Level: 10 Key learning	Observable Proficiencies and	NJSLS	Benchmark	
	items/concepts:	Skills:		Performance and	Suggested Materials
				Assessments	
Unit III – Bonds		Proficiencies and Skills:	9.3.12.FN.1	Homework	Selection of primary
	Identify the components and		9.3.12.FN.2	assignments F	sources
Time: 2-3 Weeks	characteristics of bonds and	Valuing Bonds	9.3.12.FN.3		Suggestion(s):
	the types of bonds		9.3.12.FN.4	Class activities F:	
Content Statement:		Profiting from falling interest rates	9.3.12.FN.5		
	Examine government		9.3.12.FN.6	Presentations	<u>EconEdLink</u>
This unit will focus on the	securities including treasury	Differentiation for Diverse	9.3.12.FN.7	Class	
bond market and how bonds	bills notes, municipal bonds	Learners/Accommodations	9.3.12.FN.8	participation	FDIC's Money Smart
generate capital for different		Special Ed/504:	9.3.12.FN.9	Research	
institutions like governments	Discuss the bond rating	 Re-teaching and review 	9.3.12.FN.10	Career Plan	Hands on Banking
and corporations. Students	system Calculate the value	Graphic organizers	9.3.12.FN.11	Investing Plan	
will learn how bonds are rated	of bonds, realizing premium	Guided questions and note	9.3.12.FN.12	Entrepreneur	<u>MoneySKILL</u>
and the payout of a bond.	and discounted bonds.	taking	9.3.12.FN.13	Opportunities	
		e	9.3.12.FN.14	Teacher	
Essential Question:	Compare and contrast	ML:		observations	
	different types of bonds to	Provide student with	9.1.12.CFR.4	In class	
How does one invest in a	determine investment options	essential vocabulary	9.1.12.EG.4	assignments	
bond?	and tax advantages	At Risk Students:	9.1.12.EG.6	In class	
		 Provide an Outline for 	9.1.12.FI.2	discussions	
What does a bond's maturity		writing assessments	9.1.12.FP.5	Collaborative	
rate, yield, and value mean for		Gifted and Talented:	9.1.12.FP.7	work	
a diverse portfolio?		 Vary level of reading and 	9.1.12.PB.2	Individual	
		primary source documents		Projects	
What are the risks in investing		Elevated vocabulary	9.4.12.CI.1		
in bonds?		Individual presentation	9.4.12.CI.2	Quizzes F	
			9.4.12.CT.2		
		Provide choices of modes	9.4.12.IML.1	Tests S	
		working	9.4.12.IML.2		
			9.4.12.TL.2		
			9.4.12.TL.3		
			9.4.12.TL.4		
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Content/Topic:	Key learning	Observable Proficiencies and	NJSLS	Benchmark	
-	items/concepts:	Skills:		Performance and	Suggested Materials
				Assessments	
Unit I V – Stocks		Proficiencies and Skills:	9.3.12.FN.1	Homework	Selection of primary
	Examine the history of stock		9.3.12.FN.2	assignments F	sources
Time: 3-4 Weeks	performance and	Students will be able to identify the	9.3.12.FN.3		Suggestion(s):
	consequences of selling and	stock exchanges, different cyclical	9.3.12.FN.4	Class activities F:	
Content Statement:	buying	nature of the markets.	9.3.12.FN.5		
			9.3.12.FN.6	Presentations	<u>EconEdLink</u>
Students will examine the	Examine the features of	Students will be able to calculate	9.3.12.FN.7	Class participation	
stock market through	common stock and preferred	return on investments within their	9.3.12.FN.8	Research	FDIC's Money Smart
individual company stocks.	stock Identify terms	investments.	9.3.12.FN.9	Career Plan	
They will understand the	frequently used to describe		9.3.12.FN.10	Investing Plan	Hands on Banking
classification of stocks, and	stocks such as PE ratio,	Differentiation for Diverse	9.3.12.FN.11	Entrepreneur	
understand how to value a	Return, dividend, 52 week	Learners/Accommodations	9.3.12.FN.12	Opportunities	MoneySKILL
company's stock price.	high and low. Identify types	Special Ed/504:	9.3.12.FN.13	Teacher	
	of stocks indexes (Dow	 Re-teaching and review 	9.3.12.FN.14	observations	
Essential Question:	Jones, NASDAQ, S & P 500)	 Graphic organizers 		In class	
		Guided questions and note	9.1.12.CFR.4	assignments	
How does investing in stock	Contrast the classification of	taking	9.1.12.EG.4	In class	
help grow future earnings?	stocks (Income, Growth,	ML:	9.1.12.EG.6	discussions	
	Penny, Defensive, Cyclical)	Provide student with	9.1.12.FI.2	Collaborative	
How to identify a financial			9.1.12.FP.5	work	
market to seek investment	Contrast Bull vs. Bear market	essential vocabulary	9.1.12.FP.7	Individual Projects	
opportunities?		At Risk Students:	9.1.12.PB.2		
	Calculate ROI for stock	Provide an Outline for		Quizzes F	
	investments	writing assessments	9.4.12.CI.1		
		Gifted and Talented:	9.4.12.CI.2	Tests S	
	Differentiate - buy and hold,	 Vary level of reading and 	9.4.12.CT.2		
	short selling, dollar cost	primary source documents	9.4.12.IML.1		
	averaging, direct investment	Elevated vocabulary	9.4.12.IML.2		
	and dividend reinvestment	Individual presentation	9.4.12.TL.2		
		-	9.4.12.TL.3		
		Provide choices of modes	9.4.12.TL.4		
		working			

