

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, and other financial services through courses offered in four different finance tracks (corporate finance, financial analyst, risk management, 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 four finance tracks (corporate finance, financial analyst, 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 with Commonwealth Honors College (413-545-2483, info@honors.umass.edu).

STUDY ABROAD

Students are encouraged to study abroad if it supports their academic and career goals. Students should contact the International Programs Office (413-545-5247, umass.edu/ipo) and work closely with their academic advisor to choose the appropriate courses in preparation.

The Isenberg School offers several unique, short-term study abroad options that combine class time at UMass with a study abroad experience led by Isenberg faculty. Recent trip destinations have been to Italy, the Czech Republic, Hungary, South Africa, Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, and beyond.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Career Success is dedicated to helping students explore career paths and find opportunities that allow them to grow and succeed as young professionals. We encourage students to pursue internships and other field-based experiences as part of the learning process. Our career coaches and faculty work with students 1:1 and in classes to help them navigate this important time in life and make career decisions that yield a future of meaning and satisfaction. The finance major allows specialization in a number of tracks, such as corporate finance, investments, risk management, and alternative investments. Students acquire a broad set of skills that prepares them for a wide range of careers in financial services, such as banking, asset management, corporate finance, and insurance. Many students also go on to pursue a graduate degree, including a master's in finance, MBA, or PhD.

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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