

Career and Technical Education
Area of Study: Business Education
Career Pathway: Finance

Get the Facts:

Financial activities are Montana's largest sector in terms of GDP. The finance industry is a critical sector employing millions of people. Montana continues to experience employment growth and job openings throughout careers within the Finance Career Pathway with 583 job openings per year from 2015-2025.

Workforce Trends:

The Finance Career Pathway prepares students for careers in accounting, financial and investment planning, banking, insurance and business financial management. Finance career opportunities are available in every sector of the economy, providing endless opportunities to work in a variety of areas.

Careers in Finance are:

- High demand/High skill/High wage

Career Examples:

- Accountant
- Auditor
- Bookkeeper
- Budget Analyst
- Certified Public Accountant
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Examiner
- Personal Financial Advisor
- Treasurer Controller

According to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, the median hourly wage for occupations within Business and Finance Operations is \$26.30.

Recommended Pathway Courses:

Students may select individual courses for exploration or a complete Pathway for an in-depth focus.

Foundation Courses (required)

- Principles of Accounting -Dual Credit Option 1.0 credit
- Personal Finance .50 credit
- Digital Computing .50 credit

Elective Courses

- Principles of Accounting 2 1.0 credit
- Principles of Accounting 3 1.0 credit
- Street Law .50 credit
- Advanced Finance .50 credit
- Business Economics .50 credit
- IB Economics 1.0 credit
- 21st Century Career Essentials .50 credit
- Workplace Experience .50 credit

College and Career Beyond High School

There are many options for education and training beyond high school, depending on your career goals.

- Certificate
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- On-the-job training
- Apprenticeship

MCPS Graduation Requirements-High School

- English/Language Arts 4.0 credits
- Mathematics 3.0 credits
- Social Studies 2.0 credits
- Science 2.0 credits
- Health Enhancement 2.0 credits
- Art 1.0 credit
- Career and Technical Education 1.0 credit

Suggested High School Plan of Study

9th Grade

- English 9 1.0 credit
- Math 1.0 credit
- Social Studies .50/1.0 credit
- Earth Science 1.0 credit
- P.E/Health 1.0 credit
- Art Courses 1.0 credit

- Art
- Pathway Foundation .50 credit

10th Grade

- English 10 1.0 credit
- Math 1.0 credit
- Social Studies .50/1.0 credit
- Biology 1.0 credit
- P.E./Health 1.0 credit
- Art
- Pathway Foundation .50 credit

11th Grade

- English 11 1.0 credit
- Math 1.0 credit
- U.S. History 1.0 Credit
- Science Elective
- P.E./Health Electives
- Art
- Pathway Elective .50 credit

12th Grade

- English 12 1.0 credit
- Math 1.0 credit
- U.S. Government 1.0 credit
- Science Elective
- P.E./Health Electives
- Art
- Pathway Elective .50 credit

Work-Based Learning- Participation in a Pathway-related work-based learning experience
 Career and Technical Student Organization- BPA, DECA