Finance Department

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Undergraduate Programs

MAJORS:
• Finance
• Finance - Risk, Insurance and Financial Planning

Sample Courses

• Corporate Finance
• Investments
• Money and Capital Markets
• Problems and Cases in Finance
• Principles of Insurance
• Management of Financial Institutions
• Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management
• Advanced Financial Planning

Professional Associations

Finance graduates often join professional associations. Among the most popular are:
• Financial Planning Association
• Financial Management Association
• CFA Institute
• American Society of Chartered Life Underwriters
• Global Association of Risk Professionals

Department Overview

The Finance Department at UWL allows many unique options that build on a strong fundamental program. The program provides a foundation in the primary financial areas: corporate finance, investments, and financial institutions. Students then have the flexibility to explore the basic areas in greater detail or to branch out in other financial areas such as international finance, real estate, financial planning or insurance. The department also offers a finance major with a risk, insurance and financial planning emphasis for those particularly interested in that area.

The UWL program relies upon the traditional approach including text based lectures, but also includes substantial incorporation of case studies, current journal articles, and informational services as resource materials. Students also have access to databases that contain current and historical stock prices, financial statements, and other information on publicly traded firms. Students in investment courses manage simulated million dollar portfolios with advanced students managing real money. Students can take advantage of numerous internships that provide both college credit and personal experience in the finance area. The capstone course, taken during the senior year, gives students the opportunity to draw upon all of their training in finance while working on realistic finance problems.

Career Opportunities

ENTRY LEVEL
• Securities Broker
• Estate Planner
• Financial Aid Officer
• Financial Analyst
• Financial Planner
• Loan Officer
• Trust Officer
• Underwriter

FURTHER EDUCATION
• Graduate study in business
• Law School
• Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

LONG TERM CAREER DEVELOPMENT
• Budget Director
• Consultant
• Controller
• International Trade Manager
• Loan Officer
• Risk Manager
• Senior Financial Analyst
• Tax Department Manager

View degree requirements:
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## Job Titles of Graduates

- Auditor
- Bank Examiner
- Capital Budget Manager
- Commercial Lender
- Controller
- Credit Analyst
- Employee Benefits Analyst
- Health Care Analyst
- Insurance Adjuster/ Agent/ Underwriter
- International Currency Manager
- Leasing Director
- Mortgage Lender
- Personal Financial Planner
- Risk Manager
- Stock Broker

## Occupational Outlook

Finance comprises three broad areas: corporate finance, investments, and financial institutions. Within these three areas of finance are several sub-areas, such as risk and insurance, personal financial planning, banking, or real estate.

Corporate Finance analysts are concerned with managing the organization’s cash flows. Managing cash flows involves analyzing the levels of inventory, accounts receivable, and accounts payable, because these influence the cash needs of the organization. Analysts also review the cash flows of proposed projects to determine whether the projects are desirable. As the organization needs additional funding, the corporate finance staff is responsible for arranging financing through such means as loans or issuing stocks or bonds.

The Investment side of finance can be considered “the other side of the coin” of corporate finance. Whereas most corporations are usually in need of additional funds, other entities, such as pension plans, life insurance companies, and individuals, have funds that they wish to invest, often in the form of stocks or bonds.

Financial institutions are the link between the two main areas of finance described above. These institutions serve as an intermediary between those who need funds and those who have funds to invest. Financial institutions include banks, savings and loans, and investment banks that assist corporations in issuing stocks and bonds.

Most large firms include risk and insurance within the corporate finance function. This area is responsible for protecting the firm’s assets needed to generate revenues and profits. Activities of risk management include loss control, insurance purchases, and employee benefit management. These activities give rise to the formation of other financial enterprises that offer their services to the firm. For example, some companies offer consulting services in loss control and employee benefits, while other companies sell insurance.

Personal Financial Planning is part of the investment side of finance. Many people with large incomes or savings have neither the time nor expertise to adequately manage their financial affairs. These individuals depend on professional financial advisers to guide their decisions in such matters as security selection, real estate purchases, insurance decisions, estate planning, and considering the tax implications of various actions.

Most businesses need a location from which to operate. Commercial Real Estate is involved with the development and sale or rental of properties. The field of real estate is a finance area because it involves cash flow estimates and complex financing arrangements for the seller, buyer, lessee, and lessor.

Government Finance is also within the realm of finance, as cities, states and federal governments need financing to purchase assets and provide services. Additionally, governmental agencies, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, monitor certain financial procedures of private corporations.