

NAF ACADEMY OF FINANCE

NAF's Academy of Finance connects high school students with the world of financial services, offering a curriculum that covers entrepreneurship, banking and credit, financial planning, international finance, securities, insurance, accounting, and economics, among other topics.

HISTORY AND IMPACT

The NAF Academy of Finance (AOF) was NAF's first career theme and was launched in 1982 in New York, to prepare high school students for careers in the rapidly growing finance industry. Today, there are 212 Academies of Finance in 123 school districts across 35 states, including the US Virgin Islands. They serve more than 25,000 students annually, 61% of whom are from low- to moderate-income families (determined by eligibility for free and reduced price lunch). Longstanding partnerships with Citi, American Express, and many other companies ensure that AOF students are at the vanguard of financial education and reap the benefits of work-based learning opportunities.

CURRICULUM

The AOF curriculum is vetted by partners in the financial services and business sectors, and emphasizes literacy and project-based learning to engage students. AOF students begin with Principles of Finance to gain a broad understanding of the core concepts needed in this field. Academies introduce students to a wide array of careers through courses including Applied Finance, Business Economics, Business in a Global Economy, Entrepreneurship, Ethics in Business, Financial Planning, Financial Services, Insurance, Managerial Accounting, and Principles of Accounting. Academy students will have completed at least four NAF courses by graduation.

AOF graduates benefit from learning the critical concepts of business management, accounting, and ethics.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

In addition to studying career-focused curriculum and working on collaborative projects, AOF students gain critical career knowledge through a series of work-based learning activities both inside and outside of the classroom. These activities include job shadowing, mock interviews, résumé writing workshops, and a paid internship. Local business partners work with educators to provide these opportunities that round out students' education. By serving on advisory boards and as mentors, business partners provide a real world connection to academy coursework to help students understand the pathways to career success.

NAFTrack Certification, NAF's student certification assessment system, validates successful course completion, projects, and internships. By receiving a passing score on end-of-course exams and satisfactory scores on culminating project and internship assessments, students earn the NAFTrack Certification, signifying to post-secondary institutions and employers that they are both college and career ready. With this credential, graduates can benefit from NAFTrack Certified Hiring, a new initiative with some of America's top companies to give special consideration to these graduates for job opportunities and other career support.

Graduates of NAF academies complete college faster, earn more, and have stronger ties to their communities than their peers. NAF's 97% senior graduation rate is a testament to this effort.



The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment in business and financial operations occupations will increase by 12.5% by 2022. Employment in securities, commodity contracts and related activities is expected to expand 13.5% by 2022.

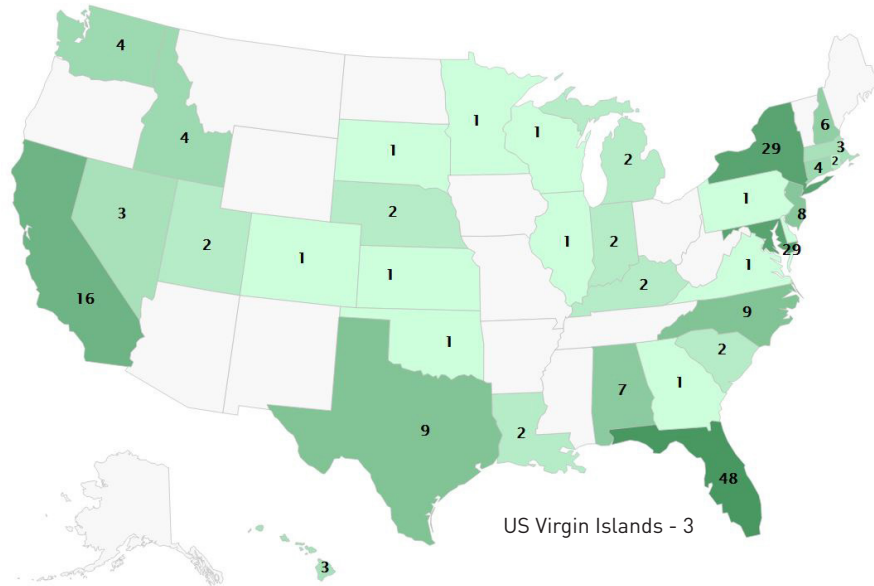


NAF ACADEMY OF FINANCE

2014-2015 School Year

NETWORK

212 academies



35 states,
 including the
 US Virgin Islands
 highest concentration
 of academies

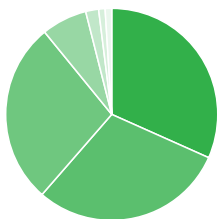
23% Florida
 14% Maryland
 14% New York
 8% California
 4% North Carolina

123 districts

highest concentration
 of academies

7% Miami-Dade
 6% Broward County
 5% New York City
 5% Prince George's
 County

STUDENTS



25,706 students
 +13% from last year
 32% Hispanic/Latino
 30% Black/African-American
 28% White
 7% Asian
 2% Other/Multi-Racial
 1% Native American/Alaska Native
 1% Pacific Islander

61% of students qualify for free and
 reduced price lunch

19% are English Language Learners

OUTCOMES



97%
 of seniors graduated



94%
 of graduates plan to
 go to college

68% plan to attend a 4-year college
 25% plan to attend a 2-year college
 2% plan to obtain a technical degree

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

2,465 advisory board members

INTERNSHIPS

3,078 internships (2013-2014)