THE FIELD

Finance is the study of money and its relation to time and risk. A well-functioning financial system allows individuals, institutions, and governments to borrow or invest funds in an efficient manner, allowing the economy to grow while safeguarding its health. Finance can be divided into three broad areas: corporate finance, investments, and financial institutions. Within the finance major, students are prepared for careers in corporate finance, investments, banking, risk management, alternative investments, insurance, and other financial services through courses offered in five different finance tracks (corporate finance, financial analyst, risk management, insurance, and alternative investments).

There is no minor available in finance.

THE MAJOR

As with other Isenberg School of Management majors, the first two years of study emphasize general education by providing fundamental courses in the humanities, mathematics, and social sciences. In addition, basic courses in accounting, economics, finance, management information systems, marketing, and the legal and social environment of business prepare the student for further study. During the final two years, all students enroll in core introductory courses in finance, marketing, management, operations and information management, and business communication, as well as major requirements and electives. Majors must also complete 21 elective credits that must be taken outside of the Isenberg School and the economics department.

Courses in the finance concentration include:

A. Two departmental courses (financial modeling and investments).
B. Three additional courses in one of the five finance tracks (corporate finance, financial analyst, insurance track, risk management, or alternative investments).
C. Five upper-level courses in the Isenberg School and/or the economics department.

Students can also do more than one finance track and count the additional finance courses as part of the five upper-level courses in part C above.

HONORS

Students may pursue honors opportunities within the major. Contact Commonwealth Honors College (413-545-2483, info@honors.umass.edu) or the Isenberg Undergraduate Programs Office (413-545-5610, undergrad@isenberg.umass.edu) for more information.

STUDY ABROAD

Majors are encouraged to study abroad if it supports their academic and career goals. Students should contact the International Programs Office (413-545-2710, umass.edu/ipo) and work closely with their academic advisor to choose the appropriate courses in preparation.

The Isenberg School offers six unique, short-term study abroad options on three continents. Each of these programs combines class time at UMass with a study abroad experience led by teams of Isenberg faculty. Recent trip destinations have been to Italy, South Africa, India, Ireland, London, Paris, Prague, Budapest, Verona, and beyond.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Chase Career Center brings the Isenberg School’s undergraduate career development resources under one roof. In addition to helping students manage the career choice and search process, the primary focus of the Chase Career Center is to assist seniors in securing good career employment and to help students find co-op/internship positions.

In addition to being prepared for fields such as corporate finance, investments, banking, risk management, alternative investments, insurance, and other financial services, students choosing the finance concentration receive a broad enough education to allow them to enter most other areas of corporate and business activities. In addition, many go on to graduate school.

ISENBERG SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Isenberg is committed to introducing its students to the education, experiences, and executives that will make them effective leaders, dynamic team players and change agents in the diverse world of business. Isenberg’s unique culture sparks community and collaboration, and its entrepreneurial spirit encourages creativity in tackling today’s biggest challenges to prepare its students for future positions of responsibility. Students may pursue an education in a variety of business disciplines represented by majors in seven departments and two degree programs. The program is directed toward the broad aspects of business, encouraging high standards of ethical conduct, social responsibilities, and the development of competence in particular courses of the student’s own interests, aptitude, and choice.

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