Content/Topic:	Key learning	Observable Proficiencies and	NJSLS	Benchmark	
•	items/concepts:	Skills:		Performance and	Suggested Materials
	•			Assessments	88
Unit V – Mutual and Index	Understand the structure of a	Proficiencies and Skills:	9.3.12.FN.1	Homework	Selection of primary
Funds	mutual fund.		9.3.12.FN.2	assignments F	sources
		Students will be able to identify and	9.3.12.FN.3		Suggestion(s):
Time: 2-3 Weeks	How mutual funds diversify	analyze the prospectus of a mutual	9.3.12.FN.4	Class activities F:	
	investment strategies.	fund.	9.3.12.FN.5		
Content Statement:			9.3.12.FN.6	Presentations	<u>EconEdLink</u>
	Analyze the mutual fund	Students will be able to calculate the	9.3.12.FN.7	Class participation	
Students will analyze the	sector and cost structures.	cost of owning a fund and contrast	9.3.12.FN.8	Research	FDIC's Money Smart
mutual fund market and how		with different fund managers.	9.3.12.FN.9	Career Plan	
mutual funds are designed.			9.3.12.FN.10	Investing Plan	Hands on Banking
Students will analyze the		Differentiation for Diverse	9.3.12.FN.11	Entrepreneur	
sectors and diversification of		Learners/Accommodations	9.3.12.FN.12	Opportunities	<u>MoneySKILL</u>
the funds and see the cost		Special Ed/504:	9.3.12.FN.13	Teacher	
structure of each fund.		 Re-teaching and review 	9.3.12.FN.14	observations	
		 Graphic organizers 		In class	
Essential Question:		Guided questions and note	9.1.12.CFR.4	assignments	
		taking	9.1.12.EG.4	In class	
How do mutual funds protect			9.1.12.EG.6	discussions	
investors from unnecessary		ML: • Provide student with	9.1.12.FI.2	Collaborative	
risks?			9.1.12.FP.2	work	
		essential vocabulary	9.1.12.FP.5	Individual Projects	
		At Risk Students:	9.1.12.PB.1		
		 Provide an Outline for 	9.1.12.RM.1	Quizzes F	
		writing assessments	9.1.12.RM.2		
		Gifted and Talented:		Tests S	
		 Vary level of reading and 	9.4.12.CI.1		
		primary source documents	9.4.12.CI.2		
		Elevated vocabulary	9.4.12.TL.2		
		1			
		Individual presentation			
		 Provide choices of modes 			
		working			

