

FINANCE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDY

The Finance Professional Development Study (PDS) offers business and accounting students an opportunity to explore how specific organizational units are managed. Specific topics include Forecasting & Trend Analysis, Operating & Capital Planning, and Pro Forma Development. This course meets once per week for two to three hours in length.

1. Introduction to Finance PDS

The first class in this series will set the stage for the Professional Development Studies process. This session will provide the opportunity to:

- Receive an overview of the Professional Development Study Program
- Gain insight into guidelines for a successful independent study
- Explore opportunities to network effectively with presenters
- Review tips on how to participate fully in each session
- Discover helpful tools and resources

2. The Business Behind the Magic: *Walt Disney World*[®] Resort Finance Overview

Meet *Walt Disney World* Resort Operations Finance and the team that will be presenting the professional development study. Learn about the career backgrounds of the presentation team. A business overview of the Walt Disney Company will be provided, along with organizational structure of *Walt Disney World* Resort Finance and Accounting divisions. An overview of the following sessions will be presented and class teams will be selected.

3. Gazing into the Crystal Ball: Pro Forma Concepts

This session will focus on the introduction to the concepts and practical application of the pro forma. It will also set up and describe the pro forma model to be used in the group project.

4. Measuring the Magic: Forecasting & Trend Analysis

Learn about the *Walt Disney World* Resort key business drivers, metrics, seasonal influences and productivity. This class also includes time to apply your learnings to your group project.

5. Lots of Ideas, Limited Resources: Operating and Capital Planning

Learn more about the budgeting process including operating and capital planning. Apply what you have learned to your final project.

6. Modeling the Magic: Pro Forma Development

This session will focus on pro forma skills by utilizing the course developed pro forma model. Students will have the opportunity to model their team's unique themed resorts and determine their financial successes or challenges. Metrics from the previous sessions will be applied. This session will prepare you for your final presentation.

7. CEO for a Day: Final Student Presentation

Demonstrate what you have learned in front of your presenters from the last five sessions. Sell your ideas by presenting them in a creative way before the panel of Finance experts!

8. Finance PDS Conclusion

As the concluding class in our series, this session will provide students an opportunity to:

- a. Debrief on the overall PDS experience
- b. Review tips on how to include the PDS experience on a résumé
- c. Learn ways to discuss the PDS experience in interviews
- d. Explore how to submit an independent study to a professor

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