

MBA Finance Concentration Course Descriptions

Students interested in the finance industry may choose to pursue a concentration in finance. Career opportunities in finance include financial analysis, securities and finance services, information systems, and corporate financial management.

To obtain a finance concentration, students must complete at least **nine (9) finance credits** and **one (1) general elective credit**, for a total of 10 elective credits.



Students working towards a finance concentration MUST complete the following courses (4 credits):

MBUS 660: Investments (2 credits) offered online in summer

This course covers the fundamentals of security valuation and analysis, market efficiency, the scientific evidence surrounding investment strategies, and the relationship between risk and return. Trading mechanics, types of trades, and alternative investment vehicles will be discussed.

MBUS 662: Advanced Corporate Finance (2 credits) offered every other spring

This course covers both the theoretical background and practical implications of the central issues in corporate financial management, including capital structure decisions, dividend payout decisions, and asset valuation. Real options are considered as an enhancement to traditional capital budgeting methods. Also, issues related to security design are covered.

MBUS 665: Mergers & Acquisitions (2 credits) offered in fall

This course includes coverage of merger types, their characteristics, and motivations for mergers. The market for corporate control will be introduced, as will the agency problem and how it relates to merger activity. Principles of valuation will be applied to takeovers and some examination of merger law, corporate governance reform, and the scholarly research of M & A's will also be included in the course.

Students must also complete **5 credits** of finance-related elective coursework. Examples include:

Intro to Real Estate Investments (1 credit)

This course is an introduction to real estate finance and investments and is intended to promote and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills within the context of real estate investments. The course begins with an overview of core concepts, followed by the development of analytical tools and decision making techniques that are specific to property asset valuation and management. Finally, students will discuss methods of financing real assets and the structure and purpose of capital markets involved in property assets.

Financial Statement Analysis (1 credit)

This course introduces managers to the benefits of analyzing financial statements. The main objective is to improve students' familiarity with and competence in understanding an organization's current and past performance from applying various qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques.

Sustainable Business (1 credit)

This course includes both the evaluation of financial performance via financial statement and ratio analysis, as well as planning for growth and external financial requirements. The derivation of pro-forma statements, cash budgets, and credit analysis and policy will be covered, as will means for evaluating financial alternatives available for meeting a corporation's funding requirements.

International Finance (1 credit)

This course is designed to give the student an understanding of the basic terminology, structure, and importance of international finance. This includes study of foreign exchange markets and instruments, foreign exchange risk, political risk, hedging of these risks, and multinational capital budgeting.

Derivatives (1 credit)

This class focuses on futures, forwards, and options on common stock and foreign currencies. Institutional aspects of derivatives markets, as well as factors influencing the value of these contracts are studied. In option valuation, the Black Sholes Merton option pricing model and the Binomial tree model of option valuation are covered in detail. Various portfolio strategies using combinations of call and put options to exploit investors' expectations of future asset prices are also covered.

Business Valuation (1 credit)

This course covers three basic approaches to business valuation including dividend discount models, free cash flow and comparable firms' techniques.

Ethics in Finance (1 credit)

This course is devoted to the study of those ethical principles and frameworks which should inform the decision-making process of those occupations engaged in the finance industry, and how those principles apply more specifically to the work of finance occupations like stockbrokers, mutual fund managers, corporate financial officers, and others.

Advanced Financial Modeling and Data Analytics (1 credit)

This course applies financial concepts to build analytic frameworks and financial models that can be used to value corporate initiatives, acquisitions and mergers. The course is designed to help develop your finance and strategic intuition when tackling business problems as a finance professional. Intermediate level Excel skills are strongly recommended. This course will show you how to analyze a wide array of business planning and decision problems with the help of financial models and forecasting tools. In addition to giving students practical modeling skills, the class will also cement their understanding of finance and accounting.

Decision Making for Managers (1 credit)

This course introduces students to various tools and techniques used for managerial problem solving and decision-making. Possible course discussion topics include: decision-making framework, mapping techniques, problems identification tools (such as root cause analysis and theory of constraints), and analytical tools (such as sensitivity and decision tree analysis, optimization techniques, and scenario evaluation). Attaining decision-making tools and techniques, current and future managers will be able to analyze a problem and determine the best course of action for resolution.

The Mortgage Crisis of 2008- Causes, Solutions, and Impact (1 credit)

The banking crisis of 2008 and 2009 was one of the most dramatic episodes in the economic, political, and business history of the US and provided ample evidence of the degree to which the financial sector influences the American and world economy. In this course, we will explore the banking industry – specifically the mortgage and asset valuation markets – prior to 2008, analyze the crisis and the responses of government and business entities, and look at the post-crisis effects on asset valuation and securitization. How did the crisis impact how we value assets in the marketplace? Did we learn anything from the mortgage bubble? Who was most affected by its fallout, and how do we retain the benefits of our asset securitization system without risking another near system collapse?

Finance Internship (1-3 credits)

Relevant work experience is required that is commensurate with a student's professional interests. Guidelines and criteria are available from the School of Business Administration Internship Director.