

Finance

SPEARS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Program | Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Internship Spotlight



Anthony McMillan's Story

GRADUATION DATE **December 2012**

MAJOR **Finance and Accounting**

JOB TITLE **Energy Lending Intern, Bank of Oklahoma Financial,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Have you ever wondered what caused the financial crisis and economic recession in 2008? Does preventing something like that from ever happening again sound like a good idea to you?

Would you like to be a part of that prevention? Anthony McMillan, a finance and accounting student in the Spears School of Business, certainly gets excited by the idea of being involved in something so valuable.

“The reason I chose to major in finance was because of my interest in the investment and wealth management side of the banking industry,” Anthony said. “Ever since the economic downturn in 2008, I became interested in what made Wall Street tick and how the banking industry was connected to the recession.”

In his internship with Bank of Oklahoma Financial, Anthony is getting firsthand experience in the industry that has so completely captured his attention. His job is to help BOKF's energy loan officers secure loans with energy companies across the country. He prospects new clients, assesses the financial statements of various energy companies, attends meetings about the state of the energy market, and works with other BOKF interns to find ways to assess BOKF's competition in a cost-effective manner.

Anthony said the two most influential resources for helping him with his internship were his investments course and the Spears School of Business Career Services office.

“The BCS was valuable to me because it helped me refine my interpersonal skills and got me in touch with various recruiters,” Anthony said. “In addition, the staff at the BCS gave me insightful résumé tips and cover letter critiques. My investments class taught me the value of investing at an early age and showed me how significant a recession really was to the banking industry.”

If you share Anthony's interest in what makes businesses “tick,” maybe a degree in finance from the Spears School is the right choice for you!

Why finance?

Finance is critical for all aspects of business. The finance major focuses on the processes, markets, institutions and instruments that facilitate the transfer of money and wealth, the allocation of resources and risk, and the acquisition of financial capital. With a degree from the Department of Finance in the Spears School of Business at OSU, you will graduate with an understanding of the financial system and the theoretical framework, analytical tools, and business techniques used in finance positions in a wide variety of careers.

Completion of this degree requires 120 hours of undergraduate course work. If you are interested in a career in banking, an option in commercial banking management is available.

Internships

The Spears School encourages participation in internship opportunities prior to graduation to gain work experience, improve your competitiveness in the labor market, and discover through real world experience whether the career you are pursuing is a good fit. One of the best places you can find internships and begin interacting with employers is through the OSU Career Services website, hireosugrads.com.

Student organizations

The Department of Finance is home to a chapter of the Financial Management Association (FMA). It provides a student interested in finance an opportunity to learn from and network with working finance professionals; to enhance their understanding of sound financial practices; and to interact with fellow finance students in an informal setting. The OSU chapter annually ranks in the top 5 percent of FMA chapters nationwide.

Study abroad/travel programs

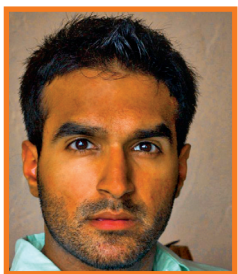
The Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School provides a number of short-term, study abroad and travel programs to expose you to different cultures, experiences, and business views. Courses within these programs are designed specifically for the setting within which the travel experience takes place and allow you to advance your academic and professional education.

Department of Finance



Spears School of Business **PHONE 405.744.5199**
Oklahoma State University **FAX 405.744.5180**
332 Business Building **WEB spears.okstate.edu/finance**
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078 **EMAIL finance@okstate.edu**

Career Spotlight



Pervez Soomar's Story

GRADUATION DATE **May 2011**

MAJOR **Finance**

JOB TITLE **Analyst, Spirit Insurance, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Let's face it—our world is fueled by commerce. Without businesses big and small, our society could never function. So why not pick a college major that will help you get involved in this essential part of our economy?

This is the line of thought that convinced Pervez Soomar to major in finance when he came to Oklahoma State University.

“At a young age, I realized that the world revolved around business,” Pervez said. “I have always been very self-driven, and I have always wanted to excel in some sort of business scheme. I felt that a finance degree from OSU would help me become business savvy and eventually lead me to success.”

Pervez's plan certainly seems to be working thus far. He is currently employed as an analyst at Spirit Insurance in Oklahoma City. In his position, Pervez helps fulfill the needs of existing customers, works to attract new customers and provides quotes for various kinds of insurance.

“I am enjoying the fast-paced environment of the office,” Pervez said. “I love meeting new people and building relationships, two things that are crucial to the success of this company.”

Pervez said his degree in finance has helped him in his career by teaching him how to handle large amounts of money, how to be a good salesman, how to display a professional image and how to communicate effectively.

In order to succeed, Pervez said new students should get to know their professors.

“OSU's Spears School of Business professors were an extremely valuable resource for me,” Pervez said. “There are professors from all over the world and with many different types of backgrounds. They were all very easy to contact and were great resources for crucial decisions and just chats about life. They made learning enjoyable.”

More than anything else, Pervez recommended that students get involved in as many activities as they can while in college.

“My experience with the Spears School of Business was an exceptional one,” Pervez said. “I encourage students to use all of the resources that the business school offers in order to get the full experience. Doing this helped me grow a lot as a student and as a person.”

Are you ready to get the full college experience? If so, contact the Spears School's Department of Finance today!

Finance career areas

Commercial banking

- Commercial banking includes opportunities in commercial and personal lending, leasing, credit card banking, international finance and trade credit. More people are employed in this area than any other part of the financial services industry.

Corporate finance

- Careers in this area involve working for a company to help find money to run the business, grow the business, make acquisitions, plan for its financial future and obtain and manage cash on-hand.

Money management

- Money managers hold stocks and bonds for institutional clients and are on the buy side of Wall Street.

Financial planning

- Financial planners understand investments, taxes and estate planning issues in order to help individuals plan their financial future.

Insurance

- Jobs in insurance involve helping individuals and businesses manage risk to protect themselves from catastrophic losses and to manage risk to person and property.

Investment banking

- Investment bankers assist companies and governments to issue securities, help investors purchase securities, manage financial assets and risk, trade securities and provide financial advice.

Career resources for finance majors

A few helpful Web sites and professional organizations for finance students include:

EFinancial Careers..... efinancialcareers.com

Careers in Finance.... careers-in-finance.com

OSU Career Services hiresugrads.com

Indeed Indeed.com

Financial Job Network.... financialjobnet.com

Jobs in Finance financejobsite.com

Financial Management Association.... fma.org

Association for Financial Professionals..... AFPOnline.org

Oklahoma Bankers Association oba.com

American Bankers Association..... aba.com

Spears School of Business Career Services

Spears School of Business
Oklahoma State University
103 Business Building
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078

PHONE 405.744.2772
FAX 405.744.5180
WEB spears.okstate.edu/careerservices



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