

Finance

The Finance major offers students the analytical and decision-making skills needed to be successful in a variety of business settings, with particular attention on investment banking and management, and commercial banking. Our active Howard J. Busbee Finance Academy offers opportunities for students to learn more about finance careers and to network with alumni.

Interested in a career in finance? Consider participating in the *Wall Street Program*, a three day immersion in NYC or the annual *From DoG Street to Wall Street* campus event. Learn from professionals, many of whom are college alumni, speaking on topics such as Private Wealth Management, Investment Banking, Corporate Finance, Financial Support Functions, Research, Portfolio Management, International Finance, Financial Consulting, and Sales & Trading.

The Major

The major in Finance requires 12 semester hours in addition to the Undergraduate Business Core Curriculum.

Required Courses:

- BUAD 324 Money & Debt Markets (3 cr)
- BUAD 325 Equity & Portfolio Management (3 cr)
- BUAD 423 Corporate Financial Strategy (3 cr)

Electives (choose one)*:

- BUAD 417 International Finance (3 cr)
- BUAD 419 Valuation (3 cr)
- BUAD 421 Student Managed Investment Fund (3 cr)

**Often we identify Economics courses that students may use toward their elective requirement for the Finance major. Previous courses have included: ECON 308 Econometrics, ECON 311 Money & Banking, ECON 408 Time-Series Economics, ECON 475 International Trade Theory & Policy.*

Get Involved!

The Howard J. Busbee Finance Academy

The Finance Academy offers students opportunities to explore academic and career paths in finance. Finance Academy has provided students with speakers on topics such as venture capital, equity markets, mergers and acquisitions, investment banking, and the CFA exam. Finance Academy also sponsors Training the Street which provides professional training in corporate valuation and Excel modeling. Join us to learn more about finance careers and connect with faculty and alumni!

For more info, please contact:
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Your life isn't one dimensional,
so why should your education be?

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THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Finance Curriculum (continued)

The Concentration

Students majoring in another business discipline can add a Finance concentration to better understand and adapt to changing financial conditions and the financial impact of various business decisions. *Six credits in advanced finance are required.*

Choose two courses including 324 or 325 or both:

- 324 Money & Debt Markets
- 325 Equity Markets & Portfolio Management
- 417 International Finance
- 419 Valuation
- 421 Student Managed Investment Fund
- 423 Corporate Financial Strategy

The Minor

Arts & Sciences majors may be interested in a Finance minor because it provides a financial context and understanding to its affects on their interests and pursuits. *The minor requires 18 credits of introductory and advanced financial study.*

Required:

- 203 Principles of Accounting
- 323 Financial Management
- 324 Money & Debt Markets
- 325 Equity Markets & Portfolio Management
- 423 Corporate Financial Strategy

Elective (choose one):*

- 417 International Finance
- 419 Valuation
- 421 Student Managed Investment Fund

**See front page for approved Economics electives that may count towards the elective requirement.*

Course Descriptions for Finance Courses

323. Financial Management.

Fall and Spring (3) C. Cici, Guthrie-Sokolowsky, C. Jones. Prerequisites: BUAD 203 and BUAD 231 or equivalents.

An examination of the finance function in the firm. Topics include the theory and practice of valuation, current and long term financing, working capital management, capital budgeting and multinational finance

324. Money & Debt Markets.

Fall and Spring (3) Agnew, C. Cici, C. Jones. Prerequisite: BUAD 323.

An examination of the operation and importance of global money and debt markets including market characteristics, regulation, international differences, international interest and exchange rate behavior, bond analysis and valuation, and risk management with interest rate and currency options and futures.

325. Equity Markets & Portfolio Management.

Fall and Spring (3) Haltiner, C. Jones. Prerequisite: BUAD 323.

An examination of the operation and importance of global equity markets including market characteristics, regulation, international differences, investor behavior, portfolio theory and capital asset pricing, asset allocation, security analysis, mutual funds, performance measurement, and equity options and futures.

417. International Finance.

Fall and Spring (3) Boschen. Prerequisites: ECON 101, ECON 102, or the equivalents.

A study of the foreign exchange markets, the relation between interest rates and exchange rates, and the current international monetary system. Specific course topics include borrowing and lending opportunities in international financial markets, international trade finance, the management of risks associated with exchange rate fluctuations, the analysis of currency crises, and the assessment of sovereign risk.

419. Valuation.

Spring (3) G. Cici. Prerequisites: BUAD 323.

A study of enterprise valuation both from an academic and industry perspective. Topics include an analysis and application of multiple valuation approaches and an exploration of differences in valuation approaches for public, private, and distressed firms. The goal is to develop insight into how financial managers can create value for shareholders, understand other value drivers, and learn how to incorporate them in the enterprise valuation process.

421. Student Managed Investment Fund.

Fall and Spring (3) G. Cici, Haltiner. Prerequisites: BUAD 323 and instructor permission. This course may be repeated one time.

The purpose of this course is to provide portfolio management and security analysis experience through the management of the Mason School Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF). Students select companies from an S&P stock universe, do research on their business model and competitive environment, make forecasts of future financial performance and perform valuation analyses, write an investment report and present orally a recommendation to their colleagues and faculty for inclusion in a real endowment portfolio of common stocks.

423. Corporate Financial Strategy.

Fall (3) Bryce. Prerequisite: BUAD 323. Advanced topics in the theory and practice of financial decision-making. Cases and readings are used to examine the tools and techniques of financial strategy formulation and implementation under various environmental settings.