Department of Finance Programs and Majors

PROGRAMS

Undergraduate majors: Finance; Financial Services; Real Estate
Graduate programs: Finance; Financial & Tax Planning; Real Estate

Number of students in majors: 950 (20% of College of Business Administration's total)

WHAT IS FINANCE

Finance is the study of wealth creation, both for individuals and enterprises. As such everyone needs to be aware of the rules for managing their financial affairs. Which behaviors and decisions increase wealth and which decrease wealth? Companies, as well as individuals, need to determine which investments should be made. Finance provides the skills to make investment decisions. In particular firms need to choose which investments to make and how fast or slow the investments, and thus the firm, should grow. As part of wealth creation the firm needs to make appropriate decisions about acquiring the capital to make investments. This requires an understanding of sources of capital and their relative merits. From the perspective of individuals the study of finance is about managing wealth: how should individuals manage their consumption, savings and investments (in housing, stocks, bonds, commodities etc.) over their life-cycle.

SUCCESS IN THE PROGRAM

An analytical focus, comfort with numbers, and good oral and written communication skills are essential for finance majors. In addition, the student acquires skills in using spreadsheets and other financial modeling software as well as familiarity with a variety of data sources (such as COMPUSTAT and CRSP). Students are encouraged to apply their skills by using the Finance Department's Wells Fargo Financial Markets Lab, housing computers and Bloomberg Terminals which allow real-time access to the same data used by finance professionals worldwide.

CAREERS IN FINANCE

Corporate finance; commercial banking; investment banking; real estate; financial planning; wealth management.

Website: http://Finance.sdsu.edu

CENTER

The Corky McMillin Center for Real Estate
http://cbaweb.sdsu.edu/realestate

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Finance & Investment Society
http://sdsufis.com
Financial Planning Association
http://fpasdsu.wordpress.com
The Real Estate Society
http://www.resofsdsu.com

STUDENT-MANAGED EQUITY FUNDS

Undergraduate Equity Fund
http://cbaweb.sdsu.edu/finance/uef
Aztec Equity Fund, graduate students
http://cbaweb.sdsu.edu/finance/aef

AVAILABLE BUSINESS/FINANCIAL DATA

Bloomberg Terminals
(Wells Fargo Financial Markets Lab)
WRDS; Compustat; CRSP; IFS; Privco;
MSCI Indices; MSCI Barra
Wells Fargo Financial Markets Lab  
*Located at the SDSU Love Library (Room LL 261)*

Thanks to the generous financial support by Stephen & Marjorie Cushman and Wells Fargo Bank, the Wells Fargo Financial Markets Lab was established in 2012.

**Financial Markets Lab is Equipped with:**
- 12 Bloomberg Terminals
- Stock market ticker display
- The latest classroom technology

**Benefits of the Lab:**
- Facilitates student projects that are central to many courses in the College of Business and the broader University. The Lab provides opportunity for students to individually and collectively develop critical skills.
- Access to real-time data enables faculty to tailor their course offerings more directly to the real world.
- Real-time data and analysis of historical data supports the creation and management of student-run investment funds like the Aztec Equity Fund (AEF). Past student managers of the AEF have obtained positions in leading banking, financial services, and money management firms.
- Provides students with skills that are increasingly required for careers in the Finance and other industries.
- Bloomberg (and access to related databases) enables interested students to acquire a Bloomberg certification and training on database platforms. Certification improves employment opportunities. Students desiring careers in money management routinely sit for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) examination.
- Available to teach the outside community, especially high school students, the fundamentals of financial literacy.

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