

Mark Jurcevic '07

Operations Analyst | Goldman Sachs, NY



Major: Political Science
Minor: Business Studies

Briefly describe your position, organization and industry.

Operations is the backbone of any financial service firm. We interact with all areas of the firm including sales & trading, treasury, technology and legal. As an operations analyst I am tasked with being the risk manager for the firm. This entails making sure that we are not exposed to market, reputational or regulatory risk.

Please specify your job responsibilities, including a typical day on the job.

I work within Futures Operations which is a fast growing segment of the financial service industry. We cover everything from commodities to Foreign Exchange products. I am responsible for the emerging markets in our group which includes Brazil and Mexico. On a daily basis I focus on reconciling trade breaks in our house (proprietary) trading accounts. This means I am interacting with a handful of the firm's top traders and their accounts. There is no typical day within my group. One day I am on-boarding new clients and the next I am dealing with large position breaks. These experiences have enabled me to develop within the firm.

How did you break into your career field? What, if any, obstacles did you face?

I broke into the financial service industry by taking part in as many learning opportunities as possible. This included networking events hosted by Providence College. These events are a great way of learning about the industry. For example, I took part in the Winter Break Shadowing Program where I was able to sit with an equity trader for the day. This was a great way of solidifying that I was interested in the industry. I suggest getting involved in activities which you can use as building blocks in an interview.

Indicate any previous experiences and how that led to your current position.

I did not have any work/internship experience in the financial service industry. In fact I was not even a business major, but by taking part in shadowing programs and networking with alumni I was able to see that this was the industry I wanted to be a part of.

How can students prepare themselves while still in college?

Students can prepare themselves while still in college by taking business related courses. Although Goldman actively recruits non-business majors, it helps to have some background in finance or accounting. In addition, having an internship or shadowing someone in the financial services industry will give students a good perspective on the different roles that make up the industry.

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How important is a graduate degree or other training? Specify preferred degrees, programs or certificates.

Under taking additional training is very important within the financial service industry. Many employers offer classes in a wide array of topics such as derivatives and options. These classes help in obtaining certificates like the series 7/63 which go along way in career development. Although pursuing a graduate degree is not required, it is encouraged. In fact, many of the big firms within the industry have tuition reimbursement programs.

What entry career areas would provide the best experience for students aspiring to your field? What strategies or resources would you recommend for landing an entry-level position or internship?

There are many ways to break into the financial industry. I would recommend finding an internship as the best way. Providence has many small asset managers/brokerage houses which can offer good exposure to the industry. I would also recommend taking as many business related classes as possible. This will provide you with a good business background which will open many doors. For those students who are non-business majors like me, I suggest networking with alumni in the industry.

What resources or websites would you suggest for students interested in your field?

I suggest students visit the website of companies within the financial service industry. These websites often provide insight into current market conditions. I also suggest they visit the websites of the major financial exchanges. These websites offer free classes which can give students valuable information that they can pull from in an interview.

How did your Providence College education and experience help to prepare you for success?

Providence College provided me with a great foundation to build career success in any industry. The diversity of the liberal arts education I received has allowed me to stay competitive within an industry which is dominated by people who have studied at our nations top business schools.

Additional Comments or Suggestions for Students

Take advantage of the career service office as early as possible. This will help build valuable tools which you can carry with you after college.

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