

HIGH FINANCE

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The demand for people in finance who can provide ethical fiscal reporting has grown in the wake of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects jobs in business and financial operations occupations will grow faster than the 13 percent average for all occupations.

Money Magazine and Salary.com included public accountant, financial advisor, and investment specialist in their list of the top 20 jobs for those who want good pay, opportunities for advancement, and a sense of control over their career paths.

With the demand for education in finance at an all-time high, Rivier College has developed a new major in finance. Divisional Chair of Business Maria Matarazzo said that Rivier's partnerships with area businesses set the program apart. "Members of our finance advisory board provide internships and job placement opportunities for students, as well as serving as a resource for students and faculty."

Rivier's program also benefits from faculty membership in Financial Executives International, the preeminent association for CFOs and other senior finance executives. "Lecturers Richard Ducharme and John Parsons both belong to FEI, which provides a wealth of information," said Assistant Professor Dr. Karen Spohn. Students in the finance program will gain hands-on experience managing investment portfolios. The McLean Center for Finance and Economics, which opened on the Rivier campus in spring 2006, provides real-time financial data from a variety of sources including the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ. With access to breaking world news headlines, students will use real-world information and data to support the theories presented in the classroom.

Bill Adams, a member of Rivier's finance advisory board and a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley, says that while many companies don't require a finance degree, having one helps. "Finance majors will already have the language and terminology; they'll understand the ebb and flow of the economy and the business environment," he says. Adams says that finance is first and foremost a customer service business. "You need to like talking to people, helping people," he says.

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—Dr. Karen Spohn
Assistant Professor of Business

Rivier's finance program focuses on helping people on different levels. In addition to developing an understanding of wealth management and how to help clients, students will learn about socially responsible investing and microlending. "Socially responsible investing is an important component of the Investment Management class," says Spohn. "Students learn first-hand through a trading simulation

package how the market values corporations that have strong corporate governance and a commitment to community and environmental issues.”

In economics courses, students examine concepts such as micro lending, which provides accessible capital markets for the poor. Director of Campus Ministry Mary Ellen McGuire worked in the financial services industry prior to her job at Rivier and has spoken in classes about the impact of socially responsible investing and micro lending. “It’s a way to invest money, make a profit ethically, and effect both systematic and individual change,” she says. ■

* **JENNIFER LISKOW** works as a Public Relations and Web Writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications and teaches in Rivier’s Professional Communications program. Jenn earned her bachelor’s in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master’s in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features, and essays published. In her free time, Jenn enjoys practicing yoga, ten-pin bowling, and listening to live music with her husband, Tim.