

Corporate Finance & Governance Certificate

Build board-level financial skills for strategic decision-making. Ideal for executives and aspiring directors.

Business Instructor: Nathan Caldwell • 5 sections • 59 lessons • 35.75h total

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About this course

Many professionals find themselves on boards without deep knowledge of how corporate finance, valuation, and governance interconnect. This gap can lead to oversight failures and missed financial opportunities.

This certificate course covers essential topics from financial analysis to governance frameworks through video lessons, case studies, and interactive exercises. You'll learn to make informed board-level financial decisions and assess corporate health effectively.

Course curriculum

Foundations and Preparation

- **Introduction to Corporate Finance for Boards (18m)**
Understand the role of finance in board decision-making and key financial concepts for effective oversight.
- **Reading Financial Statements: Balance Sheets (25m)**
Step-by-step guide to interpreting balance sheets for asset and liability analysis in board contexts.
- **Income Statements and Profitability Analysis (22m)**
Learn to assess company performance through income statement metrics and trends.
- **Cash Flow Analysis for Liquidity Insights (20m)**
Analyze cash flows to evaluate operational health and financial stability for board reviews.
- **Key Financial Ratios: Measuring Performance (30m)**
Calculate and interpret ratios like ROE, debt-to-equity, and liquidity ratios for decision-making.
- **Time Value of Money and Discounted Cash Flow Basics (35m)**
Foundation for valuation: applying DCF to estimate present and future values in financial planning.
- **Overview of Corporate Governance Principles (25m)**
Explore governance frameworks, including roles, responsibilities, and ethical standards for boards.
- **Board Responsibilities in Financial Oversight (30m)**
Duties of boards in monitoring financial health, risk management, and ensuring accountability.

Core Financial Analysis and Valuation

- **Advanced Financial Statement Analysis (40m)**
Deepen your skills in identifying trends, red flags, and insights from financial statements.
- **Forecasting and Budgeting for Strategic Goals (35m)**
Create financial forecasts and budgets to support board-level planning and resource allocation.
- **Cost of Capital and Capital Structure Decisions (30m)**
Understand how cost of capital affects investment choices and overall company valuation.
- **Discounted Cash Flow Valuation Models (45m)**
Build and use DCF models to value companies, projects, and strategic investments.
- **Relative Valuation: Comparable Analysis (35m)**
Apply multiples from similar companies to estimate fair value in various scenarios.
- **Asset-Based Valuation Approaches (25m)**
Value companies based on asset worth, useful for industries with tangible assets.
- **Financial Perspectives on Mergers & Acquisitions (40m)**
Analyze M&A deals from valuation to post-merger integration for board evaluation.
- **Capital Budgeting: Evaluating Investment Projects (30m)**
Use NPV, IRR, and payback period to assess project viability and alignment with strategy.
- **Working Capital Management Strategies (25m)**
Optimize short-term assets and liabilities for operational efficiency and cash flow.

- **Assessing Financial Risk in Corporate Decisions (35m)**
Identify and mitigate risks in financing, operations, and market exposures.
- **Governance Structures and Regulatory Compliance (30m)**
Navigate legal and regulatory requirements for effective governance and compliance.
- **Board Committees: Functions and Best Practices (40m)**
Role of audit, risk, and finance committees in board oversight and reporting.

Deep Dive into Governance and Risk Management

- **Advanced Valuation: Real Options and Scenarios (45m)**
Incorporate flexibility and uncertainty into valuation models for better decision-making.
- **Governance in International Regulatory Environments (35m)**
Adapt governance practices to different country regulations and cultural contexts.
- **Risk Management Frameworks for Directors (40m)**
Implement structured approaches to identify, assess, and manage corporate risks.
- **Financial Reporting Standards and Disclosures (30m)**
Understand GAAP, IFRS, and disclosure requirements for transparency and compliance.
- **Integrating ESG into Financial Governance (35m)**
Apply environmental, social, and governance factors in financial decisions and reporting.
- **Case Study: Governance Failures and Recovery (50m)**
Analyze real examples of governance breakdowns and corrective actions taken by boards.
- **Preventing and Detecting Financial Fraud (40m)**
Techniques for boards to ensure financial integrity, internal controls, and fraud prevention.
- **Board Dynamics and Collaborative Decision-Making (30m)**
Enhance team decision-making in financial contexts through effective communication.
- **Communicating Financial Insights to Stakeholders (25m)**
Present financial information clearly to shareholders, management, and other parties.
- **Global Finance: Cross-Border Considerations (45m)**
Handle currency, tax, and regulatory issues in international finance and governance.

