

# FINANCE (GREAT VALLEY)

<b>Graduate Program Head</b>	Zugang Liu
<b>Program Code</b>	FINAN
<b>Campus(es)</b>	Great Valley (M.Fin.) World Campus (M.Fin.)
<b>Degrees Conferred</b>	Master of Finance (M.Fin.)
<b>The Graduate Faculty</b>	View ( <a href="https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=fac&amp;prog=FINAN">https:// secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/? searchType=fac&amp;prog=FINAN</a> )

The Master of Finance (M.Fin.) program offered at Penn State Great Valley is designed for intensive and focused study in finance. The program is fully accredited by AACSB International. Classes are offered in a schedule convenient for working professionals who have demanding time commitments. Students can choose from the base program focusing on Financial Analysis or the Financial Data Analytics option.

The program provides an advanced and specialized graduate education in finance for individuals with career interests as finance professionals in financial management, or investment management. The curriculum reflects a balanced combination of advanced financial theory and practical business applications. Major emerging concepts and practices in the finance field are introduced and discussed throughout the program. The base program focusing on Financial Analysis is designed to help graduates to become proficient in technical and analytical skills in finance and to develop expertise in financial problem solving and financial decision-making preparing them to advance their finance careers in organizations such as investment and commercial banking firms, mutual funds, other financial firms, non-financial businesses, consulting firms, government agencies and non-profit organizations. In addition, students will find a substantial number of courses in the M.Fin. program to be helpful in preparing for tests required for various professional certifications in finance, such as the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). This program is offered as a resident program at the School of Graduate Professional Studies (Great Valley) and through the Penn State World Campus.

The Financial Data Analytics option is an interdisciplinary program designed to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills to analyze financial data and extract valuable insights to facilitate financial decisions. The option is offered as a resident program at the School of Graduate Professional Studies (Great Valley).

## Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Applicants should:

1. Have a 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) junior/senior grade-point average.
2. Submit a completed online application.
3. Submit a GMAT or GRE score. Applicants can request a waiver if they meet one of the following criteria:
  - An undergraduate junior/senior GPA of a least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at a regionally-accredited university with AACSB, EQUIS, or AMBA accredited business programs or an undergraduate junior/senior GPA of a least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale from a regionally-accredited university. without AACSB, EQUIS, or AMBA accredited business programs AND demonstrated effective communication and quantitative skills based on course work.
  - An advanced degree (master's or higher) from a regionally-accredited university with AACSB, EQUIS, or AMBA accredited business programs.
  - Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honorary society recognized by AACSB.
  - One or more professional certifications including a C.F.A., C.P.A., F.R.M. and/or C.M.A., or doctoral degree (e.g. Ph.D., M.D., or J.D.).
4. Submit a statement of intent or career path objective (one page).
5. Submit one confidential evaluation form letters.
6. Submit official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>). International applicants must submit official university records (transcripts/marksheets and diploma if date conferred does not appear on transcripts/marksheets), with attested English translations if the record is not in English. Notarized copies are not sufficient.
7. Submit a current resume.
8. Submit a visa application document if they are in the U.S. on a student or work visa.

Admission decisions are based on the quality of the applicant's credentials in relation to those of other applicants who meet the requirements for admission outlined above.

Application Filing Dates: Applications to the Penn State Great Valley's Master of Finance program are reviewed on a rolling basis. New students are admitted and begin their studies in early January and late August.

## Degree Requirements

### Master of Finance (M.Fin.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Thirty-three (33) credits are required to complete the M.Fin. degree. The course work includes:

- six required core courses (18 credit hours) which provide a body of knowledge in finance;
- four prescribed courses (12 credit hours) designed to help students develop additional expertise in financial analysis or financial data analytics;
- and a capstone course (3 credit hours) which provides a culminating experience for students.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
BA 831	Foundations in Finance	3
ACCTG 512	Financial Accounting Theory and Reporting Problems	3
BUSAD 525	Quantitative Methods in Finance	3
BUSAD 826	Current Issues in Corporate Finance	3
FIN 808	Analysis of Financial Markets	3
FIN 813	Speculative Markets	3
<b>Electives or Option</b>		
Select 4 electives or complete the Financial Data Analytics Option required courses. <sup>1</sup>		12
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
BUSAD 585	Research in Security Valuation <sup>2</sup>	3
or BUSAD 888	Applications of Financial Data Analytics	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>33</b>

- 1 The electives allow students in the base program to choose from a menu of courses maintained by the graduate program office, or to select prescribed courses that meet the requirements for the option.
- 2 All students will complete their program of study with a capstone course corresponding to the base program (BUSAD 585) or the option (BUSAD 888).

