



# Academy of Finance Careers

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact

## Academy of Finance Careers: At a Glance

- ★ Investments and Financial Planning
- ★ Entrepreneurship: Create an original business, write a business plan, and compete in Shark Tank
- ★ Microsoft Excel: Financial Modeling and Analysis
- ★ Operate a credit union in a paid position & other internship opportunities
- ★ Job shadowing
- ★ Engaging field trips
- ★ University of Akron seminars
- ★ Leadership, project management and travel opportunities with the Business Professionals of America (BPA) student professional club
- ★ Earn college credits



Students got a behind-the-scenes look at the Cleveland Cavaliers and attended a game



Level I & II students attend the University of Akron Experience Business Day



L-R: Tyler Nicolino (Tallmadge 2025 completer) and Austin Cottrill, New Horizon Federal Credit Union Assistant Marketing Director



The entire AFC class qualifies for the Business Professionals of America state competition in various contest categories



Student Chase Watkins observes NHFCU Assistant Marketing Director Austin Cottrill complete a customer transaction



Level II student Chase Watkins (Tallmadge) at work at New Horizon Federal Credit Union

## Partnership provides unique AFC work-based learning opportunity

One of the Academy of Finance Career's (AFC) unique partnerships is with **New Horizon Federal Credit Union**. Through this partnership, the credit union opened a branch at Tallmadge High School (THS). An AFC Level II student works in a paid position as a teller and customer service representative at the THS branch and at New Horizon's main headquarters on Saturdays and during breaks. This partnership not only provides AFC students with relevant, practical learning but it also offers financial education and banking convenience to THS students.



**Six District Educational Compact**

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent • Stow-Munroe Falls • Tallmadge • Woodridge

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First Place winners at the BPA State competition and National Qualifiers in two separate contests, Economic Research Individual and Economic Research Team.  
L-R: Aydin Sloan (Tallmadge), Tyler Nicolino (Tallmadge), Chase Watkins (Tallmadge), and Brett Goodell (Tallmadge)

## Student organization offers professional and technical skill development

Students in the Academy of Finance Careers are members of the Career Technical Student Organization, Business Professionals of America (BPA). BPA encourages students across the country to develop, lead, and compete as they prepare for careers in the business world. Through relevant, business-oriented projects, students gain business technical skills that support the college-prep curriculum. These skills are then applied as students compete in regional, state, and national BPA competitions. These competitions provide students with the opportunity to travel, network with students and professionals from around the country, and build confidence in their business skills. BPA also emphasizes involvement in community service, and students gain experience in special event planning and implementation. These unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth, and service provide AFC students with a strong foundation as they prepare to be career- and college-ready.



At the BPA State Leadership Conference in Columbus, L-R Lilly Geiss (Cuyahoga Falls), Zoey McCullough (Tallmadge) and Makenna Dominski (Stow-Munroe Falls) earned Top 5 in the State for Small Business Management contest

## Hear from a few completers!



**“The AFC was the best thing that I invested my time in. It provided me with numerous opportunities and skills, ensuring that I will have a successful future. My paid internship allowed me to expand my skills, gain new perspectives, and learn what is needed for my dream job in Forensic Accounting.”**

**Breana Fishel, Tallmadge '25  
University of Akron student, majoring in Accounting**



**“In the AFC, I gained professional experience with researching, creating projects, and presentation skills - all of which have helped me in college. During my time in the AFC, I wrote a business plan, won Shark Tank, and, with my team, won a BPA State competition and qualified at the National level. The Financial Accounting course I took in the AFC gave me college credit that counts toward my Engineering degree! Accounting knowledge is useful in any career.”**

**Jared Newenhisen, Tallmadge '24  
University of Akron student, majoring in Aerospace Engineering**

## Average Yearly Salaries of Business Degree Professionals with Finance/Accounting Degrees

\*From the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2024)

- ➔ Accountants / Auditors: \$81,680 (College Co-Op Accounting students earn \$33 an hour while still in school.)
- ➔ Financial Analysts: \$101,910 (Most common Finance job)
- ➔ Personal Financial Advisors: \$102,140
- ➔ Benefits & Compensation Managers: \$140,360
- ➔ Financial Managers: \$161,700