

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

Graduate Programs—PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST

UGPC APPROVAL _____
 UFS APPROVAL _____
 CATALOG _____

DEPARTMENT: FINANCE

COLLEGE: BUSINESS

PROGRAM NAME:

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE

EFFECTIVE DATE

(PROVIDE TERM/YEAR)

SPRING 2015

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REQUESTED CHANGE(S) AND OFFER RATIONALE BELOW AND/OR ATTACHED:

WE ARE CREATING A DIFFERENT STRUCTURE FOR USE AS A MARKET RATE DEGREE. STUDENTS WILL BE ADMITTED IN COHORTS. THE COURSE OFFERINGS WILL BE LOCKSTEP FOR EACH COHORT.

IN ADDITION TO SPECIALIZED, GRADUATE EDUCATION IN FINANCE, THIS CURRICULUM WILL SUPPORT CANDIDATE'S PATH TO THE CHARTERED FINANCIAL ANALYST DESIGNATION.

THE SEQUENCING OF THIS ALTERNATE VERSION OF THE EXISTING MS FINANCE IS ATTACHED.

Faculty contact, email and complete phone number:
 Wm R McDaniel, mcdaniel@fau.edu,
 561-297-3193

Consult and list departments that might be affected by the change and attach comments.
 The existing MS Finance is in suspension; thus, no other units are affected.

Approved by:

Department Chair: *Edmund*
 College Curriculum Chair: *Wm R McDaniel*
 College Dean: *Ken H. [Signature]*
 UGPC Chair: *[Signature]*
 Graduate College Dean: *Abdulkhaleq [Signature]*
 UFS President: _____
 Provost: _____

Date:

9-22-14
9-23-2014
9-23-2014
10/8/14
10-15-14

Email this form and syllabus to UGPC@fau.edu one week before the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.

Master of Science in Finance – Market Rate Option

This Master of Science in Finance is a 30-credit curriculum.

Boot Camp:

Students start the program with a 37.5 [clock]hour boot camp. The boot camp is designed to give students a refresher in quantitative methods, Finance, Accounting and Economics. The boot camp curriculum will cover materials from FIN 6406, ACG 6027 and ECP 6705. The boot camp is required and is not for credit. **A passing grade is required for each of the modules below.**

Refresher boot camp will cover:

- **Financial Accounting Concepts**
 - Principles applicable to the accounting cycle, financial reporting and basic business taxes
- **Economics and Finance**
 - Micro-economic theories of supply, demand, and the price system; firm and industry organization: Market Forces of Supply and Demand, The Firm and Industry Organization
 - Time value of money
 - Introduction to financial management concepts; basic financial instruments
- **Quantitative Methods**
 - Basic Algebra, Business Calculus, Basic statistics
 - Tools and applications of financial analysis and forecasting.
 - Basics of Financial Modeling in Excel (e.g., Solver. etc.)
- **General Education in Business Communication**

Class 1: Financial Statement Analysis (3 credits) **ACG 6175**

The emphasis of this course is placed on the analysis, interpretation, and reporting of financial accounting data. The use of Bloomberg and other databases will be part of the curriculum.

Class 2: Communication Skills for Business Professionals (3 credits) **GEB 6217**

This course links communication skills required in the field of finance to the research and critical thinking skills necessary for a finance professional's success.

Class 3: Theory and Practice of Managerial Finance (3 credits) **FIN 6804**

An in-depth study of corporate finance theories related to corporate investment policies, capital structure, cash distribution policies and similar topics. Practical ramification of the theories is examined.

Class 4: Financial Markets and Institutions (3 credits) **FIN 6246**

A study of macroeconomic factors affecting interest rates and prices in the money, savings, and capital markets. Attention is given to the institutions in these markets and interrelations among the institutions.

Class 5: Security Analysis (3 credits) **NEW COURSE FIN 6517**

Emphasis on the characteristics of financial assets and on major valuation models to determine intrinsic value. This course focuses on equity and fixed income instruments.

Class 6: Quantitative Methods in Finance (2 credits) **NEW COURSE FIN 6456**

Introduces financial applications of quantitative techniques covered in areas such as probability, Probability Distributions and Descriptive Statistics, Sampling and Estimation, Hypothesis Testing, Correlation Analysis and Regression, Optimization, Time-Series Analysis and Simulation Analysis. The course requires a project using statistical software.

Class 7: Financial Ethics (2 credits) NEW COURSE FIN 6558

Overview of ethical issues, applicable professional standards and regulatory challenges faced by investment professionals and participants in financial markets.

