

# Venture Capital Investment Specialist

## Spotlight

Do you ever wonder how innovative business ideas become reality? The answer is often venture capital. Venture capital investment specialists provide funding in order to grow promising start-ups, early stage, and emerging companies in the hopes of a high return on investment. These investments have helped companies from Snapchat and Spotify to WhatsApp become the global powerhouses they are today.

## Personal Connection

Venture capital is a source of private funding provided to new businesses with a high potential for growth. Venture capital investment specialists are responsible for seeking out promising business ventures, meeting with the entrepreneurs and evaluating new business ideas.

- Are you interested in economics?
- Do you enjoy learning about business concepts?
- Are you good at spotting the latest trends?
- Do you want a career with high risks - and high rewards?
- Do you love learning about the latest innovations in fields as varied as social media to renewable energy?

## Other Connections

Even if venture capital is not the field for you, there are other ways to combine a passion for finance and business:

- Becoming an IT specialist and solving clients' technical problems
- Owning your own business and finding success as an entrepreneur
- Serving as a financial advisor and helping your individual and corporate clients determine the best ways to invest their money
- Becoming an economist and collecting data and monitoring economic trends
- Creating more wealth as a stock broker and executing trades and offering financial advice to your clients

## Fun Facts/ "Did You Know?..."

Some interesting facts about venture capital investments:

Investments that return billions: The most successful start-ups that received venture capital investments include names like Facebook, Groupon, and WhatsApp. The venture capital firms that invested in these businesses early on have made huge profits: Sequoia Capital, for example, invested a little over \$60 million in WhatsApp - an investment now worth over \$3 billion. [Read more here.](#)

Bad investments mean huge losses: Venture capital is not a career for the faint of heart. While good investments can have huge gains, poor choices will cost you. Theranos, the infamous consumer health technology start-up founded by Elizabeth Holmes, was once the darling of venture capital and raised over \$700 million dollars. Once the news came out that the entire company was based on fraud, those investors lost millions. [Read more here.](#)

Investing in diverse groups: Venture capital investment specialists have the power to fund diverse enterprises with founders who are from traditionally underfunded communities. For example, Harlem Capital focuses on investing in businesses founded by "women of any race and people of color, so think Black, Latinx, Native American, any people who have been limited." [Read more here.](#)

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## STEM Connection

Rapidly evolving technology means that not only are venture capital investment specialists using the latest devices, they are also the ones responsible for investing in the most promising technology trends. Here are some of the latest advances venture capital investment specialists should be aware of:

- **Developing medical robots:** Medical technology is a current hot spot for capital investment. Venture capital firms are funding companies that are doing everything from creating technology that will enable doctors to perform surgery with the help of 3D images to another that is making robot arms to help surgeons during joint replacement procedures. Investing in this space requires a deep knowledge of biomedical science and passion for finding businesses dedicated to saving lives. [Read more here.](#)
- **Creating the food of the future:** Food technology is one of the latest fields seeking venture capital investments. Consumers today have high expectations and want food that is nutritious, convenient, and sustainably produced - all of which requires food companies to rethink their business models. Venture capital investment specialists have been involved in everything from funding research for meatless burgers (like the Impossible Burger) to investing in new food preservation technologies to keep food nutritious and safe longer. [Read more here.](#)
- **Investors love cryptocurrency:** Venture capital firms have been investing billions of dollars in the latest cryptocurrency start-ups. This means that specialists in the field are looking at the technology behind cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, evaluating the financial viability of different businesses, and deciding if an investment will pay off. Because cryptocurrency is so new and the regulatory environment is so uncertain, investments require an exceptional attention to detail and due diligence. [Read more here.](#)
- **Fighting climate change with venture capital:** Investment specialists are funding clean energy start-ups that are dedicated to renewable energy and combating climate change. Venture capital has helped launch companies that harness wind power, develop solar panels, and optimize industrial energy consumption. These investments are crucial in order to give clean energy companies the funding to develop and perfect their ideas in order to make them viable for a larger consumer base. It is such an important field that some venture capital investment specialists focus entirely on finding the best clean energy groups for investment! [Read more here.](#)
- **Using data analytics to make smart investments:** Funding early-stage start-ups is risky - there is a high potential for failure and it can be hard to predict which business will become profitable. Machine learning and big data analysis is helping venture capital firms better analyze the potential of a business to grow and provide an adequate return on investment. With this new information, investment specialists will be able to make better funding decisions and only invest in businesses with the highest potential for success. [Read more.](#)

## Articles, Videos, and Podcasts of Interest

Watch a [YouTube video](#) that uses Lego to explain venture capital easily.

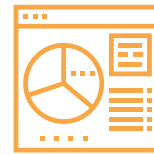
Learn more about what makes a start-up a smart investment by watching [this TED talk](#) on the data behind successful companies.

[Check out this article](#) on the top predictions for what venture capital investors will fund in the future.

Learn more about the education requirements, career progression, and average salaries for venture capital investment specialists [here.](#)

Did you ever watch the TV show Shark Tank? Learn more about the similarities and differences between Shark Tank and venture capital [here.](#)

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## Journeys to Becoming a Venture Capital Investment Specialist

If you want to prepare for a career in venture capital, you can start by taking courses in economics as well as any classes that interest you on topics such as biology, computer science, or chemistry. Because this field requires professionals who are knowledgeable about both business and the fields firms want to invest in, it is a great choice for people who cannot choose between entrepreneurship and STEM - this way, you can have both.

Read about one young woman's journey to becoming an venture capital investment specialist:

Anna Boffetta is a young associate at a venture capital firm in New York City. She is originally from France where she studied math and financial engineering in preparation for university. Anna attained a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in international business. She came out with a well-rounded background, but the math that she'd studied at university hadn't covered computer science, and she wanted to be able to adapt to the tech-dominated business environment.

She decided to work at a start-up to gain these valuable skills before working as a data product analyst and then as an associate at a firm investing in the energy sector. Anna noticed at every step of her journey how male-dominated the industry is and has become passionate about breaking down the gender boundaries that exist in venture capital investing and encouraging more women to pursue a career in the industry. She is a co-founder of Diversity VC, a project that analyzes the industry for its diversity (or lack thereof) and works to raise awareness and lay the groundwork for the future.

Read more about Anna's story [here](#).



The path to becoming a venture capitalist investment specialist often starts with a background in economics. Read about one young woman's reasoning for studying economics:

Michelle G. was uncertain about what path she should take coming out of high school. She ended up choosing to pursue economics because of its many applications and immediately realized that it is an underrated area of study. Part of Michelle's uncertainty was due to feeling like she had to decide between a career that involved analytics and problem-solving and a career that involved helping and interacting with people. She has come to realize that economics put her in a position to do both.

Taking any available economics courses in high school, as well as high level math courses like calculus and statistics will improve your understanding of the field and build a strong foundation for future pursuits. However, Michelle also mentions that it's important to maintain a well-rounded knowledge base and study subjects like world history, foreign languages, and communications to properly excel. Michelle recommends a background in economics for people who want to understand and work to improve the way the world works. Economics is a valuable field for developing new progressive policies and designing institutions that promote equity and improve the way that people live.

Read more about Michelle and her story [here](#).