Content/Topic:	Key learning items/concepts:	Observable Proficiencies and Skills:	NJSLS	Benchmark Performance and Assessments	Suggested Materials
Unit VI – Taxes and Investment Time: 2-3 Weeks Content Statement: Students will discover the role of taxes in financial investments. Students will look at tax-deferred investments to maximize returns. Essential Question: What role do taxes have on different investments? What types of investments are tax deferred?	Different tax implications for the different types of investment accounts. How do taxes affect your investment strategy? How investments are taxed.	Proficiencies: Students will calculate the different short and long-term capital gains tax on different investments. Students will calculate how taxes can lower their stock investments and how to use losses to lower taxable income. Differentiation for Diverse Learners/Accommodations Special Ed/504: • Re-teaching and review • Graphic organizers • Guided questions and note taking ML: • Provide student with essential vocabulary At Risk Students: • Provide an Outline for writing assessments Gifted and Talented: • Vary level of reading and primary source documents • Elevated vocabulary • Individual presentation • Provide choices of modes working	9.3.12.FN.1 9.3.12.FN.2 9.3.12.FN.3 9.3.12.FN.4 9.3.12.FN.5 9.3.12.FN.6 9.3.12.FN.7 9.3.12.FN.8 9.3.12.FN.9 9.3.12.FN.10 9.3.12.FN.11 9.3.12.FN.12 9.3.12.FN.14 9.1.12.EG.4 9.1.12.EG.6 9.1.12.FI.2 9.1.12.FP.5 9.1.12.FP.5 9.1.12.PB.2 9.1.12.PB.5 9.1.12.RM.1 9.1.12.RM.2	Homework assignments F Class activities F: Presentations Class participation Research Career Plan Investing Plan Entrepreneur Opportunities Teacher observations In class assignments In class discussions Collaborative work Individual Projects Quizzes F Tests S	Selection of primary sources Suggestion(s): EconEdLink FDIC's Money Smart Hands on Banking MoneySKILL

Content/Topic:	Grade Level: 10 Key learning	Observable Proficiencies and	NJSLS	Benchmark	
content ropic.	items/concepts:	Skills:	110020	Performance and	Suggested Materials
	nems, concepts.			Assessments	Suggested Materials
Unit VII – Speculative		Proficiencies and Skills::	9.3.12.FN.1	Homework	Selection of primary
Investments	What is an option in regards		9.3.12.FN.2	assignments F	sources
	to investing?	Students will calculate margin calls	9.3.12.FN.3		Suggestion(s):
Time: 2 Weeks		and understand the risk of investing	9.3.12.FN.4	Class activities F:	
	How do options pose great	on borrowed money.	9.3.12.FN.5		
Content Statement:	risk and reward?		9.3.12.FN.6	Presentations	<u>EconEdLink</u>
		Students will understand the	9.3.12.FN.7	Class participation	
Look how futures, options, and	How does borrowing on	unlimited risk of shorting an	9.3.12.FN.8	Research	FDIC's Money Smart
commodities can impact an	margin create unlimited risk	investment.	9.3.12.FN.9	Career Plan	
investment strategy.	while investing?		9.3.12.FN.10	Investing Plan	Hands on Banking
			9.3.12.FN.11	Entrepreneur	
Essential Question:	What shorting an investment	Differentiation for Diverse	9.3.12.FN.12	Opportunities	<u>MoneySKILL</u>
	can lead to unlimited risk and	Learners/Accommodations	9.3.12.FN.13	Teacher observations	
How do option trades create a	return	Special Ed/504:	9.3.12.FN.14	In class assignments	
risk vs. reward in buying and		 Re-teaching and review 		In class discussions	
selling stock.		 Graphic organizers 		Collaborative work	
		Guided questions and note		Individual Projects	
How does exposure to		taking			
commodities differentiate from		ML:		Quizzes F	
classic investments?		Provide student with			
				Tests S	
		essential vocabulary			
		At Risk Students:			
		 Provide an Outline for 			
		writing assessments			
		Gifted and Talented:			
		 Vary level of reading and 			
		primary source documents			
		Elevated vocabulary			
		Individual presentation			
		<u> </u>			
		Provide choices of modes			
		working			

