Gonzaga MBA Course Descriptions
Finance Concentration

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.

In order to complete a finance concentration, students must complete 9 finance credits and 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)**
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)**
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 & Aquisitions (2 credits)**
This class 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 analysis, securities and finance services, information systems and corporate financial management.

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 intened 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 purposes of capital markets involved in property assets.

**Financial Statement Analysis (1 credit)**
This is a short course introducing 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 class 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 (2 credits)**
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.

**Intro to Personal Investing (1 credit)**
An introduction to investment theory and the implications for the construction of an individual investment portfolio. Includes a discussion of alternative asset choices, asset allocation, risk and return, and tax implications.

**Business Valuation (1 credit)**
This is a one credit course covering three basic approaches to business valuation including dividend discount models, free cash flow and comparable firms techniques.

**Financial Institutions (2 credits)**
This course will examine the role that financial intermediaries play in the allocation of financial resources through the economy. Topics covered include the various types of institutions, their regulation, fund flows, and the structure of financial markets.

**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. The course will be anchored in a set of case studies.

**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.

*These topics and others will be covered in Current Issues in Finance.*

**Two Current Issues in Finance** courses are offered per semester, each addressing a different topic.