FINANCE, B.S. (BEHREND)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie, World Campus

Program Description

The Finance major is a unique program that provides the student with a firm foundation in the principles of finance and its major areas: financial management, investments, and financial markets. The coursework is designed to lead to professional certification in financial analysis. Students have job opportunities in a variety of positions with mutual funds, brokerage firms, banks, and insurance companies, as well as positions in corporate finance.

The program provides students with the depth and breadth of knowledge necessary to prepare them for Level I of the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) Exam. The rigorous curriculum, including courses in finance, accounting, and economics, is based on the CFA Body of Knowledge developed through surveys of professionals involved in the practice of investment management. Students will be encouraged to take Level I of the CFA exam after graduation.

What is Finance?

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 in 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.

You Might Like This Program If...

• You're looking for a versatile business degree.
• You'd like to invest real money as a director of Behrend's Intrieri Family Student Managed Fund.
• You'd like to work on Behrend's simulated trading floor, and use the same Bloomberg information services as professional traders and investors.
• You want to graduate from one of only two Pennsylvania universities accepted into the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institution University Recognition Program.

Entrance to Major

Entry to the Finance major requires the successful completion of 5 entry-to-major courses: ACCTG 211, ECON 102, ENGL 15 or ENGL 30H, MATH 110 or MATH 140, STAT 200 or SCM 200, and a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average. Each course requires a C or better grade for successful completion.

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Finance, 120-123 credits are required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>96-99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses; 9 credits of GWS courses.

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

• Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
• Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains

• Arts (GA): 6 credits
• Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
• Humanities (GH): 6 credits
• Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
• Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)

• Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements.
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

**Writing Across the Curriculum**
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

**Total Minimum Credits**
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**Requirements for the Major**
Each student must earn at least a grade of C in each 300- and 400-level course in the major field.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**Program Learning Objectives**

**Critical and Integrative Thinking:**

1. Students will be able to think critically by actively considering different points of view and utilize an integrated, holistic approach to construct relevant analyses, arguments, and conclusions.
   a. Students will clearly identify the key issues in the analysis.
   b. Students will present the appropriate analytic framework or warrant.
   c. Students will identify and assess important assumptions and question their validity.
   d. Students will identify and assess the quality of supporting data/evidence & provide additional data/evidence related to the issue.
   e. Students will draw and discuss conclusions, implications, and consequences.
   f. Students will identify key business issues using an integrated approach.
   g. Students will apply appropriate holistic analyses to business issues.
   h. Students will generate solutions that incorporate an integrated perspective to business problems.

**Oral Communication:**

1. Upon graduation our undergraduate students in The Sam and Irene Black School of Business will be able to execute the oral
communication skills that they have learned in the interactive 
business courses to business situations where effective explanation, 
persuasion, exchanging information and ideas are essential. 

a. Students will be able to clearly express their line of thoughts to an 
audience.
b. Student will be able to show confidence in their ability to 
communicate with their audience.
c. Students will be able to effectively organize their thoughts 
and clearly communicate their organized thoughts with their 
audience.
d. Students will be able to provide accuracy of content in their 
communication with their audience.
e. Students will be able to provide depth of content in their 
communication with their audience.
f. Students will be able to deliver a professional quality presentation 
to an audience while using appropriate and supporting 
technology.
g. Students will be able to have a professional appearance in front 
of their audience.

Writing Competence:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate effective writing skills. 
   a. Students will organize written assignments effectively.
   b. Students will develop a clear and well-structured argument.
   c. Students will identify and provide evidence sufficient to support 
      the argument.
   d. Students will find reliable sources and cite and reference them 
correctly.
   e. Students will demonstrate proper writing mechanics with respect 
to spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Teamwork:

1. Students will be positive contributors to effective team functioning 
via application of their functional skills in addition to strong 
interpersonal skills. 
   a. Students will be able to recognize the different ways in which 
their peers contribute to collaborative work.
   b. Students will contribute effectively to teams.
   c. Students will display good interpersonal skills in teamwork 
contexts.
   d. Students will learn how to interact effectively on teams.

