Professional Program in Finance (PPF)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the point of the PPF?
The Professional Program in Finance (PPF for short) is a 2-3 year undergraduate program designed to create better outcomes for students pursuing top finance/business careers. To accomplish this, students are given additional resources to significantly accelerate their technical and professional skills.

Who is the ideal candidate?
The PPF is for undergraduate Finance majors who are interested in aggressively pursuing the top, most competitive careers in the industry. Students who are accepted will be held to a high standard and be required to spend additional time and resources above the traditional academic requirements to be successful. For example, all PPF students will be required to complete an intensive, self-paced, Excel / financial modeling course called Breaking Into Wall Street (BIWS), which will count as 3 credit hours towards an elective.

What are the application requirements?
You can apply here: http://jindal.utdallas.edu/finance/ppf/#02-ppf-admission-requirements by clicking the “Apply Now” button. Applications are due by September 30th, 2016.

- At least a Finance major (double majors, minors in anything else are fine)
- 3.0 cumulative GPA to apply (the higher the better)
- Minimum grade of ‘B’ in FIN 3320
  - If you haven’t taken it, or are currently taking it, this becomes a requirement to stay in the program once completed
- Sophomore level or full-year Junior level standing.
  - As of Fall 2016, if you are scheduled to graduate from Spring 2018 to Spring 2019, you are eligible
- Admission is competitive and we have limited spots. Select applications will be chosen to move forward for in person interviews, which will determine final acceptance
- Admission is based on BOTH quantitative (GPA, experience, etc.) and qualitative factors (communication skills, attitude, drive, etc.)
What are the on-going requirements to stay in and graduate with the designation?

- Completion of Breaking Into Wall Street, a self-paced, Excel / financial modeling course that will count as 3 credit hours towards an elective
- Additional internship outside the JSOM required 1 to graduate (So at least 2 total)
  - This can be a second period at a previous internship / company. The important part is that it needs to be more than one period (e.g. Spring and Summer, Fall and Spring, etc.)
- Participation in one competition before graduation
- Maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Expectations are for students

What type of jobs are you targeting?

Investment Banking, Hedge Funds, Private Equity, Investment Management and Management Consulting are some of the top jobs PPF students will be competing for, but is not completely inclusive of all the great options out in the market. Ultimately the student will determine what career path suits them best.

What’s the overall timeline of the process?

- Applications are due online by September 30th, 2016
- In person interviews will take place during October 2016 (exact dates to be determined) at the Career Management Center within the JSOM. These will be formal interviews, similar to a regular job interview. Business dress will be required
- After interviews, final acceptance will be determined no later than early November
- Between Nov – Dec there will be a PPF social event
- In Fall 2016, accepted PPF students will enroll in the elective course for Breaking Into Wall Street for Spring 2017, in order to satisfy their requirement
- Spring semester 2017 and beyond:
  - Completion of Breaking Into Wall Street (prior to Fall semester 2017)
  - 1-on-1 meetings with every PPF student and the Director to formulate a personalized, concrete career strategy
  - Participation in PPF skill seminars, networking events and fulfilment of other requirements
  - Completion of internships
I’m a freshman, or a junior with three semesters left, or a senior, can I apply?

- Unfortunately given the timing of the program and the length of time required to complete it, you need to be **graduating between Spring 2018 to Spring 2019** to be eligible. Current Freshman will be able to apply their Sophomore year.
- If you fall into one of these categories it is highly recommend that you join the Financial Leadership Association (FLA), which is a student run organization advised by Alex Treece (The PPF Director). The FLA will provide access to similar types of professional and learning opportunities.

I’m a graduate student, can I apply?

The PPF is for undergraduates only. Graduate students interested in getting similar professional and learning opportunities should get involved with the FLA.

I’m an Economics, Accounting, or [Insert non-Finance Major here] major, can I apply?

The PPF is for finance students only. Extra majors and minors are perfectly acceptable, as long as you have a finance major as well.

Does this program conflict at all with the Davidson Management Honors Program or the Professional Program in Accounting?

No it does not. You can be in those programs and also part of the PPF.

Does getting into the PPF guarantee a job / internship for me?

In short, no. The PPF will give you all the tools, skills and resources to pursue top careers in finance, but given the competitive nature of many of these jobs, students will have to outshine their competition to ensure placement. There will certainly be unique opportunities for PPF students not available to regular students. Students who complete the requirements and go above and beyond will have a very high likelihood of placing into the job of their choice. In addition, the networking and communication skills developed in the PPF will continue to profitably serve students for the rest of their business careers.