FINANCE, B.S. (HARRISBURG)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Description
The finance major emphasizes analytic, problem solving, and computer skills which are necessary for finance and investment industry. The major prepares students for careers in corporate finance, investment and portfolio management, banking, public finance, and international finance. The major also prepares students who want to pursue graduate study in finance. Depending on their interests, graduates may then seek financial services credentials such as Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

The requirements in the major complement basic business instruction in accounting, management, marketing, and information systems. With business and non-business electives, the program is designed to develop necessary skills to be an effective financial manager. Because the Harrisburg area is the center of industry and economic development for south-central Pennsylvania, students are provided with many opportunities to experience the world of business.

What is Finance?
Finance focuses on how individuals and business organizations raise money and capital, and how those resources are allocated among competing investment and consumption opportunities. The field focuses on domestic and international financial economies and the role of financial markets and institutions key in the movement of savings and investment capital from lenders to borrowers. It also deals with how individuals and corporate managers evaluate alternative investment and savings opportunities and how they choose among various financial instruments.

You Might Like This Program If...
• You enjoy numbers and “real world” applications of math.
• You are interested in how businesses and banks manage their assets.
• You want a career in business, finance, or investment management.

Entrance to Major
Entry to the Finance major requires the completion of 8 entry-to-major courses: ACCTG 211, ECON 102, ENGL 15 or ENGL 30, FIN 301, MATH 110 or MATH 140, MGMT 301, MKTG 301, SCM 200 or STAT 200, and a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average.

Additional information about this major is available in the office of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, School of Business at Penn State Harrisburg.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Finance, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At least 50 percent of the business credit hours required for the degree must be taken at Capital College. No more than 60 credits should be from business and business-related courses.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
• Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
• Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
• Arts (GA): 6 credits
• Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
• Humanities (GH): 6 credits
• Social and Behavioral Sciences(GS): 6 credits
• Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
• Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

12 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits
Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 12 credits of General Education Courses: 3 credits of GWS courses; 3 credits of GS courses; 6 credits of GQ courses.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Integrated B.S. in Finance and M.B.A. in Business Administration
The School of Business Administration offers a limited number of academically superior Bachelor of Science in Finance candidates the opportunity to enroll in an integrated, continuous program of study leading to both the Bachelor of Science in Finance and the Master of Business Administration. The ability to coordinate as well as concurrently pursue the two degree programs enables the students to earn both degrees in five years. Specifically, as many as twelve of the credits required for the master’s degree may be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Program reduces the total number of credits needed to earn both degrees from 150 to 138.

Students in the IUG program must satisfy the requirements for both the Bachelor of Science in Finance and Master of Business Administration degrees. The total course load is reduced due to courses that can count towards both degrees. The first two years of the IUG program are identical to the first two years of the Bachelor of Science program. Students in the IUG program take four additional credits in their third year, and four fewer credits in their fourth year. The courses that count toward the Master of Business Administration degree requirements are included in the fourth year.

Student performance will be monitored on an on-going basis. In addition, a formal evaluation of student academic performance will be performed when the students have completed 100 to 105 credits, which is at the end of the first semester of the senior year for typical students.
in the program. Students who have not maintained a 3.0 GPA in their graduate courses will be put on probationary status with respect to the IUG program. They will receive a warning letter regarding probationary status. Their ability to continue in the IUG program will be based on their academic performance in the last semester of their senior year.

Students have the choice of receiving the B.S. in Finance degree at the end of the fourth year or waiting until the end of the fifth year to receive both degrees. Students who elect to receive the B.S. degree at the end of the fourth year will pay graduate tuition for courses taken in the fifth year; students opting to receive both degrees at the end of the fifth year will pay undergraduate tuition for all five years.

If for any reason students admitted to the IUG program are unable to complete the requirements for the Master of Business Administration degree, the students will be permitted to receive the Bachelor of Science in Finance degree assuming all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfactorily completed. If the students successfully complete courses listed in the recommended schedule, they will satisfy the requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree by the end of their fourth year.

**Admission Requirements**

To initiate the application process, students must submit a resume, a personal statement including career goals and how MBA will enhance their career goals, transcripts of courses taken outside Penn State, two letters of recommendation, with at least one from the School of Business Administration faculty, and a plan of study that integrates both undergraduate and graduate requirements. A graduate faculty adviser in collaboration with the Director of M.B.A. Program will help undergraduate candidates determine a sequence of courses that will prepare them for acceptance into the Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) degree program.

The number of openings in the IUG program is limited. Applicants to the IUG program must have completed a minimum of 60 credits. Typical students would apply after completing between 60 and 90 credits, that is, after the fifth semester and before the end of the seventh semester. In addition, the applicants must earn a minimum of cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and complete the following Entry to Major courses or equivalent:

- ACCTG 211, ECON 102, ENGL 15 or ENGL 30, FIN 301, MATH 110 or MATH 140, MGMT 301, MKTG 301 and STAT 200 or SCM 200.

To formally apply, students must submit a completed graduate school application. The students should mention in the notes section that the application is for the IUG program in Business Administration. The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission into the program; however, if students are interested in applying for a graduate assistantship, GMAT or GRE scores must be submitted by the end of the eighth semester.

Student applications will be evaluated based on their overall portfolio, in addition to the above requirements. In all cases, admission to the program will be at the discretion of the Graduate Admission Committee in Business Administration.

**Degree Requirements**

Students in the IUG program must satisfy the degree requirements for both Bachelor of Science in Finance and Master of Business Administration degrees. The total course load is reduced due to the maximum of 12 credits that can count towards both degrees. All courses counted for both degrees must be at the 500- or 800-level.

**Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

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**Suggested Academic Plan**

**Harrisburg Campus**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

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<td>MATH 110 or 140</td>
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<td>STAT 200 or SCM 200</td>
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<td>MGMT 301</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>FIN 301</td>
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<td>MKTG 301*</td>
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<td>3 ENGL 2020‡</td>
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<td>MIS 204</td>
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<td>FIN 305 (or FIN 306W, FIN 407, FIN 408, FIN 409, FIN 413, FIN 427, FIN 456, FIN 461, FIN 489, FIN 496, ACCTG 481)*</td>
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<td>BA 364</td>
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<td>SCM 301</td>
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<td>FIN 475*</td>
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<td>FIN 305 or FIN 306W, FIN 407, FIN 408, FIN 409, FIN 413, FIN 427, FIN 456, FIN 461, FIN 489, FIN 496, ACCTG 481)*</td>
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* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of “C” or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

Advising Notes

- 30 credits of GA, GH, GHW, GN, GS to include 6 Integrative Studies credits
- 15 credits of GQ and GWS require a grade of “C” or better
- Courses required for the major must generally be completed within 10 years of entrance into the major
- FIN 495 - Finance Internship satisfies a business support requirement. For more information, contact the Economics and Finance Program Coordinator.
- Student must complete a 3-credit course in “United Stated Cultures (US)” and a 3-credit course in “International Cultures (IL).” BA 364Y (US/IL) may be used to meet either the IL or US requirement, but may be used to fulfill only 3 of the 6 credit requirement.

Career Paths

The Finance major prepares students for careers in corporate finance, investment and portfolio management, banking, public finance, and international finance. The major also prepares students who want to pursue graduate study in finance. Depending on their interests, graduates may then seek financial services credentials such as Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

The School of Business Administration offers a limited number of academically superior Bachelor of Science in Finance candidates the opportunity to enroll in an integrated, continuous program of study leading to both the Bachelor of Science in Finance and the Master of Business Administration.

Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Finance program is accredited by the AACSB.

Contact

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