Ethics and Social Responsibility:

1. Students will be able to recognize ethical issues and apply ethical 
theories in business situations at individual and/or organizational 
levels.
   a. Students will recognize ethical issues and the inter-relationships 
to business and society.
   b. Students will identify stakeholders affected by decisions and 
actions.
   c. Students will understand the consequences of decisions/actions 
to stakeholders.
   d. Students will analyze an ethical dilemma applying multiple ethical 
theories.
   e. Students will be able to correctly apply relevant ethical principles.
   f. Students will be able to recommend a plan of action.
   g. Students will be able to supported recommend action with by 
ethical analysis/evaluation.

Functional Area Knowledge:

1. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material across 
various business domains.
   a. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Accounting domain.
   b. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Economics domain.
   c. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Management domain.
   d. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Quantitative Business Analysis domain.
   e. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Finance domain.
   f. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Marketing domain.
   g. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Legal and Social Environment domain.
   h. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the Information Systems domain.
   i. Students will be able to apply foundational knowledge to analyze 
and solve problems and interpret written and visual material in 
the International Issues domain.

Functional Area Knowledge (ACCOUNTING):

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a broad general knowledge of 
the principles of accounting, both managerial and financial. 
   a. Students will be able to perform basic financial accounting 
transaction analysis.
   b. Students will prepare and interpret general purpose financial 
statements.
   c. Students will perform financial statement analysis.
   d. Students will apply various principles of managerial accounting.

Functional Area Knowledge (ECONOMICS):

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a broad general knowledge of 
the principles of economics, both microeconomics and 
macroeconomics.
   a. Students will apply concepts associated with free market 
operations.
   b. Students will conduct decision making based on opportunity 
costs and marginal analysis.
   c. Students will determine consumer behavior based on various 
measures of elasticity.
   d. Students will interpret effects associated with the four major 
market structures.
Functional Area Knowledge (FINANCE):

1. Use discounted valuation techniques to make capital investment decisions.
   a. Calculate the NPV for three scenarios (1) base case, (2) best case, and (3) worst case
   b. Identify relevant initial CFs for NPV calculation
   c. Identify relevant operating CFs for NPV calculation
   d. Identify relevant terminal CFs for NPV calculation
   e. Create and interpret a NPV profile
   f. Analyze and accept or reject a proposed investment project.

2. Understand the relationship between risk and return for equity and debt.
   a. Understand the trade-off between risk and return for individual assets by computing a beta and required rate of return using the CAPM (Capital Asset Pricing Model).
   b. Explain an appropriate proxy for the market rate of return for the CAPM.
   c. Explain an appropriate risk-free rate proxy for the CAPM.
   d. Calculate cost of debt or YTM of corporate bonds

3. Determine the required return on a proposed investment.
   a. Calculate and interpret the weighted-average cost of capital (WACC) by estimating the market cost of equity and debt.
   b. Understand when WACC is appropriate as the required return to evaluate a proposed capital investment.

a. Our students will develop an awareness of global issues and diverse cultures.

Functional Area Knowledge (LEGAL ENVIRONMENT):

1. Students will be able to identify key terms, concepts, and theories of the law, understand how law affects business, demonstrate an ability to analyze legal issues, and apply the law to business situations.
   a. Students will identify key terms, concepts, and theories of law.
   b. Students will analyze legal issues and apply the law to business situations.

Functional Area Knowledge (MANAGEMENT):

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of management.
   a. More particularly, students will be able to identify the correct core concepts in the context of the following 12 main topic areas:
      i. Introduction to / History of Management
      ii. Managing in the Global Environment
      iii. Decision Making
      iv. Planning & Strategy
      v. Organizational Structure & Culture
      vi. Managing Human Resources
      vii. Individual Attitudes & Behavior
      viii. Managing Teams
      ix. Motivation
      x. Leadership
      xi. Communication
      xii. Principles of Control

Functional Area Knowledge (MARKETING):

