Finance – Honors

Overview
Finance students learn how to value projects, companies, and securities. They also study how individuals and businesses efficiently allocate financial resources, invest, and raise capital. Finance majors may participate in a variety of experiential learning opportunities, including the Emerging Finance Professionals (EFP) program, Finance Career Conference, Student Investment Fund, Finance Club, and Week on Wall Street. In addition, top undergraduate students may earn the Honors Degree in Finance, the first departmental honors degree option in the Eccles School of Business. The department ranks among the top 30 universities in the world in research, reflecting the high caliber of its faculty and program.

In addition to completing the Honors College requirements and FINAN 3041, the honors version of FINAN 3040 – Financial Management, students seeking an HBA or HBS in Finance must complete:

- ACCTG 5140 – International Accounting
- FINAN 4040 or FINAN 4050
- FINAN 4211 – Honors Valuation
- FINAN 4550 – International Finance
- FINAN 4999 – Honors Thesis/Project
- Six (6) credits of Finance electives
- MATH 1100 – Quantitative Analysis
- OIS 3440 – Applications of Business Statistics

Finance Core Courses – Honors

ACCTG 5140 – International Accounting (F, S, U)
Integrates IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) into a financial accounting course and leverages comparisons between US GAAP and IFRS to enhance the development of a critical thinking approach to financial accounting and reporting. Enhances students’ understanding of the links between the underlying transactions, application of reporting standards for those transactions, and financial reports obtained. Provides students with a basic understanding of IFRS.

FINAN 4020 – Advanced Excel for Financial Reporting (F, S)
Explores the more advanced tools in Microsoft Excel that are applicable to the finance profession. Covers shortcut keys, financial modeling, pivot tables, financial ratios, advanced functions, recording macros, and databases. Students will develop advanced Excel skills through a combination of participation in demonstrations of Excel tools and applying the skills they learn by using them to solve real-world finance problems using Excel.

FINAN 4040 – Intermediate Corporate Finance (F, S, U)
In-depth treatment of capital structure, dividend policy, corporate incentive problems, and implications for organizational structure and features of securities, agency theory, and signaling theory. Covers basic option pricing with applications to valuation of corporate securities.

FINAN 4050 – Intermediate Investments (F, S)
Provides a thorough understanding of how capital markets function and includes the study of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and derivatives. Topics may include: quantitative portfolio formation methods, the latest finance industry methods to measure performance and risk, equity valuation methods, and an overview of fixed income markets segments, options, and futures. Topic selection may vary as different instructors try to integrate cutting edge industry trends into all aspects of the course.

FINAN 4211 – Honors Valuation (F)
Develops techniques for financial decision making through the use of cases and lectures with an emphasis on the valuation and financing of new business ventures. General valuation concepts will also be discussed.

FINAN 4550 – International Finance (F, S, U)
Financing of international transactions, balance of payments between nations, adjustment mechanism to deficits (surpluses), international financial institutions and structures, and foreign exchange markets.

Finance Elective Options

Corporate Finance
- FINAN 5210 – Short-Term Financial Mgt. (F)
- FINAN 5300 – New Venture Finance (S)

Investments
- FINAN 5600 – Investment Banking (S)
- FINAN 5610 – Hedge Funds & Private Equity (F)
- FINAN 5880 – Student Investment Fund (F, S) *

Financial Institutions
- FINAN 4330 – Credit Institutions (U)
- FINAN 5420 – Federal Reserve Open Markets

Insurance
- FINAN 4240 – Risk & Insurance (F)
- FINAN 5250 – Insurance & Financial Planning

Real Estate
- FINAN 4740 – Real Estate Principles (S)

Other
- ACCTG 5610 – Financial Statements (F)
- ACCTG 5620 – Business Valuation & Analysis (S)
- FINAN 4380 – Financial Modeling (S)

* application required
Course Sequencing
Below are suggested sequencings of Finance major courses (excluding MATH 1100 and OIS 3440). Individual schedules may vary, based on previous coursework and course offerings, so students are encouraged to work closely with their academic advisor to plan each semester.

Four-Semester Sequence (RECOMMENDED)

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<th>Fall</th>
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Three-Semester Sequence

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Student Organizations & Opportunities

The Emerging Finance Professionals (EFP) program provides prospective and current Finance majors the opportunity to meet with finance professionals and get their resumes into the hands of top finance employers. For more information, visit [www.eccles.link/efp](http://www.eccles.link/efp).

The Student Investment Fund (FINAN 5880 – F, S) provides students with the opportunity to manage an actual investment portfolio. Students gain real-world investment experience and meet industry professionals. For more information, visit [org.business.utah.edu/studentfund/index.html](http://org.business.utah.edu/studentfund/index.html).

The University of Utah Finance Club prepares students to excel in the world of finance and management consulting. The group holds weekly meetings during which students prepare collaboratively for the job market. The Finance Club provides many great opportunities for students, including resume workshops, speakers from the industry, mock interviews, networking opportunities, and job and internship information. For more information, contact Jennifer McConnell at (801) 581-7463.

During the Week on Wall Street (annual), University of Utah Finance faculty and students travel to New York City. Students network with alumni, visit leading investment banks, and gain real insight into the workings of global financial markets. For more information, visit [www.business.utah.edu/nytrip](http://www.business.utah.edu/nytrip).

Finance Professional Lecture Series (FINAN 3010) provides students with a unique opportunity to hear first-hand from professionals in the finance industry. Through a series of guest speakers, the class explores various career paths and opportunities for students following graduation. The class also discusses how to create a strong resume, how to prepare for interviews, and how to assess your career interests. Building on the fundamentals taught in the business curriculum, this class explores the question “What should I do after I graduate, and how do I get there?”

The University Impact Fund taps into the emerging "impact investing" industry that applies the disciplined methods of private equity investing to the desire to solve some of the world’s most vexing social and environmental problems. Impact investors, for example, may put profit-seeking capital into services such as microloans, mobile banking, or affordable housing for people at the bottom of the global economic pyramid, nearly four billion of whom live on less than $2 a day. For more information, visit [www.sgiicenter.com](http://www.sgiicenter.com).

Business Career Services (BCS)

BCS provides personalized, specialized career development assistance to undergraduate students in the Eccles School of Business. Career Counselor Becky Flynn is available to help Finance students explore career paths and prepare for future internship and job searches. Students can schedule appointments with her via [UCareerPath](http://UCareerPath).

Graduate Study in Finance

The Master of Science in Finance is an intensive, one-year program with an accommodating part-time option. An MSF degree is rapidly becoming more of a requirement and less of an option for those seeking the most highly prized careers in technical financial fields. For more information, contact the Graduate Admissions Office by emailing [mastersinfo@eccles.utah.edu](mailto:mastersinfo@eccles.utah.edu) or calling (801) 581-7785.