Course: Financial Investments

Grade Level: 10-12

9.1-4: Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills Standards:

The NJSLS-CLKS provide a framework of concepts and skills to be integrated into the foundational, academic and technical content areas to prepare students to engage in the postsecondary options of their choice. The personal financial literacy standard promotes not only the exploration of money management but also the psychology of spending and saving that influences decisions related to finances. From discovering the concept and forms of money to exploring lines of credit and types of insurance, these standards ensure a robust and comprehensive education in financial literacy from early elementary grades through high school. 9.4 Life Literacies and Key Skills, ensures our students are prepared with the necessary knowledge, skills and dispositions to thrive in an interconnected global economy. For example, as a member of any community, the ability to communicate while collaborating in a group is crucial to function effectively. In addition, whether in their personal lives or at work, individuals will need to be able to discern accurate and valid information – given the unprecedented amount of information that is posted on the Internet daily – as well as leverage creativity and critical thinking skills to solve local and global problems. In short, these standards provide students with a guide to interact in life and work regardless of the domain-specific environment.

The NJSLS-CLKS reflect national and state standards as well as other national and international documents such as the National Financial Educators

Council Learner Framework & Standards for High School, College & Adults as well as those published by the Pascack Valley Regional High School

District, by the Council for Economic Education, JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, Partnership for 21st Century Skills, and The

Asia Society.

Grade Level: 10-12

Revised Standards Framework for NJ Designed Standards: The design of this version of the NJSLS-Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills (NJSLS-CLKS) is intended to,

- promote the development of curricula and learning experiences that reflect the vision and mission of Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills;
- foster greater coherence and appropriate progressions across grade bands; establish meaningful connections among the major areas of study;
- prioritize the important ideas and core processes that are central and have lasting value beyond the classroom; and
- reflect the habits of mind central to Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills that lead to post-secondary success.

Possible Curricular Modifications:

Interdisciplinary Connections

Connections to NJSLS - English Language Arts:

WHST.9-12.2: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes

WHST.9-12.9: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research

RST.11-12.1: Accurately cite strong and thorough evidence from the text to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to precise details for explanations or descriptions.

Connections to NJSLS – Mathematics

MP.4: Model with mathematics.

NJSLSA.SL1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

NJSLSA.SL2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills

- 9.1.12.CFR.1: Compare and contrast the role of philanthropy, volunteer service, and charities in community development and quality of life in a variety of cultures.
- 9.1.12.CFR.2: Summarize causes important to you and compare organizations you seek to support to other organizations with similar missions.
- 9.1.12.CFR.3: Research companies with corporate governance policies supporting the common good and human rights.
- 9.4.12.IML.3: Analyze data using tools and models to make valid and reliable claims, or to determine optimal design solutions (e.g., S-ID.B.6a., 8.1.12.DA.5, 7.1.IH.IPRET.8)
- 9.4.12.IML.4: Assess and critique the appropriateness and impact of existing data visualizations for an intended audience (e.g., S-ID.B.6b, HS-LS2-4).
- 9.4.12.TL.3: Analyze the effectiveness of the process and quality of collaborative environments.

