

Majoring in. . . .

Finance

Description of the Finance Major

What is finance?

Finance is the study of how individuals, businesses, and organizations raise, allocate, and utilize monetary resources over time, considering the risks involved in their projects.

What do finance majors study?

This major may incorporate the study of money and other assets, management of assets, and profiling and managing project risks.

What skills are important for a finance major?

Finance majors are analytical thinkers who enjoy mathematical problem-solving.

Finance majors should have:

- effective written and oral communication skills
- familiarity with computer concepts and applications
- above average quantitative skills
- fundamental knowledge of economics and social sciences

What else do finance majors study?

Finance students take a variety of liberal arts and professionally-oriented courses to develop knowledge and skills that can be applied in both personal and professional settings.

Liberal arts, mathematics, statistics, and accounting courses provide a background to strengthen: problem solving; written, oral, and interpersonal communication; quantitative, analytical, and reasoning skills.

Students are encouraged to complete an internship to enhance their curriculum and experience.

Course Requirements

General education: The School of Business requires 63 credit hours in the business foundation, including general education courses, in addition to the following requirements:

ENGL 101 & 200 Writing and Rhetoric Workshop
ECON 210-211 Principles of Economics
MGMT 171 Math Applications for Business
MGMT 212 Calculus for Business
SPCH 121 or 321 Speech or Speech for Business
ACCT 203-204 Introduction to Accounting

Major courses: The advanced program includes 30 credits in the advanced business core and 27 credits in major courses.

The advanced business core includes:

- Business Statistics I
- Business Information Systems
- Introduction to Marketing
- Organizational Behavior
- Productions/Operations Management
- Financial Management
- Legal Environment of Business
- Organizational Communication
- Managerial Economics
- Strategic Management

Finance majors are required to take the following:

- Business Statistics II

- Intermediate Financial Management
- Investments
- Risk and Insurance
- Funds Management

Concentration: Majors must choose one of three tracks for their remaining 15 credits:

- Finance
- Risk Management/ Insurance
- Financial Planning

Careers in Finance

The Finance major provides a good background for entry to any number of occupations. Some of these careers include:

- Bank Examiner
- Claims Adjuster
- Commercial Loan Officer
- Corporate Risk Manager
- Corporate Treasury Manager
- Credit Analyst
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Planner
- Insurance Broker
- Insurance Underwriter (property-casualty)
- International Trade Specialist
- Investment Banker
- Investment Broker
- Mortgage Banker
- Portfolio Manager
- Retail Banker
- Security Analyst
- Special Agent
- Stockbroker

Professional designations include:

- Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF®)
- Certified Investment Management Advisor (CIMA®)
- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®)
- Chartered Financial Consultant (CFC®)
- Chartered Financial Planner (CFP®)

Next Steps

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a finance major at VCU, consider doing each of the following things. Check them off as you complete each step.

- Check out the VCU School of Business webpage.
- Take an introductory finance course.
- Read about the finance major in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*.
- Review the finance major graduation worksheet with an academic advisor.
- Talk to one or more upper-level finance students about their major.
- Discuss the major with one or more finance professors.
- Go to the Career Center to read about careers in finance and explore internship possibilities.

- Go to the VCU bookstore and browse in the finance textbook section.
- Check out the School of Business student organization website at www.bus.vcu.edu/usib/student_org.html and attend a meeting to obtain further information.
- Check out the Financial Management Association website at www.fma.org or the American Finance Association website at www.afajof.org for information on topics related to the study of finance.

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