

HAMPDEN- SYDNEY COLLEGE

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Tiger Tracks News

Business studies
and career options for
Hampden-Sydney students

Students from all areas of study filled the Gilmer Hall auditorium to participate in the Training the Street™ seminar on business-related Excel spreadsheet tips and methods.



Hampden-Sydney College students learn from Training the Street™ seminar



On a Sunday afternoon in September, forty-five Hampden-Sydney students, two Hampden-Sydney alumni, and one Hampden-Sydney economics professor joined two instructors from Training the Street™ for a four hour-long seminar on efficient Excel use and financial modeling. Training the Street™ is the same company that provides analyst training for the top firms on Wall Street and at investment banks, private equity groups, and hedge funds around the United States. While the majority of the students were seniors and/or economics majors, all four classes were well represented and government, math, and English majors could be found attentively practicing financial modeling. Although attendance depended on the students' personal interest and motivation, the original forty seminar slots made available to students filled up over a week in advance, and Gilmer 019 filled up well before the noon start time.

Instructors Liz and Govind, former successful Wall Street analysts themselves, guided the audience through two introductory sections of the Training the Street™ program. The first section covered forty commonly used Excel shortcuts that drastically improve efficiency in the primary program of financial analysts. At the end of the section, the class participated in a contest to test who had the fastest Excel skills. No one came within 4 minutes of the all-time Training the Street™ record holder's 30-second mark, but everyone improved. In the second section, a discounted cash flow model was simulated. Students were walked through how to create the model and then asked to recreate it themselves—using the shortcuts they had learned earlier in the day.

Student feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive. In a survey sent out to participants following the seminar, 90% of the students found the Training the Street™ workshop to be “helpful” or “very helpful.” Many of them reported to have enrolled in the workshop because of their interest in the banking and finance industries, and many mentioned that they particularly enjoyed learning the Excel shortcuts. One student commented that he appreciated how “the ‘teacher’ truly guided us through the quick work that everyone is expected to know in the business world.” The students left the seminar asking for more, and more complicated, material to practice next time.

The Training the Street™ workshop was sponsored by the Career Development Office as a part of Hampden-Sydney's newly established Tiger Track for Banking and Finance. Other components of the track this fall include a Dress for Success seminar sponsored by Brooks Brothers, Knewton GMAT preparation availability, and a reception with Dean Peter Henry of NYU Law School.