	Grade Level: 10-12
	 9.4.12.TL.4: Collaborate in online learning communities or social networks or virtual worlds to analyze and propose a resolution to a real-world problem (e.g., 7.1.AL.IPERS.6). 9.4.12.IML.8: Evaluate media sources for point of view, bias, and motivations (e.g., NJSLSA.R6, 7.1.AL.IPRET.6). 9.4.12.IML.9: Analyze the decisions creators make to reveal explicit and implicit messages within information and media (e.g., 1.5.12acc.C2a, 7.1.IL.IPRET.4).
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Computer Science and Design Thinking

- 8.2.12.ETW.2: Synthesize and analyze data collected to monitor the effects of a technological product or system on the environment.
- 8.2.12.ETW.3: Identify a complex, global environmental or climate change issue, develop a systemic plan of investigation, and propose an innovative sustainable solution.
- 8.2.12.EC.1: Analyze controversial technological issues and determine the degree to which individuals, businesses, and governments have an ethical role in decisions that are made.
- 8.2.12.EC.2: Assess the positive and negative impacts of emerging technologies on developing countries and evaluate how individuals, non-profit organizations, and governments have responded.
- 8.2.12.EC.3: Synthesize data, analyze trends, and draw conclusions regarding the effect of a technology on the individual, culture, society, and environment and share this information with the appropriate audience.
- 8.2.12.ETW.4: Research historical tensions between environmental and economic considerations as driven by human needs and wants in the development of a technological product and present the competing viewpoints.

Course: Financial Inve	estments	PVRHSD CU	RRICULUM MAP
	Grade Le	evel: 10-12	
Modifications			
1vivaliteations			
M-1432	Consideration	AA Dist	Cife I and Talantal
Multilingual	Special Education	At-Risk	Gifted and Talented
Learners	/		

Display labeled images of individuals, terms and content	Provide adequate scaffolds for the educational process.	Incorporate student choice Invite parents, neighbors, friends, the school principal and other	Take on an additional or more complex reading and writing prompts
Use body movement and gestures to further explain concepts to students. Restate design steps aloud before project activity. Assign a native language partner.	Provide alternative choices (i.e. verbal or visual) to demonstrate proficiency. Provide an outline of lessons Get a written list of instructions Work or take a test in a different setting, such as a quiet room with few distractions. Sit where they learn best (for example, near the teacher). Use an alarm to help with time management. Work with a partner.	the school principal and other community members to support classroom activities. Provide peer mentoring to improve techniques.	Investigate different levels and concepts relevant to the presented topics

Career information - Business

A business degree is a great way to develop many of the transferable skills needed for working in a business environment. There are a number of business degrees which you can undertake, one of the most common of which is an undergraduate business studies degree. Often a business studies degree will cover subjects such as accounting, finance, management and, increasingly, entrepreneurship. This wide range of subjects reflects the multidisciplinary nature of business, and the importance of understanding all the key elements needed to make a business successful.

If you're looking for a degree which specializes more in a particular aspect of the business world (e.g. economics or marketing), consider taking a dedicated program in that area, or a joint honors degree (e.g. Business & Economics). The advantage of a joint degree is that you acquire general business skills along with more specialized ones, leaving you well placed when it comes to applying for graduate jobs.

Corporate business careers are available in pretty much every sector you can think of; all industries need strong leaders, managers, financial advisors and market-savvy decision-makers. For many business graduates, however, the traditional pathways still hold a strong appeal – including careers in the banking and financial sectors, consultancy, human resources and marketing roles.

If a straightforward corporate career is failing to get you excited, then a business program can also give you the skills to create your own business, or to take on business and management roles within more creative industries, be that fashion, media, or even the charity sector.

The good thing about a business studies qualification is that it can lead to many entry-level roles upon graduation, while still allowing those who wish to specialize further the chance to improve their return on investment with a graduate degree. Examples of postgraduate programs include Masters in Management, Masters in Finance and (for those who've gained some professional experience) the Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

Typical careers with a business degree

Don't assume that studying business is a one-way route into business leadership and management roles – while this is a common path, business careers span multiple industries. Good business and management skills are key elements of any profitable company, and therefore effective leaders, strategic thinkers and financial experts are all in great demand. Big or small, global or local, companies all over the world are looking for business graduates like you.

