

Finance Specialization Overview

A finance specialization 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 have 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
- Commercial lender
- Corporate analyst
- Investment banker
- Long-range planning & investment analyst
- Management consultant
- Planning & budgeting analyst
- Portfolio manager
- Research analyst
- Securities analyst
- Financial analyst
- Treasury staff

Finance Specialization: Risk Management

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).

Recommended Courses: Risk Management

It is recommended that at least 12 elective credits with the FINA course designation be completed for a finance specialization. The following courses are recommended for a Finance Specialization in Risk Management.

These 8 credits:

FINA 6121 Debt Markets, Interest Rates, and Hedging (2 credits)

FINA 6324 Securitization Markets (2 credits)

FINA 6522 Introduction to Derivatives and Financial Risk Management (2 credits)

FINA 6529 Advanced Topics in Fixed Income and Derivatives (2 Credits)

And at least 4 credits from:

FINA 6122 Financial Management of Depository Institutions (2 credits)

FINA 6325 Behavioral Finance (2 credits)

FINA 6341 World Economy (4 credits)

FINA 6621 International Financial Management (2 credits)

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

ACCT 6100 Financial Statement Analysis (4 credits)

ACCT 6160 Accounting for Mergers, Acquisitions, and Derivatives (2 credits)

ENTR 6023 Financing Business Ventures (4 credits)

ENTR 6037 Corporate Venturing (2 Credits)

IDSC 6442 E-Sourcing & E-Auctions (2 credits)

MGMT 6004 Negotiation Strategies (2 credits)

MGMT 6031 Industry Analysis (4 credits)

MGMT 6085 Corporate Strategy (4 credits)

MKTG 6075 Pricing Strategy (4 credits)

MKTG 6088 Strategic Marketing (2 credits)

SCO 6056 Managing Supply Chain Operations (4 credits)

Please note, not all courses listed above are offered every semester. Go to [schedules](#) to verify each semester's course offerings and the assigned professor. Detailed elective course descriptions ([executive summaries](#)) are also available.