

# Securities industry exams: Passing offers high rewards

## Solomon Exam Prep is 'the ticket' into the world of finance

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

If you want to work in the highly regulated securities industry — the world of stocks, bonds, options, trading, municipal finance, investment advising, investment banking, private equity — it's likely that you need to pass several difficult exams in order to do that. Portland-based Solomon Exam Prep has helped tens of thousands of students pass their securities licensing exams, like the Series 7, the Series 65 and the newest entry: the Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) exam.



**Beth Hamilton, Higher Education Development Manager at Solomon Exam Prep**

"The securities industry is a great field to go into because there are many different career paths," says Higher Education Development Manager Beth Hamilton of Solomon Exam Prep. Established 18 years ago, Solomon Exam Prep helps people learn what they need to know in order

to pass their securities licensing exams, she says.

For most, the first step is passing the SIE. The SIE was created by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and in just 85 questions, it covers nearly the entire industry. A key aspect of the SIE is that anyone 18 or older can take it and the results are good for four years. For most other securities exams, you need to be employed and sponsored by a broker-dealer.

The SIE is considered to be of medium difficulty and requires substantial studying time, Hamilton explains. The gold-



Multiple career paths are available in the securities industry, from banking and brokerages to accounting firms and financial technology companies.

standard test can be an entrée into the securities industry — whether you want to work at a broker-dealer, a bank, an insurance company, a financial technology company, or an accounting firm.

The SIE exam was created in 2018 and Solomon Exam Prep immediately added it to its repertoire of securities-industry licensing exams, including the Series 3, 6, 7, 14, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 63, 65, 66, 79, 82 and 99.

Solomon Exam Prep differentiates itself from competitor test-prep companies with its high-quality study materials and its robust online and app-based platform. Additionally, Jeremy Solomon, company co-founder, believes "that professional education is super important," Hamilton says.

The company partners with dozens of colleges and universities that use Solomon's instructor system to provide classes and materials for their students. Partner institutions include historically black col-

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leges and universities like Jackson State University in Mississippi, and Claflin University in South Carolina.

Solomon Exam Prep opens doors to employment. A recent class of 12 University of Delaware students took a Solomon SIE class, passed the exam, and all were hired in financial roles.

"Passing the SIE shows your commitment to the industry and it demonstrates your knowledge of a broad range of securities and financial topics," Hamilton says. "Employers understand the value of passing the SIE and they reward it."

For more information, visit [solomonexamprep.com](http://solomonexamprep.com).