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# Finance Emphasis

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An emphasis in finance provides students with the essential knowledge about corporate finance and financial markets necessary for obtaining and succeeding in careers in corporate finance, security analysis and portfolio management, investment and commercial banking, and risk management. And, because a solid foundation in finance contributes to effective decision-making across the major business functions, it is appropriate for students who aspire to positions in, among other areas, general management, product/brand management, supply chain management, information technology management, management consulting, and entrepreneurship.

Upon graduation, students with a finance emphasis have taken positions with retail, wholesale, manufacturing, and financial service firms as corporate financial, treasury, and security analysts. Within the financial services industry, they have found positions in investment banking, asset management, and commercial banking firms. Here is a partial list of the positions our students accepted recently:

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Business Development Manager             | Planning & Budgeting Analyst |
| Commercial Lender                        | Portfolio Manager            |
| Corporate Analyst                        | Research Analyst             |
| Investment Banker                        | Securities Analyst           |
| Long-Range Planning & Investment Analyst | Financial Analyst            |
| Management Consultant                    | Treasury Staff               |

## Recommendations for a Finance Emphasis

It is recommended that at least 12 elective credits with the “FINA” course designation be completed for a finance emphasis. To fulfill unique career objectives, students interested in specializing in a particular aspect of finance can use the following guides for their course selection decisions in one of four areas:

(i) corporate finance and investment banking, (ii) security analysis and portfolio management, (iii) banking, and (iv) risk management.

***Corporate finance and investment banking*** coursework provides a structured way for managers, investment bankers, commercial bankers, board members, consultants, and entrepreneurs to consider the ramifications of three broad firm-wide decisions: investment, financing, and payout. Additionally, it introduces them to a rigorous and disciplined approach for analyzing and making a number of related decisions regarding (1) the allocation of scarce corporate resources among competing uses, (2) security issuance and the choice between (public and private) debt and equity, (3) the use of hybrid securities, (4) the choice between dividends and share repurchases, and (5) the decision to engage in mergers, restructurings, and/or corporate diversification. The following courses are recommended for a ***finance emphasis – corporate finance and investment banking***:

These 8 credits:

- FINA 6241: Corporate Finance Analysis and Decisions (4 Credits)
- FINA 6242: Advanced Corporate Finance Analysis and Decisions (4 Credits)

And at least 4 credits from:

- FINA 6121 Debt Markets, Interest Rates, and Hedging (2 Credits)
- FINA 6322 Financial Performance and Security Analysis (2 Credits)
- FINA 6323 Advanced Security Analysis (2 Credits)
- FINA 6324 Securitization Markets (2 Credits)
- FINA 6621 International Financial Management (2 Credits)
- FINA 6622 Financial Risk Management (2 Credits)

***Security analysis and portfolio management*** is appropriate for students with career interests as equity or credit analysts for buy-side and sell-side firms and for private equity firms and, eventually, as portfolio managers for investment management firms. The coursework covers the development and application of the analytical frameworks and modeling skills for valuing debt, equity and derivative securities and for designing and measuring the performance of investment portfolios. The following courses are recommended for a ***finance emphasis – security analysis and portfolio management***:

These 8 credits:

- FINA 6121 Debt Markets, Interest Rates, and Hedging (2 Credits)
- FINA 6321 Portfolio Analysis and Management (2 Credits)
- FINA 6322 Financial Performance and Security Analysis (2 Credits)
- FINA 6323 Advanced Security Analysis (2 Credits)

And at least 4 credits from:

- FINA 6241 Corporate Finance Analysis and Decisions (4 Credits)
- FINA 6622 Financial Risk Management (2 Credits)
- FINA 6541 Derivatives, Futures, and Options (2 Credits)
- FINA 6324 Securitization Markets (2 Credits)
- FINA 6621 International Financial Management (2 Credits)

***Banking*** is a relevant course of study for students who seek positions within the banking sector in such areas as credit analysis, consumer and business lending, private banking, foreign exchange and risk management services, and general management. The key topics covered in the recommended coursework include the behavior of interest rates and how they affect bank activities and profits, credit risk and lending decisions, liquidity and funding risk, regulatory requirements, and how securitization, risk management, and bank capital can help in dealing with these issues. Related topics that are covered include economic policy, international risks, and corporate finance. The following courses are recommended for a ***finance emphasis – banking***:

These 8 credits:

- FINA 6121 Debt Markets, Interest Rates, and Hedging (2 Credits)
- FINA 6122 Financial Management of Depository Institutions (2 Credits)

- FINA 6324     Securitization Markets (2 Credits)
- FINA 6622     Financial Risk Management (2 Credits)

And at least 4 credits from:

- FINA 6241:    Corporate Finance Analysis and Decisions (4 Credits)
- FINA 6341     World Economy (4 Credits)
- FINA 6541     Derivatives, Futures, and Options (2 Credits)
- FINA 6621     International Financial Management (2 Credits)

**Risk management** involves identifying and quantifying the risks facing an organization, and then taking appropriate actions to mitigate the magnitude and likelihood of these risks, consistent with the objectives of the organization. It is appropriate for students aspiring to professions in such areas as quantitative risk analysis, structured finance, and credit risk modeling and analytics. Key topics presented in the coursework include the pricing and hedging of derivative securities, such as interest rate and foreign exchange swaps, options and futures, and the repackaging, securitization and selling of assets (e.g., credit card receivables and mortgage backed securities). The following courses are recommended for a **finance emphasis – risk management**:

These 8 credits:

- FINA 6121     Debt Markets, Interest Rates, and Hedging (2 Credits)
- FINA 6324     Securitization Markets (2 Credits)
- FINA 6622     Financial Risk Management (2 Credits)
- FINA 6541     Derivatives, Futures, and Options (2 Credits)

And at least 4 credits from:

- FINA 6122     Financial Management of Depository Institutions (2 Credits)
- FINA 6341     World Economy (4 Credits)
- FINA 6621     International Financial Management (2 Credits)

Additionally, we recommend that students pursuing a finance emphasis also consider incorporating interdisciplinary courses to obtain a well-rounded business foundation. The following courses are suggested as complementary to a finance emphasis:

- ACCT 6100     Financial Statement Analysis (4 Credits)
- ACCT 6160     Accounting for Mergers and Acquisitions, and Derivatives (2 Credits)
- ENTR 6023     Financing Business Ventures (4 Credits)
- ENTR 6037     Corporate Venturing (4 Credits)
- IDSC 6421     Financial Information Systems and Technologies (2 Credits)
- MGMT 6004     Negotiation Strategies (2 Credits)
- MGMT 6031     Industry Analysis and Competitive Strategy (4 Credits)
- MGMT 6085     Corporate Strategy (4 Credits)
- MKTG 6075     Pricing Strategy (4 Credits)
- MKTG 6088     Strategic Marketing (2 Credits)
- OMS 6056     Managing Supply Chain Operations (4 Credits)
- OMS 6065     Strategic Supply Chain Management (2 Credits)

***Students should keep in mind that not all courses listed above are offered every semester.*** Students should check One Stop and/or the Class Schedule page to verify each semester's course offerings as well as the professors assigned to those courses.

Brief course descriptions and a tentative list of when the course is being offered can be found on the Course Description page.

A more detailed description of the course, including objectives and expected learning outcomes, can be found on the Course Executive Summaries page.

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