FINANCE (GREAT VALLEY)

Degree Requirements
Master of Finance (M.Fin.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Thirty-three (33) credits are required to complete the M.Fin. degree. The course work includes:

- six required core courses (18 credit hours) which provide a body of knowledge in finance;
- four prescribed courses (12 credit hours) designed to help students develop additional expertise in financial analysis or financial data analytics;
- and a capstone course (3 credit hours) which provides a culminating experience for students.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
BA 831	Foundations in Finance	3
ACCTG 512	Financial Accounting Theory and Reporting Problems	3
BUSAD 525	Quantitative Methods in Finance	3
BUSAD 826	Current Issues in Corporate Finance	3
FIN 808	Analysis of Financial Markets	3
FIN 813	Speculative Markets	3
Electives or Option		
Select 4 electives or complete the Financial Data Analytics Option required courses. [1]		12
Culminating Experience		
BUSAD 585	Research in Security Valuation [2]	3
or BUSAD 888	Applications of Financial Data Analytics	
Total Credits		**33**

1 The electives allow students in the base program to choose from a menu of courses maintained by the graduate program office, or to select prescribed courses that meet the requirements for the option.
2 All students will complete their program of study with a capstone course corresponding to the base program (BUSAD 585) or the option (BUSAD 888).

For the base program, students may enroll in the Master of Finance program at the Great Valley Campus, taking courses in a face-to-face and blended format. Alternatively, students may enroll in the online Master of Finance program offered through the Penn State World Campus. A one-week residency at Great Valley is required as part of the online program.

Base Program
(Offered at Penn State Great Valley and through World Campus)

The program provides an advanced and specialized graduate education in finance for individuals with career interests as finance professionals in financial management, or investment management. The curriculum reflects a balanced combination of advanced financial theory and practical business applications. Major emerging concepts and practices in the finance field are introduced and discussed throughout the program.

The program is designed to help graduates to become proficient in technical and analytical skills in finance and to develop expertise in financial problem solving and financial decision-making preparing them to advance their finance careers in organizations such as investment and commercial banking firms, mutual funds, other financial firms, non-financial businesses, consulting firms, government agencies and non-profit organizations. In addition, students will find a substantial number of courses in the M.Fin. program to be helpful in preparing for tests required for various professional certifications in finance, such as the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Base Program Electives
Students are required to take 4 courses (12 credits) from a list of electives maintained by the graduate program office. The electives allow students to focus in a selected field of finance such as corporate financial management or investment management. Students may also choose one non-finance course (3 credits) with the approval of the adviser.

Base Program Capstone Course
BUSAD 585 Research in Security Valuation (3 cr.)

Financial Data Analytics Option
(offered at Penn State Great Valley)

This option prepares graduates to learn necessary knowledge and skills to analyze financial data to extract valuable insights in order to facilitate financial decisions. The courses in this option focus on how statistical methods and data mining techniques can be used to analyze real financial data.

Students are required to take 4 courses (12 credits) as indicated below.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
BUSAD 829	Data Analysis in Finance	3
DAAN 871	Data Visualization	3
IE 575	Foundations of Predictive Analytics	3
SWENG 545	Data Mining	3
Total Credits		**12**

Financial Data Analytics Option Capstone Course
BUSAD 888 Applications of Financial Data Analytics (3 cr.)