For the base program, students may enroll in the Master of Finance program at the Great Valley Campus, taking courses in a face-to-face and blended format. Alternatively, students may enroll in the online Master of Finance program offered through the Penn State World Campus. A one-week residency at Great Valley is required as part of the online program.

### Base Program

(Offered at Penn State Great Valley and through World Campus)

The program provides an advanced and specialized graduate education in finance for individuals with career interests as finance professionals in financial management, or investment management. The curriculum reflects a balanced combination of advanced financial theory and practical business applications. Major emerging concepts and practices in the finance field are introduced and discussed throughout the program. The program is designed to help graduates to become proficient in technical and analytical skills in finance and to develop expertise in financial problem solving and financial decision-making preparing them to advance their finance careers in organizations such as investment and commercial banking firms, mutual funds, other financial firms, non-financial businesses, consulting firms, government agencies and non-profit organizations. In addition, students will find a substantial number of courses in the M.Fin. program to be helpful in preparing for tests required for various professional certifications in finance, such as the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

### Base Program Electives

Students are required to take 4 courses (12 credits) from a list of electives maintained by the graduate program office. The electives allow students to focus in a selected field of finance such as corporate financial management or investment management. Students may also choose one non-finance course (3 credits) with the approval of the adviser.

### Base Program Capstone Course

BUSAD 585 Research in Security Valuation (3 cr.)

### Financial Data Analytics Option

(offered at Penn State Great Valley)

This option prepares graduates to learn necessary knowledge and skills to analyze financial data to extract valuable insights in order to facilitate financial decisions. The courses in this option focus on how statistical methods and data mining techniques can be used to analyze real financial data.

Students are required to take 4 courses (12 credits) as indicated below.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
BUSAD 829	Data Analysis in Finance	3
DAAN 871	Data Visualization	3
IE 575	Foundations of Predictive Analytics	3
SWENG 545	Data Mining	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

### Financial Data Analytics Option Capstone Course

BUSAD 888 Applications of Financial Data Analytics (3 cr.)

## Minor

A graduate minor is available in any approved graduate major or dual-title program. The default requirements for a graduate minor are stated in Graduate Council policy GCAC-218 Minors (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-218-minors/>).

## Student Aid

Refer to the Tuition & Funding (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/funding/>) section of the J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School's website. Students in this program are not eligible for graduate assistantships.

Financial aid for students in on-campus programs is in the form of student loans and a limited number of small scholarships, as described on the Penn State Great Valley website (<https://greatvalley.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/>).

World Campus students in graduate degree programs may be eligible for financial aid. Refer to the Tuition and Financial Aid section (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/>) of the World Campus website for more information.

## Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Finance (FIN) Course List (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/fin/>)

## Learning Outcomes

- Learning Goal 1: The students will demonstrate enhanced analytical and critical thinking skills. They will be able to:

- Apply quantitative and analytical knowledge to financial analysis
- Identify financial risk exposure and manage financial risks with appropriate financial derivative instruments
- Learning Goal 2: The students will understand the impact of global influences on financial decision-making. They will be able to:
  - Demonstrate a knowledge of global financial and foreign exchange markets, and their impact on multinational enterprises
- Learning Goal 3: The students will be effective financial decision makers. They will be able to:
  - Recognize and resolve ethical issues in financial decision making
- Learning Goal 4: The students will be effective communicators in finance. They will be able to:
  - Make an effective presentation of analytical results
  - Prepare a written report on financial issues

## Contact

<b>Campus</b>	Great Valley
<b>Graduate Program Head</b>	Zugang Liu
<b>Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)</b>	Qiang Qiang
<b>Program Contact</b>	Teri Shaw Penn State Great Valley 30 E. Swedesford Road Malvern PA 19355 tks5856@psu.edu (610) 648-3250
<b>Program Website</b>	View ( <a href="http://greatvalley.psu.edu/academics/masters-degrees/finance/">http://greatvalley.psu.edu/academics/masters-degrees/finance/</a> )
<b>Campus</b>	World Campus
<b>Graduate Program Head</b>	Zugang Liu
<b>Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)</b>	Qiang Qiang
<b>Program Contact</b>	Teri Shaw 30 E. Swedesford Rd Malvern PA 19355 tks5856@psu.edu (610) 648-3250
<b>Program Website</b>	View ( <a href="http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/finance-masters/overview/">http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/finance-masters/overview/</a> )