

Undergraduate Finance



Coordination of financial aspects of organizations and the marketplace to achieve organizational goals is a key component of finance. This requires an in-depth knowledge of finance, including accounting, financial markets and asset management, analysis and budgeting, and strong communication, both written and verbal.

At Ottawa University

The Finance major will prepare students to plan, manage, and analyze the financial and monetary aspects and performance of business enterprises, banking institutions, or other organizations. Graduates will leave with knowledge in principles of accounting, financial instruments, capital planning, funds acquisition, asset and debt management, budgeting, financial analysis, and investments and portfolio management.

Careers

Job growth for individuals with a finance degree is above the national average, and there are a variety of businesses which will hire graduates. Within the investment and commercial banking industries, jobs include investment banker, security sales, loan officer and traders. Money management firms hire finance majors for positions as a security analyst, investment analyst and financing specialist. Many corporations will also hire finance graduates who will work as financial analysts within the company. Current and projected job growth for finance majors is in the area of financial planning.

Education and Qualifications

Jobs within the finance industry require a bachelor's degree at a minimum. However, many individuals within the finance industry have qualification beyond a bachelor's degree. While MBA's are the most prevalent advanced degree, individuals also pursue other master's degrees and even PhDs. In addition, careers in finance often require specific qualifications and licenses such as: (Certified Financial Planner (CFP), Certified Financial Analyst (CFA), Series 7, and Series 63). Some licenses are required by law (Series 7 & 63), while others provide a specific designation. Both licenses and certifications require that an individual pass exams, which assess their knowledge.

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Foundation Courses

ACC 20364 Accounting for Business Operations

Introduces operating activities of business. Emphasis on using income statements to plan and evaluate the operations of a for-profit entity.

ECO 20163 Macroeconomics

Focuses on inflationary consequences of monetary and fiscal policies designed to eliminate poverty and unemployment, significance of money and government deficits on attainment of goals of high employment and economic growth in a non-inflationary environment and role of the dollar in international trade.

ECO 20263 Microeconomics

Study of the role of prices in allocating and developing scarce resources to meet the needs and demands of consumers, the impact of the profit motive on business size and efficiency, the economic power of large-scale business firms, the interplay of private and public choice through price controls, business regulation and taxation.

MAT 20143 Business Mathematics

Focuses on basic mathematics skills, business mathematics applications and problem solving strategies. Concepts include properties of real numbers, fundamental operations of rational numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, numerical and graphical descriptions of data, basic probability, and logical thinking. Alternate: MAT 20043 (Recommended) or MAT 10643.

OAD 30763 Business Statistics

Focuses on basic methods of research design and analysis of data including descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics include mean, median, mode, frequency distributions, range, standard deviation, probabilities of sampling selection, Z-score, T-value, regression and correlation, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, and Chi-square analysis. Alternate: MAT 20044 or OAD 31564

OAD 31664 Business Ethics

Introduces development of personal and group norms required for work places. Topics include moral reasoning in business, employee rights and responsibilities of corporations.

Required Major Courses

ACC 20464 Financing and Investing Activities

Extension of ACC 20364 Accounting for Business Operations. Planning and evaluation of business operations and acquiring, disposing and financing assets of entity. Time value of money introduced. Emphasis on interpretation and use of balance sheet and statement of cash flows.

Prerequisite: ACC 20364 Accounting for Business Operations

ECO 30363 Money and Banking

Studies role of money and banking in United States economic development and in international finances, significance of money, banking history and development, commercial banking operations and structure, central banking and monetary management, alternative international monetary systems, and monetary theory and policy.

Prerequisite: ECO 20163 Macroeconomics

ECO 40963 International Economics

Examines principle topics of international economics. Examines balance of payments, exchange rates, free trade, protectionism and economic development from the perspective of the business major. Develops appreciation of world economic environment as it impinges on choices and decisions made by managers of all-size firms.

FIN 30000 Foundations of Finance

Foundations of Finance focuses on the analysis of financial information within an enterprise. Problems and analysis will focus on the financial information related to capital requirements and the relationships of how financial decisions impact both the firm and the shareholder. Concepts used in FIN 30000 form the foundation of all elective finance courses. Main topics covered include; time value of money, valuation of stocks and bonds, risk and return, and principles of capital budgeting.

Prerequisites: ACC 20364 Accounting for Business Operations

FIN 41000 Investment Theory

Discussion of investment theory with a focus on the securities market related to the individual investor. Course focuses on trading, behavior of securities and pricing, the mechanics of trading, evaluation of securities, mutual funds, and evaluation of portfolio performance. Specific theories addressed include market hypothesis, capital market theory, and stock valuation.

Prerequisites: FIN 30000 Foundations of Finance and ECO 40963 International Economics.

FIN 41006 Behavioral Finance

Course expands upon investment theory and the theory of efficient markets through psychological biases of individuals and how these impact financial decision-making. Evidence and research based course focuses on theory and empirical research as they relate to the behavior of asset pricing, corporate finance, and money management.

Prerequisite: FIN 30000

FIN 42000 Futures and Options

This course introduces the theory and application of forwards, futures, options, other financial derivatives, and currency markets. Students gain an understanding of the role of these financial tools in enhancing business performance and market efficiency.

Alternate: FIN 41003

FIN 43000 Crypto Assets: Digital Currencies and Assets

The utilization of blockchain technology has ushered in new investment vehicles for millions of people worldwide. This course provides an introduction to and overview of the rapidly emerging cryptoasset market. Students will gain an understanding of cryptoassets as stores of value, portfolio management, risk analysis, and market efficiency.

FIN 49000 Seminar in Applied Finance

Capstone course that guides student in the integration of functional content areas in the field of finance. Addresses financing issues and applies finance theories and techniques to problems and cases through a process of strategic decision-making.

Prerequisite: Completion of all required core coursework or advisor permission.