

FINANCE AREA OF EMPHASIS: PLANS OF STUDY

HOW IT WORKS

The Area of Emphasis (AOE) in Finance equips students with the essential skills and knowledge to pursue careers in a variety of financial sectors. 9 credit hours of dedicated coursework is required for completion. This program offers five specialized tracks, each designed to align with specific career aspirations within finance.

While you may take more than 9 credits of finance electives, we encourage you to also explore other business courses.

Careers in finance benefit not only from strong technical skills but also from communication, negotiation, and teamwork abilities. Electives in areas like management communication, marketing, entrepreneurship, and organizational behavior can help you build a well-rounded skill set.



CORPORATE FINANCE

Corporate finance focuses on financial strategy, capital budgeting, and financial planning within organizations. This strategy arm helps companies spend money wisely.

Key skills:

- » Budgeting & forecasting
- » Financial statement analysis
- » Advising corporate leadership
- » Capital structure optimization
- » Investor relations
- » Strategic thinking
- » Presentation skills

Career paths:

- » Financial analyst
- » Treasury analyst
- » Corporate development associate
- » CFO

COURSES:

Required:

BUSI 409H: Advanced Corporate Finance (1.5 credits)

At least 2 courses from group 2:

- » BUSI 575: Financial Statement Analysis & Valuation (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 582H: Mergers & Acquisitions (3.0 credits)
- » BUSI 584: Financial Modeling (3.0 credits)
- » BUSI 588H: Introduction to Derivative Securities & Risk Management (1.5 credits)

Additional courses from group 3:

- » BUSI 502: Entrepreneurial Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 517: Private Equity and Debt Markets (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 574: Taxes and Business Strategy (3.0 credits)
- » BUSI 597: Sustainable Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 600: Risk Management (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 606: Buyout Structures and Deals (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 607: Capital Markets (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 608: Intro to FinTech (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 618: Global Financial Markets (1.5 credits)



INVESTMENT BANKING

Investment banking focuses on capital raising, mergers and acquisitions, and financial advisory services for other companies. Investment Banks manage big deals, like IPOs and large investments. This industry is fast-paced and deal-driven.

Key skills:

- » Financial modeling and analysis
- » Deal structuring and execution
- » Equity and fixed-income analysis
- » Communication (written and verbal)
- » Client management
- » Attention to detail and time management

Career paths:

- » Analyst
- » Portfolio manager
- » M&A, equity capital markets, debt capital markets

COURSES:

Required:

- » BUSI 409H: Advanced Corporate Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 582H: Mergers & Acquisitions (3.0 credits)

At least 2 courses from group 2:

- » BUSI 517: Private Equity and Debt Markets (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 581: Financial Modeling for LBO Transactions (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 587: Investment Banking (1.5 credits)¹
- » BUSI 588H: Introduction to Derivative Securities & Risk Management (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 606: Buyout Structures and Deals (1.5 credits)

Additional courses from group 3:

- » BUSI 502: Entrepreneurial Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 518: Applied Private Equity (3 credits)¹
- » BUSI 584: Financial Modeling (3.0 credits)
- » BUSI 607: Capital Markets-Institutions, Players & Regulators (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 608: Intro to FinTech (1.5 credits)

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Investment management focuses on portfolio management, asset allocation, and financial analysis on behalf of individuals, funds, or institutions, helping them grow wealth. This industry has a long-term focus and is research-driven.

Key skills:

- » Portfolio construction
- » Risk assessment
- » Equity and fixed-income analysis
- » Client advising
- » Performance evaluation

Career paths:

- » Research analyst
- » Portfolio manager
- » Retail investment management
- » Institutional investment management
- » Asset management
- » Sales & trading, equity research

COURSES:

Required:

- » BUSI 580H: Investments (3.0 credits)

At least 2 courses from group 2:

- » BUSI 191: Gateway into Capital Markets & Investments (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 577: PRIME (3 credits)^{1,2}
- » BUSI 583H: Applied Investment Management (3 credits)^{1,2}
- » BUSI 584: Financial Modeling (3.0 credits)
- » BUSI 588H: Introduction to Derivative Securities & Risk Management (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 589H: Fixed Income (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 688: Applied Trading Strategies (1.5 credits)

Additional courses from group 3:

- » BUSI 409H: Advanced Corporate Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 597: Sustainable Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 600: Risk Management (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 607: Capital Markets-Institutions, Players & Regulators (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 608: Intro to FinTech (1.5 credits)

¹Application and permission is needed. Student should submit request according to instructions posted on the Undergraduate Business Program announcement board prior to registration for the semester the course is being offered.

² Only 3 credits of this class can be used towards the AOE.

QUANTITATIVE FINANCE

Quantitative finance focuses on mathematical and statistical modeling for financial decision-making. These professionals create the tools that many other financial institutions use to do their work.

Key skills:

- » Quantitative research
- » Mathematical and computer-based modeling
- » Data analysis & modeling
- » Algorithmic trading
- » Risk management
- » Statistical programming
- » Machine learning

Career paths:

- » Quantitative analyst
- » Risk manager
- » Algorithmic trader
- » Hedge funds
- » Fintech

COURSES:

Required:

- » BUSI 580H: Investments (3.0 credits)

At least 2 courses from group 2:

- » BUSI 588H: Introduction to Derivative Securities & Risk Management (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 589H: Fixed Income (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 600: Risk Management (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 688: Applied Trading Strategies (1.5 credits)

Additional courses from group 3:

- » BUSI 409H: Advanced Corporate Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 581: Financial Modeling for Leveraged Buyout Transactions (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 584: Financial Modeling (3.0 credits)

PRIVATE EQUITY AND VENTURE CAPITAL

This track focuses on investing in private companies, structuring deals, and driving business growth. Private Equity is focused on investing in mature businesses to cut costs, grow, and IPO, whereas Venture Capital is focused on investing in early stage companies with high potential.

Key skills:

- » Financial modeling
- » Market analysis
- » Deal structuring
- » Business valuation
- » Due diligence
- » Growth strategy execution

Career paths:

- » Private equity associate
- » Venture capital analyst
- » Startup investment manager

COURSES:

Required:

- » BUSI 502: Entrepreneurial Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 506: Venture Capital and Debt Markets (1.5 credits)

At least 2 courses from group 2:

- » BUSI 191: Gateway into Capital Markets & Investments (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 513: Venture Capital in Action (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 517: Private Equity and Debt Markets (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 518: Applied Private Equity (3 credits)¹
- » BUSI 577: PRIME (3 credits)^{1,2}
- » BUSI 580H: Investments (3.0 credits)
- » BUSI 581: Financial Modeling for LBO Transactions (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 606: Buyout Structures and Deals (1.5 credits)

Additional courses from group 3:

- » BUSI 409H: Advanced Corporate Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 511: Regional Venture Capital Immersion (1.5 credits)¹
- » BUSI 584: Financial Modeling (3.0 credits)
- » BUSI 601: Real Estate Finance (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 607: Capital Markets (1.5 credits)
- » BUSI 608: Intro to FinTech (1.5 credits)

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