Advanced Application: Board Simulations and Case Studies

- **Board Simulation: Navigating Financial Crises (60m)**
Interactive scenario to practice board responses during financial distress and recovery.
- **Case Study: Valuation in Technology Startups (50m)**
Apply valuation methods to fast-growing, high-risk companies with real data.
- **Analyzing Real-World M&A Transactions (55m)**
Break down deals from target selection to valuation, negotiation, and integration.
- **Governance Challenges in Family Businesses (40m)**
Address unique financial and governance issues in family-owned firms and succession.
- **Financial Strategy: Public vs. Private Companies (45m)**
Compare financial approaches, reporting, and governance for different ownership structures.
- **Investment Committee Decision-Making Process (35m)**
Structure and evaluate proposals in investment committees for board approval.

- **Case Study: Board Oversight of Capital Allocation (50m)**
How boards decide on dividends, buybacks, and investments based on case analysis.
- **Advanced Financial Modeling for Board Reviews (60m)**
Build and critique financial models used in board presentations and decision support.
- **Negotiating Financial Terms in Deals (40m)**
Skills for negotiating valuations, terms, and conditions in corporate transactions.
- **Digital Finance and Governance Implications (45m)**
Impact of fintech, AI, and digital tools on financial governance and board oversight.
- **Cybersecurity Risk: A Financial Perspective (35m)**
Assess and mitigate financial impacts of cyber threats through governance practices.
- **Evaluating Board and Financial Performance (30m)**
Metrics and processes for assessing board effectiveness in financial management.
- **Case Study: Corporate Turnaround Management (55m)**
Learn from companies that recovered from financial difficulties with board action.
- **Succession Planning for Financial Continuity (40m)**
Ensure leadership transitions maintain financial stability and strategic direction.
- **Industry-Specific Financial Governance (50m)**
Apply finance and governance principles to sectors like healthcare, energy, or tech.

Implementation, Certification, and Career Pathways

- **Integrating Finance into Board Practice (30m)**
Practical steps to apply course concepts in real board settings and meetings.
- **Building a Personal Financial Dashboard (25m)**
Create tools to monitor key financial metrics for board duties and oversight.
- **Networking in Corporate Governance Circles (20m)**
Strategies to connect with peers, mentors, and experts in governance fields.
- **Preparing for Board Interviews with Financial Acumen (35m)**
Demonstrate financial knowledge and governance skills in board role applications.
- **Certification Exam Review and Preparation (45m)**
Review key topics, practice questions, and strategies for the certificate exam.
- **Final Project: Comprehensive Board Financial Report (60m)**
Compile a full board report integrating finance analysis and governance recommendations.
- **Staying Current: Continuous Learning in Finance (25m)**
Resources and methods to keep knowledge up-to-date with industry changes.
- **Career Pathways in Corporate Governance (30m)**
Explore roles from director to advisor in governance, finance, and related fields.
- **Ethical Leadership in Financial Decision-Making (35m)**
Maintain integrity and ethics in board financial duties and stakeholder relations.
- **Emerging Trends: AI and Automation in Finance (40m)**
How technology is shaping future financial governance, reporting, and analysis.
- **Case Study: Successful Board Financial Turnarounds (50m)**
Analyze examples where boards steered companies to recovery through financial oversight.

- **Course Wrap-Up: Key Takeaways and Action Plan (30m)**
Summarize learning and create a personalized plan for achieving board readiness.
- **Alumni Network and Community Resources (20m)**
Access ongoing support, networking opportunities, and continued education resources.
- **Feedback Session and Course Improvement (15m)**
Share experiences and suggestions to enhance future course offerings and content.

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