

Finance



Top Employers of Finance Majors

- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Citigroup
- Ernst & Young
- General Electric
- Goldman Sachs & Company
- JP Morgan Chase
- Johnson & Johnson
- PNC Financial Services Group
- Pricewaterhouse Coopers
- UBS Financial Services, Inc.
- Vanguard

Career Overview

Finance focuses on how individuals and business organizations raise money and capital, and how those resources are allocated among competing investment and consumption opportunities. The field focuses on domestic and international financial economies and the role of financial markets and institutions key to the movement of savings and investment capital from lenders to borrowers. It also deals with how individuals and corporate managers evaluate alternative investment and savings opportunities and how they choose among various financial instruments.

Employment Prospects

Finance is a broad field that prepares students for positions in banking, investments, insurance, corporations, and government. Careers include positions in securities analysis and investment management, retail and commercial bank management, corporate financial analysis and management, retail investment brokerage, and financial advising and consulting.

A bachelor's degree is typically required for entry to the finance field, but higher-level certifications (CFA, CFC, etc.) and post-undergraduate degrees (MBA, Ph.D.) are very desirable. A doctoral degree is usually necessary to teach finance at the university level.

Preparing to Enroll in the Major

Enrollment in the Finance (FIN) major is contingent upon several criteria, which include the timing and completion of a specified range of cumulative credits at Penn State. Students apply for the major once they have earned a minimum of 36 but no more than 59 cumulative credits. These credits include required business foundation and related courses. In addition to the course and credit window requirements, students must attain an overall competitive GPA in all courses.

A grade of C or higher is required in all major courses.

Prescribed FIN Courses

(9 credits)

FIN 305W (3): Financial Management of the Business Enterprise (Prerequisite: FIN 301)

FIN 406 (3): Security Analysis and Portfolio Management (Prerequisite: FIN 301)

FIN 408 (3): Financial Markets and Institutions (Prerequisite: FIN 301)

Finance Elective Courses

(6 credits) Select two courses from the following

FIN 405 (3): Advanced Financial Management (Prerequisite: FIN 305W)

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FIN 407 (3): Multinational Financial Management
(Prerequisite: FIN 305W)

FIN 410 (3): Derivative Markets (Prerequisite: FIN 406)

FIN 414 (3): Financial Trading and Applications
(Prerequisite: FIN 305W, FIN 406)

FIN 415 (3): Advanced Financial Modeling
(Prerequisite: FIN 406)

FIN 426: Analysis of Interest Rates and Credit Markets
(Prerequisite: FIN 406)

FIN (RM) 460 (3): Real Estate Financial Analysis
(Prerequisites: FIN 305W)

FIN (RM) 470 (3): Real Estate and Capital Markets
(Prerequisites: FIN 305W)

Finance Highlights

Consider some of the other factors that help to enhance the environment for finance students at the Smeal College of Business.

Rogers Family Trading Room

The Trading Room at Smeal replicates a real-world trading experience and functions as a classroom and a laboratory. Each of the more than 50 workstations in the facility is equipped with two monitors, a powerful computer, and the software needed for simulated trading, deal capture, settlement, analytics, pricing, portfolio management, derivatives pricing, and other finance-related challenges.

FinTech Group

The FinTech Group is the leading university-wide organization for students interested in careers in financial technology. Founded in the spring of 2020, the organization hosts two marquee events annually: a Career Trek to New York and a first-of-its-kind nationwide student app competition that brings in top-tier industry experts and leading faculty from business schools worldwide (including Penn State) to judge student submissions from all over the country.

Nittany Lion Fund

The multi-million-dollar fund allows student managers to oversee millions of dollars from real investors. The Nittany Lion Fund regularly outperforms the S&P 500 and the placement rate for graduating seniors reaches 100 percent.

Corporate Finance Boot Camp

The Corporate Finance Boot Camp is designed to equip our students with technical, analytical, and presentation skills, and to prepare them for jobs in Corporate Finance. Participants in the Corporate Finance Boot Camp will have the opportunity to meet with Penn State alumni, who hold established and successful positions in the field of Corporate Finance; recruiters from various corporations; Smeal faculty and current students. Students will also participate in case competitions and spend a day visiting the Corporate Finance team of companies in the area.

Top Ranked

Penn State and Smeal have consistently received top rankings from employers. Recruiters surveyed by *Bloomberg Businessweek* have continually ranked Smeal in the top ten in recent years, and the finance major ranks No. 6 overall among U.S. universities according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

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