Business careers in accounting and finance

Generalized business studies degrees will usually cover aspects of accountancy and finance, however, if you wish to pursue a career in accounting or finance, you'll usually need to gain further qualifications. A good option for business graduates is to apply for a graduate role and complete a specialized qualification while you work. In many larger companies, the course costs will be covered by the employer.

If you decide to go into accounting or finance, your job may involve reviewing your company's financial situation both past and present; advising clients and colleagues on tax and expenditure; managing records and business transactions; playing a role in mergers and acquisitions; and taking responsibility for preventing bad practice as well as fraud and negligence.

Business careers in management

Becoming a manager is a tough job, with long hours and heavy responsibilities. The upside is that managerial roles are known for being higher-paid, as well as boasting many opportunities for career progression or even a career U-turn. Managers can be found across all industries and fields, and their job is to provide structure and strategy to a workplace.

PVRHSD CURRICULUM MAP

Grade Level: 10-12

Because of the responsibility of such positions, it's unlikely you'll find a managerial role without first gaining a further degree or a number of years of mid-level work experience. Despite this, business graduates are well-placed to become managers later on in life, and with determination and steady career progression an additional degree may not be necessary.

Business careers in consultancy

Another option which may appeal is the field of business consultancy. This means working as part of a team, combining your business expertise and analytical skills in order to provide advice to other companies, usually focusing on how to optimize a specific project or part of the business. Projects and clients may vary widely, ensuring plenty of fresh challenges to get to grips with. Or you may specialize in a particular type of business, combining your business knowledge with a second field of interest, such as engineering or logistics.

Business careers in retail and sales

There's much more to retail and sales than shelf-stacking and cold-calling, especially if you're armed with a business degree. Opportunities within sales and retail are numerous, including shop-based and office-based roles, as well as traveling positions for which a good knowledge of global markets is a must.

For those looking to rise to the higher levels of retail and sales careers, large companies often offer the chance to undertake a graduate training program or trainee management program, in order to fast-track your position within the company. This can be highly valuable in gaining on-the-job experience, while continuing to develop your business and management skills in a commercial world.

PVRHSD CURRICULUM MAP

Grade Level: 10-12

Other common graduate careers with a business degree include roles within auditing, banking, communications, distribution, energy and utilities, hospitality and leisure, IT, insurance, journalism, law, logistics, manufacturing, media administration, production management, public relations, the public sector and defense, risk management and tax.

Less typical careers with a business degree

What can you do with a business degree *without* following the typical routes? Well, you can do a lot. Roles requiring business acumen and analytical thinking are innumerable, and your choice of which industry to head into is likely to be based on personal interests. It's a cliché, but true – if you work for a company, product or service you truly believe in, you're likely to be more motivated and effective in your role and progress more rapidly.

Business careers in media

Although business studies degrees may not seem like the most creative of pathways, they can in fact lead to many roles within creative industries. Media is one such widespread industry, an umbrella term covering TV, film, online, newspaper and magazine publishing, events and more. While you're unlikely to be directly involved in creative tasks such as writing, video editing or animation production, you'll need a solid understanding of the media sector within which you're working. Business careers in media include roles in sales, human resources, PR, finance and accounting, operations, marketing and branding, as well as overall management and strategic direction.

Business careers in marketing and advertising

Opportunities in marketing and advertising are numerous for business graduates, particularly for those with a bit of creative flair. In these industries, business graduates can use the analysis and report-writing skills honed during their degree in order to conduct market research, develop marketing strategies, manage client relationships, liaise with copywriters, designers and printers, analyze markets and evaluate campaign results. You're likely

PVRHSD CURRICULUM MAP

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to be working alongside specialists such as designers, video producers and copywriters, and will need to continually broaden your own skillset to keep pace with changes in technology and market trends.

Business careers in human resources

Business doesn't have to be a dog-eat-dog world, and careers within human resources offer roles which require both business acumen and highly honed interpersonal skills. Recruitment, training and pay are all areas handled by the HR department. Great communication skills are essential, but you'll also be expected to have a good basic understanding of business operations and management as well as detailed and up-to-date knowledge of employment laws and company regulations.