

financial analyst

Business, more than any other occupation, is a continual dealing with the future; it is a continual calculation, an instinctive exercise in foresight.

Henry R. Luce



The Financial Analyst concentration at the University at Albany is a uniquely designed program which prepares superior, motivated students for careers in all areas of financial analysis. The main elements involve a rigorous grounding in (1) the preparation, use, and analysis of financial statements; (2) the valuation of assets, including equity, debt, and derivative securities; (3) the interrelationships among corporate investment, financing, and dividend policies; and (4) the use of research databases and analytical methods in Finance. Although the program is not intended as a CFA® prep course, one very beneficial outcome is that most students will be able to take the Level I examination with modest additional effort.

The Financial Analyst concentration contains a significant career management and mentoring component. Throughout the program, extensive career counseling is provided and students have regular opportunities to interact with business practitioners, including alumni. This interaction takes the form of work-site tours, mock interviews, resume critiques, and networking, both in Albany and New York City.

A typical course in the Financial Analyst concentration involves small class sizes with considerable interaction between the instructor and the students, and also among the students as peers. One of the program's major objectives is to extend the capabilities of students beyond academic achievement. The program equips students in soft skills such as the ability to work in teams, effective interpersonal communications, business etiquette and most important, personal ethics. Graded activities include a mix of group presentations and discussions, exams, case analyses, spreadsheet-based projects. Typical coursework also equips students with computer skills such as expertise in Microsoft Excel. As the curriculum progresses, students constantly improve their written communication and oral presentation abilities.

For more information on the Financial Analyst concentration at the University at Albany School of Business, please visit www.albany.edu/business.