



Why should I select a finance concentration in the College of Business and Economics at Cal State Fullerton?

The field of finance is an exciting and extremely diverse area of business ranging from corporate financial management, financial institutions management, real estate, insurance and financial services, to international financial management, investments, and financial planning. It offers students the opportunity to pursue different skills in the various areas of finance while providing an overview of how companies function in terms of both their financing activities and their asset investment decisions. The knowledge and the financial skills that students can acquire in the finance concentration will help them maximize their potential for employment upon graduation because it provides them with both practical skills and a broad understanding of how companies function and how financial markets operate.

Acquisition of Skills - The finance concentration in the College of Business and Economics is designed to provide students with skills in the analysis of financial problems encountered by corporate managers, real estate managers, investors, portfolio managers, security analysts, investment bankers, stock brokers, loan officers at financial institutions, financial planners and insurance professionals. In addition, the finance concentration provides students with expertise in a variety of software packages including spreadsheet software, real estate analysis packages and professional presentation software. Further, the concentration provides students with experience in working in teams to solve business problems, making professional presentations, doing financial research, and doing simulated securities trading on the Internet.

Internationally Recognized Faculty - Faculty members in the Department of Finance are leaders in their fields and have national and international reputations in their areas of expertise. Many have Ph.D. degrees from nationally and internationally recognized universities such as Yale, the University of Chicago, UCI, USC, the Wharton School, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Texas. Because of this, the Finance Department at CSUF has an international reputation for excellence.

What is finance?

Finance is an academic discipline with direct, practical business applications. First, finance deals with the decisions made by companies. It provides solutions to the problems companies encounter when they consider how to finance their activities in the areas of investing in productive assets, manufacturing selling products or providing services. The problem companies face here is how to raise funds to finance these activities by selling short-term securities like short-term debt (trade credit, bank loans and short-term securities), long-term debt (bonds), and equity securities like preferred and common stock, while minimizing the cost of these funds to the firm. Finance also deals with the problems companies face when deciding how to choose the most assets investments they require to make and sell their products and/or services. By showing companies how to raise funds at a minimal cost (which securities to sell and when) and how to invest those funds in the most profitable assets, finance helps companies be more successful competitors in their markets.

Second, finance focuses on the markets for the securities that firms and governments sell. It describes how these markets operate and how the activities of investors, corporations and governments affect these markets. More important, it helps investors decide which securities they should purchase and how they can allocate their funds between different security investments to maximize their returns for the amount of risk they want to take.

What types of careers are available?

Finance students are thoroughly prepared to seek diverse careers that include:

- Corporate financial managers such as financial officers, budgeting analysts, and credit analysts;
- Real estate professionals such as real estate analysts, mortgage brokers, and commercial and residential sales people, property, managers and appraisers;
- Financial institutions managers such as loan officers, financial analysts, bank operations managers and portfolio managers;
- Securities investments professionals such as stock brokers, security analysts, and investment bankers, portfolio managers and financial planners;
- Insurance professionals such as underwriters, claim adjusters, actuaries, portfolio managers, risk managers, and marketing and salespeople.

What courses are required for the program?

Our program leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. To earn the degree, all students are required to complete the university's General Education requirements, as well as the following three areas of the business administration major:

The Business Administration Core (51 units)

All students in business administration are required to complete a common body of core requirements covering the foundation areas of business administration and global business. The core ensures that every graduating student will have the intellectual and professional tools in the fields of accounting, economics, finance, management, information systems/decision sciences and marketing to succeed in a responsible position in the business world.

Lower-Division Required Core Courses:

Accounting 201A Financial Accounting (3)
Accounting 201B Managerial Accounting (3)
Business Admin 201 Business Writing (3)
Economics 201 Principles of Microeconomics (3)
Economics 202 Principles of Macroeconomics (3)
Management 246 Business and its Legal Environment (3)
Info Systems/Decision Sci 265 Intro to Information Systems and Applications (3)
Math 135/130 Calculus (3-4)

Upper-Division Required Core Courses:

Business Admin 301 Advanced Business Communications (3)
Economics 310 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (3)
OR Economics 315 Intermediate Business Microeconomics (3)
OR Economics 320 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis (3)
Finance 320 Business Finance (3)
Info Systems/Decision Sci 361A QBA: Probability and Statistics (3)
Info Systems/Decision Sci 361B QBA: Statistics and Management Science (3)
Management 339 Principles of Management and Operations (3)
Management 340 Organizational Behavior (3)
Marketing 351 Principles of Marketing (3)
Global Business Elective (3)

Specialized Courses in the Finance Concentration (18 units)

Students with a finance concentration must take a total of 18 units in addition to Finance 320 – Business Finance, which is a requirement of the business core. Of these 18 units, students are required to take six units in the finance core and 12 units of finance elective courses as follows:

Required courses (6 units)

- Finance 332 Theory of Corporate Finance (3) AND
- Finance 340 Introduction to Investments (3) OR
- Finance 342 Capital and Money Markets(3)

Electives (12 units)

Corporate/International Financial Management: Choose from Finance 331, 335, 342, 370, 371, 373, 432, or 433.

Financial Institutions: Choose from Finance 335, 340, 342, 351, 352, 370, 425, and 444.

Insurance and Financial Services: Choose from Finance 335, 360, 410, 411, 461, or 462.

Investments and Financial Planning: Choose from Finance 335, 340, 355, 360, 410, 411, 442 or 444.

Real Estate Professions: Choose from Finance 351, 352, 353, 355, 454, or 456.

**Are there special
scholarships and activities
for finance students?**

Capstone course (3 units)

The program culminates with the capstone course, Management 449 – Seminar in Strategic Management. This seminar provides an additional focus on what has been learned in the core and concentration through applications in significant, current, and real business problems.

Second Language Graduation Requirement

Since the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration is a high-unit program, majors are exempt from the second language graduation requirement.

Scholarships

There are a number of scholarships and awards available to finance majors. For further information regarding scholarships and awards, please contact the Department of Finance, located in College Park 1060, or call (714) 278-2217.

Internships

Each semester the Finance Department has a number of internships available to students through CSUF's Center for Internships and Service-Learning.

Student Associations and Honor Societies

The Department of Finance sponsors the Finance Association and the Real Estate Association. These groups of interested finance students provide a number of activities focusing on helping students connect with other students who share the same professional interests. They also provide information on employment opportunities and expose students to business contacts with individuals who work in the relevant fields. In addition, the department sponsors the Financial Management Honor Society, which is a national honor society representing the best and brightest financial management students in the nation.

**Is student advisement
available?**

Academic advisement for all business students can be obtained in the Business Advising Center. Information is available on admission requirements, curriculum and graduation requirements, and transfer course evaluations. The Center is located in Langsdorf Hall, room 731, and is open Monday through Thursday on a walk-in basis. For further information and specific hours, please call (714) 278-2211 or email bizdoc@fullerton.edu.

How can I learn more?

For additional information on careers or specific questions about courses in the finance program, you may contact one of our faculty career path advisers. Office hours, telephone numbers and faculty Web pages are available from the Finance Department office at (714) 278-2217. Or, visit our website at: business.fullerton.edu/finance/.