FINANCE, B.S. (BUSINESS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
This major provides students with an opportunity to study investment analysis, management of banks and other financial institutions, and financial management of corporations and other businesses. Course coverage includes business finance, security markets, commercial bank management, investment valuations, portfolio management, futures and options markets, and capital budgeting.

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.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCE (https://undergrad.smeal.psu.edu/majors/finance)

Entrance to Major
To be eligible for entrance into the Finance (FIN) major, a degree candidate must be enrolled in the Smeal College of Business or the Division of Undergraduate Studies and satisfy requirements for entrance to the major.

This program currently has administrative enrollment controls. Administrative Enrollment Controls are initiated when limitations of space, faculty, or other resources in a major prevent accommodating all students who request them. Students must follow the administrative enrollment controls that are in effect for the semester that they enter the university.

First-Year Students Entering Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, students must satisfy the following requirements:

- 40-59 graded Penn State credits (excludes transfer and AP credits)
- completed with a grade of C or better: ESL 15 or ENGL 15 or ENGL 30, ACCTG 211*, FIN 301*, MATH 110 or MATH 140, MGMT 301*, MKTG 301*, and SCM 200 or STAT 200
- completed ECON 102
- earned a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.50 in the eight entrance-to-major courses listed above.
- earned a minimum of 3.50 cumulative GPA

* Must be completed at Penn State (no substitutions or transfers)

Students Who Entered Prior to Summer 2019
Students who entered the University during Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019 should view the administrative enrollment controls in the archived 2018-19 Undergraduate Bulletin (http://bulletins.psu.edu/archive/2018-19/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/#administrativeenrollmentcontrolstext). Students who entered the University prior to the summer 2018 semester should view the administrative enrollment controls for the semester that they entered the university (http://advising.psu.edu/entrance-major-requirements) on the Academic Advising Portal.

Degree Completion
Students accepted into the Finance major are expected to enroll at University Park the fall semester after gaining entrance to the major. In addition, Senate Policy 83-80.5 stipulates that the college dean and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken in the college where the degree is earned. Based on this policy, the Smeal College of Business has set the following credit earning limitations for FIN majors:

1. Fifteen credits of 300/400 level prescribed and additional courses in the major field must be completed with Finance faculty at University Park.
2. Nine additional credits of 300/400 level related and supporting courses must also be completed at University Park. See the Finance Suggested Academic Plan for details.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Finance, a minimum of 120 credits is required with at least 15 credits at the 400 level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses (ENGL 202D); 6 credits of GQ courses (MATH 110 or MATH 140 and SCM 200 or STAT 200); 3 credits of GS courses (ECON 102).

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 (http://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
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.

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 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

### University Park

**Advising Center**
Smeal College Undergraduate Education  
202 Business Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-1947  
uge@smeal.psu.edu

### Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2019-20 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://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).

#### University Park 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 plan or linked to the academic plan via an academic advisor). The information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSU 6</td>
<td>1 MGMT 301</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or (MATH 110 or MATH 140) or (SCM 200 or STAT 200)</td>
<td>4 SCM 200 or STAT 200 (MATH 110 or MATH 140)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H</td>
<td>3 World Language - Level Two</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102 (GS)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (US)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language - Level One</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
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**Second Year**

<table>
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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 301</td>
<td>3 FIN 301</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCTG 211</td>
<td>4 SCM 301</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 104</td>
<td>3 CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language - Level Three</td>
<td>4 MIS 250</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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**Third Year**

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<th>Fall</th>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIN 305W</td>
<td>3 FIN 4XX - Additional Finance Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIN 408 or 406</td>
<td>3 FIN 406 or 406</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202D</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (N)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLAW 341 or BA 342</td>
<td>3 BA 342 or BLAW 341</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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**Fourth Year**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIN 4XX - Additional Finance Course</td>
<td>3 Two-Piece Sequence (see Department List)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA 411 (Related Area (see Department List))</td>
<td>3 BA 411 (Related Area (see Department List))</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Piece Sequence (see Department List)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>2 Elective</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
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</table>

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures). W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester.
in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

**College and Department Notes:**

I. The Smeal College of Business requires that the following entrance-to-major courses be taken at Penn State: ACCTG 211, MGMT 301, MKTG 301, and FIN 301.

II. Pursuant to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation standards, the Smeal College of Business requires that all upper division courses within the departments sponsoring the major be completed in residence at University Park under the instruction of Smeal College faculty.

**Commonwealth Campuses**

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>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Year Seminar (if required by Campus)</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>MGMT 301(^1,2)</td>
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<td>(MATH 110 or MATH 140) or (SCM 200 or STAT 200) (GQ)(^1,2)</td>
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<td>(SCM 200 or STAT 200) or (MATH 110 or MATH 140) (GQ)(^1,2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H(^1,2)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>World Language - Level Two(^3)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 102 (GS)(^1,2)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (US)(^4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Language - Level One(^3)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 301(^1,2)</td>
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<td>FIN 301(^1,2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 104</td>
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<td>CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T(^1)</td>
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<td>World Language - Level Three(^3)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (IL)(^4)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (N)(^4)</td>
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<td>General Education Course(^4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIN 4XX - Additional Finance Course(^1)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course(^4)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (Z)(^4)</td>
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<td>Elective(^4)</td>
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II. Pursuant to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation standards, the Smeal College of Business requires that all upper division courses within the
departments sponsoring the major be completed in residence at University Park under the instruction of Smeal College faculty.

**Accreditation**

The Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

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

**Contact**

**University Park**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
352 Business Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-0486
tel4@psu.edu

https://php.smeal.psu.edu/smeal/contact/?contactId=finance