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of marketing.
   a. Students will understand the concept of marketing and marketing philosophies.
      i. Definition of marketing.
      ii. Main marketing philosophies (e.g., market orientation, societal market orientation, sales orientation, production orientation).
   b. Students will understand the process of marketing plan and how to set marketing strategies.
      i. Be able to prepare an outline of marketing plan (e.g., SWOT analysis).
      ii. Be able to choose an appropriate marketing strategy for different types of firms (e.g., market development, product development, diversification, market penetration).
   c. Students will understand the process of market research.
      i. Be able to choose an appropriate market research design and method for different types of market research questions.
   d. Students will understand buyers and markets.
      i. Be able to understand the mechanism of the buyer behaviors.
   e. Students will understand the concept of target marketing strategy.
i. Be able to use market segmentation variables for targeting and positioning.
ii. Students will understand the 4P’s (product, price, promotion, place) concepts.
iii. Be able to formulate MARKETING 4P’S DECISIONS.

Functional Area Knowledge (QUANTATIVE BUSINESS ANALYSIS):

1. Upon graduation our undergraduate students in The Sam and Irene Black School of Business will be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of business disciplines (quantitative business analysis).
   a. Students will be able to apply the basic rules of probability to assess likelihood within a population.
   b. Students will be able to identify and apply appropriate probability distribution concepts to analyze data.
   c. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of correlation and regression analysis.

Functional Area Knowledge (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT):

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of business disciplines (supply chain management).
   a. Students will be able to apply forecasting methods for demand of a product or service.
   b. Students will be able to apply inventory and planning models for managing operations.
   c. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of TQM tools.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2021-22 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Finance, B.S. at Erie Campus and World Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course (GHW)</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H†‡#</td>
<td>3 CAS 100 (OR CAS 100A OR CAS 100B OR CAS 100C)†‡#</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 110 or 140‡§#</td>
<td>4 ECON 102‡§#</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE³</td>
<td>3 MIS 204³</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE³</td>
<td>3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE³</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE (GHW)³</td>
<td>1.5 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE³</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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Second Year

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<tr>
<th>Course (GHW)</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCTG 211²</td>
<td>4 ENGL 202D‡‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 104‡‡</td>
<td>3 FIN 301²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCM 200 or STAT 200²‡#</td>
<td>4 MGMT 301²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE²</td>
<td>3 MKTG 301²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE (GHW)³</td>
<td>1.5 SCM 301²</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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Third Year

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<tr>
<th>Course (GHW)</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA 241</td>
<td>4 ACCTG 305²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; BA 242</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIN 420 (OR FIN 451 OR FIN 471)²</td>
<td>3 FIN 451 (OR FIN 420 OR FIN 471)²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVED ELECTIVE²</td>
<td>3 APPROVED ELECTIVE²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL ECON COURSE²</td>
<td>3 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE³</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE³</td>
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<tr>
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Fourth Year

<table>
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<th>Course (GHW)</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCTG 426²</td>
<td>3 MGMT 471W²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
identify and achieve your goals for college and beyond. Meet with your academic adviser often and take advantage of the services offered by the Academic and Career Planning Center beginning in your first semester.

**Careers**


MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE FINANCE PROGRAM (http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-business/academic-programs/finance/)

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

Graduate study allows you to delve deeper into the subdisciplines of finance that interest you most. Examples of master’s- and doctoral-level study include corporate finance, e-business, financial modeling, law, business strategy, marketing, data science, managerial accounting, and strategic management. Penn State Behrend also offers a hybrid MBA program that can be pursued in Erie and in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://behrend.psu.edu/admissions-financial-aid/graduate-admissions/master-of-business-administration/)

**Professional Resources**

- AASCB International (http://www.aacsb.edu/)
- Association for Financial Professionals (https://www.afponline.org/)
- Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (https://www.cfainstitute.org/programs/cfaprogram/Pages/)

**Accreditation**

The Black School of Business is accredited by AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. As the world’s largest business education alliance, AACSB connects educators, students, and business to achieve a common goal: to create the next generation of great leaders. Synonymous with the highest standards of excellence since 1916, AACSB provides quality assurance, business education intelligence, and professional development services to over 1,500 member organizations and more than 785 accredited business schools worldwide. AACSB's mission is to foster engagement, accelerate innovation, and amplify impact in business education.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION TO ADVANCE COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS (http://www.aacsb.edu/)

**Contact**

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https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-business (https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-business/)

**World Campus**

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https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/finance-bachelors/overview