Class 8: Financial Modeling (2 credits) NEW COURSE FIN 6455

Financial modeling using spreadsheets to conduct financial analysis for managerial decision making; special attention will be given to models in mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, venture capital, etc. This is a hands-on course that will use the FAU Trading Room and Bloomberg and other databases.

Class 9: Financial Risk Management and Derivatives (3 credits) FIN 6537

This course focuses on financial risk. It deals with its measurement, the derivative instruments used to trade it and the techniques used to manage it. Derivative instruments examined include options, forwards, futures, swaps, and other related derivative instruments.

Class 10: International Financial Management (3 credits) FIN 6605

Financial management for international companies. Sources of funds, capital structure, investment strategies, monetary exchange problems and governmental constraints on firms operating in more than one nation are discussed.

Class 11: Portfolio Management (3 credits) FIN 6525

An in-depth examination of the selection, construction, and management of portfolios, typically including stocks, bonds and cash, for individuals and/or institutional investors. It also includes portfolio performance measurement and evaluation.

Elective Classes for future:

FIN 6XXX: Alternative Investments (Special topics) **NEW COURSE** - to cover more of CFA requirement

Some covered in FIN 6525 Portfolio and FIN 6517 Security Analysis

This course provides both a theoretical and practical look into the world of managing alternative investments. We will discuss the following alternative investment vehicles: hedge funds, private equity funds, REITs, commodity pools, etc. Topics also include:

FIN 6314: Financial Management of Financial Institutions

An in-depth analysis of commercial banks and other financial institutions from a managerial approach. Emphasis is placed upon asset, liability, and capital management within financial institutions. There will be discussion-oriented case analyses

FIN 6436: Financial Management: Investment Decisions and Policy

Techniques and theory of making value-maximizing selections and terminations of both fixed and working capital assets. The course emphasizes how real options create opportunities for managers to augment the firm's value.

**FAU College of Business
Master of Science in Finance
Assessment of Need and Demand**

Florida Atlantic University is a multi-campus public research university that pursues excellence in its missions of research, scholarship, creative activity, teaching, and active engagement with its communities.

The Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program aligns well with the mission of the University to pursue excellence in teaching and engagement with the business community. The program contributes to the strategic goal of enriching the educational experience by strengthening and expanding graduate programs. It will increase access to prospective students who might be deterred by higher out-of-state tuition rates.

There are strong ties in the financial sector between states in the northeast of the U.S. and south Florida. Also financial skills, particularly competencies in international finance, are highly attractive to companies in other countries, such as those in close proximity (Latin America). Thus, expanding the MSF will contribute to the strategic goal of meeting professional and workforce needs. Moreover, the MSF program is a “primary area of strategic emphasis” at FAU because most of the top investment companies are represented in south Florida.

The MSF program will be managed in a cohort format, which will ensure that sufficient courses are available to meet student demand and facilitate completion of each program. The schedules of the programs are finalized well in advance and the department of Executive Education will work with department chairs to ensure sufficient faculty staffing for all programs. Historically, FAU’s Executive Education degree programs offered to working professionals under Continuing Education BOG Regulation 8.002 have always provided sufficient courses to meet student demand.

The College of Business has examined the viability for the MSF, and we have looked at a number of factors that indicate that this program will be viable, including the following:

- 2013/2014 FAU has 515 undergraduate students enrolled under the major code of Finance.
- FAU has graduated 840 students with a major in Finance the past 5 years.
- As of fall 2013, Florida International University enrolled 117 students in its market rate MS in Finance program.
- The office of executive programs has received numerous inquiries about the availability of a MS degree in Finance, indicating that there is underlying potential student demand for this degree program.
- FAU’s creation of a new Trading Room has increased interest in financial education, and the use of that room will help attract students to the program.
- FAU’s Executive Education is currently offering national certifications such as the CFA, CFP and CIA with great success.
- Palm Beach County’s Business Development Board is focusing on attracting investment companies and hedge funds to the area. FAU is an education partner to the BDB, and are committed to delivering educational programs to the community.

Kimberly Dunn

Actions

To:

William McDaniel

Cc:

Ken Johnson; George Young

Friday, September 19, 2014 2:17 PM

Bill,

I have reviewed the proposed syllabi content for the accounting course required for the Master of Science in Finance. It is my opinion that this content is appropriate and consistent with the course description for ACG6175 (Financial Statement Analysis). I have no objections to having this course required for the Master of Science in Finance.

Please contact me if you need further information.

Best regards,

Kim

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Director & Associate Professor
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