

Finance

Department of Accounting & Finance, College of Business & Technology



Program of Study

The field of finance is both broad and dynamic. It directly affects the lives of all individuals and organizations, whether the organization is financial or nonfinancial, private or public, for profit or not-for-profit. There are several areas of finance which can be studied, and a large number of varying career opportunities are available. Required areas of study for the Finance major include financial institutions, financial management, investment policy, insurance/risk management, and real estate. Additional subjects may be studied through courses such as Bank Management, Advanced Financial Management, Security and Portfolio Analysis, Personal and Commercial Lines of Insurance, and Real Estate Financing. In addition to class lectures, you will have the opportunity to learn from computer simulations, case studies, and field trips. You will also have the opportunity to learn from representatives of corporations and government agencies who visit as guest speakers to offer current insights into financial applications and relate classroom theories to actual working situations.

Finance graduates have excellent prospects for employment in financial institutions, brokerage or investment operations, and corporations or government agencies. In the long run, an education in finance has led many individuals to top positions in organizations across the country.

Faculty

The Finance faculty hold doctoral degrees from some of the leading research universities in the United States. The faculty are active members of numerous professional organizations, including two who have recently served as presidents of regional/national financial organizations. Several faculty members have been named as the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" in the College of Business and Technology.

Honors in Finance

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members.

Student Professional Organizations

As a Finance major, you will be encouraged to become involved in one or more of the department's student organizations. The Finance Club and Rho Epsilon (real estate) will help keep you up-to-date in your major field through discussions with leading professional managers and field trips to local and national businesses.

Special Opportunities

The College of Business and Technology is fully accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, which ensures that you receive a rigorous, up-to-date education. AACSB International is the largest and most prestigious accreditation organization for management education in the world.

The department and College encourage involvement in internship programs with public and private business and industry. Along with credit toward graduation, such internships provide valuable experience and frequently result in employment upon graduation. An opportunity to manage a real-dollar portfolio is competitively available to qualified students who are admitted to the upper-level portfolio management class sequence. In the portfolio management classes, students will master the art of stock investing, including the buying and selling of actual equities using money donated by WIU alumni specifically for the portfolio management classes.

For Your General Outlook

A possible four-year sequence for a Finance major would be as follows:

Freshman and Sophomore Years

Primarily General Education requirements, plus two semesters of accounting, two semesters of economics, Legal Environment of Business, Applied Calculus I, and Business Statistics

Junior Year

- FIN 321 – Principles of Real Estate
- FIN 331 – Financial Management I
- FIN 341 – Financial Institutions
- FIN 351 – Risk Management and Insurance
- CS 302 – Spreadsheet and Database Applications
- MKTG 327 – Marketing Principles
- MGT 349 – Principles of Management
- IS 320 – Business Communications
- Additional General Education courses and open electives

Senior Year

- FIN 371 – Investments
- DS 303 – Applied Business Forecasting and Regression Analysis
- Four Finance elective courses (e.g., Real Estate Finance and Investment; Financial Management II; Bank Management; Personal Insurance and Estate Planning; Commercial Property and Liability Insurance; Security Analysis; Internship in Finance; Seminars in Banking, Real Estate, Investments, or Financial Management)
- One directed elective from either Finance or from selected courses from Accountancy, Agricultural Economics, Economics, or Marketing
- IS 340 – Introduction to Information Systems
- MGT 490 – Business Strategy

Note: Students seeking enrollment to the portfolio management courses should complete FIN 371 Investments during their junior year. The portfolio management courses FIN 471 and FIN 575 are taken during the senior year.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and individual appointments can be made on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Appointments with advisers, faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged separately during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. You may schedule your visit or tour online at wiu.edu/admissions by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU (742-5948) or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

For More Information

For more information on the Finance major, visit wiu.edu/finance or e-mail Dr. Gregg Woodruff, Chair, Department of Accounting and Finance, at GS-Woodruff@wiu.edu.

wiu.edu/finance

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