



## Tips to Pursue a Financial Career

The financial services industry is considered as one of the largest growing industries. This industry offers lucrative jobs that attract energetic and ambitious people.

Finance careers offered here at Bernalillo County include positions in Accounting, Budget & Business Improvement, Purchasing and Risk Management Departments. Departments in this division fulfill the county's mission by utilizing financial best practices in managing risk mitigation internal controls.

### Find an experienced Mentor

*Learning from others as well as through education is important. Seeking out someone in the financial industry to be your mentor is a great way to get started.*

*Consider the increasingly competitive nature of the financial industry, and realize that practical and actionable guidance offered by a mentor is very valuable.*

### Be Proactive

*Whether you want to move up in the organization you are in now or strike out on your own, the most important thing is that you are proactive in how you approach others for guidance.*

*Be willing to think creatively in your quest to change your career and fulfill a quest for personal development.*

If seeking a career in this area, consider the following educational requirements:

- A bachelor's degree is required for most positions in the finance field. However, there are some cases in which an associate degree would be sufficient.
- An associate's degree with a focus on finance can usually be earned in two years or less.
- A master's degree in finance can be earned in one to two years or less after completing a bachelor's program and is often preferred for a manager or director position.

In addition, consider these tips adopted from the *Ten Steps for a Successful Career Change* section of this website:

- Consider taking an evening course at a local college.
- Spend some time at one day or weekend seminars to increase your knowledge.
- Attend professional meetings that bring together individuals from various financial arenas.
- Look for ways to develop new skills in your current job which would pave the way for a change e.g. offer to write a grant proposal if grant writing is valued in your new field.
- Consider alternative roles within your current field which would utilize the knowledge you already have e.g. if you are an Accounting professional, consider moving to a different role in your department that allows you to use your skills in a different way.