

Graduate Business Programs

SDSU College of Business Administration



MBA Program of Study Worksheet

Finance Specialization

Program of Study Worksheet: MBA – Finance Specialization

The MBA requires a 30-48 unit program of study that consists of 5 major components – a core of basic business courses, theme courses, courses in the specialization, electives, and a culminating experience course. Developing a program of study for the MBA degree requires careful planning; moreover, you are encouraged to discuss the plan with your academic advisor. You should try to complete this template before starting classes to organize your thoughts on what you want out of the program. It should be updated periodically to reflect your changing priorities and career objectives.

1 Core Courses (0-21 units)

These seven core courses will provide a solid foundation in each of the key business disciplines. One or more of these may be waived by the Graduate Programs Office if you have completed an equivalent course at an AACSB-accredited university within the past 5 years and earned a grade of 'B' or better. Courses completed at non-AACSB schools will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Choose the core courses that the Graduate Business Programs Office has notified you that you must complete:	Units
BA 650 – Financial Reporting and Analysis I	
BA 651 – Organizational Behavior	
BA 652 – Statistical Analysis	
BA 653 – Managerial Economics	
BA 655 – Marketing	
BA 662 – Operations Management	
BA 665 – Financial Management I	

2 Corporate Responsibility: Legal, Ethical and Social Issues in Business theme course (3 units)

These courses aim to help you develop a deep understanding and appreciation of the legal, ethical and social context in which management decisions are made. You will consider businesses' legal, social and ethical responsibilities to internal and external stakeholders such as stockholders, employees, customers, and the communities where the corporation does business.

Choose ONE of the following courses:	Units
ACCTG 681 – Regulatory and Management Controls	
FIN 604 – Legal Environment for Executives	
MIS 755 – Information Systems Security Management	
MGT 722 – Business Ethics and Social Institutions	
MGT 746 – Corporate Governance	

Management of Technology Issues in Business theme course (3 units)

3

These courses aim to development an understanding of the key issues and trends in business' use of technology and data, information, and knowledge for decision making and competitive advantage.

Choose ONE of the following courses:	Units
MIS 688 – Information Systems in Organizations	
MIS 691 – Decision Support Systems	

4

Finance Courses (12-18 units)

Career opportunities for finance graduates are quite diverse but include positions with business corporations and nonprofit organizations. The primary career tracks in finance are listed below along with courses that will prepare you for careers in each area.

Highly Recommended Courses For All Finance Tracks

FIN 617 – Financial Management II
FIN 651 – Investments

Business Corporations Track

For finance professionals employed by corporations, responsibilities include financial management, management of funds, protection of assets, tax administration, and investor relations. The following courses are recommended.

FIN 641 – Financing the Emerging Enterprise
FIN 653 – Case Studies in Financial Management
FIN 654 – International Financial Management
ACCTG 620 – Financial Reporting and Analysis II
ACCTG 663 – Financial Statement Analysis
ACCTG 624 – Tax for Managers

Nonprofit Organizations Track

For finance professionals employed by nonprofit organizations, responsibilities include financial management, management of funds, protection of assets, tax administration, and donor relations. The following courses are recommended.

FIN 641 – Financing the Emerging Enterprise
FIN 653 – Case Studies in Financial Management
ACCTG 620 – Financial Reporting and Analysis II
ACCTG 508 – Accounting for Not-For-Profit Organizations

Brokerages and Investment Companies Track

For finance professionals employed by securities companies, responsibilities include counseling clients, marketing financial services, evaluation and selection of securities for investment portfolios. The following courses are recommended.

- FIN 652 – Security Analysis and Portfolio Analysis
- FIN 654 – International Business Finance
- FIN 659 – Decision Making in the World Economy
- ACCTG 663 – Financial Statement Analysis

Financial Institutions Track

For finance professionals employed by financials, responsibilities include loan production, marketing financial services, risk management and building client relations. The following courses are recommended.

- FIN 652 – Security Analysis and Portfolio Analysis
- FIN 656 – Financial Institutions
- FIN 659 – Decision Making in the World Economy

General Finance Track

For finance professionals seeking a broad exposure to the field of finance.

- FIN 641 – Financing the Emerging Enterprise
- FIN 652 – Security Analysis and Portfolio Analysis
- FIN 653 – Case Studies in Financial Management
- FIN 654 – International Financial Management
- FIN 656 – Financial Institutions
- FIN 659 – Decision Making in the World Economy

Choose at least FOUR Finance courses:	Units
FIN 617 – Financial Management II	
FIN 641 – Financing the Emerging Enterprise	
FIN 651 – Investments	
FIN 652 – Security Analysis and Portfolio Analysis	
FIN 653 – Case Studies in Financial Management	
FIN 654 – International Business Finance	
FIN 656 – Financial Institutions	
FIN 657 – Financial Counseling	
FIN 659 – Decision Making in the World Economy	

5 Electives (0-6 units)

Finance Specialization courses and Electives must total 18 units:	Units
<i>Electives Commonly Chosen by Finance Majors</i>	
ACCTG 620 – Financial Reporting and Analysis II	
ACCTG 663 – Financial Statement Analysis	
MIS 749 – Business Analytics	

6 Culminating Experience (3 units)

Complete a culminating experience course.

Choose ONE of the following courses:	Units
BA 795 – Integrative Business Analysis	
BA 799A – Thesis	

Degree Requirements Check List

Requirements:	✓
At least 27 units completed beyond the core.	
Not more than six units in BA 780 (Field Studies in Business), 797 (Research), and 798 (Special Study).	
Among themes and electives (and specialization) completed, courses are taken from three out of the five departments in the College of Business Administration: ACCTG, FIN, MIS, MGT and MKTG.	
All courses are at the 500, 600, or 700 level. No more than six units are at the 500-level.	
A maximum of 12 transfer units from another AACSB-accredited university if program of study is 33 units or more; a maximum of 9 transfer units if program of study is 30 units.	

Corporate Responsibility Theme: Course Descriptions

ACCTG 681 – Regulatory and Management Controls

This course will help you to be more effective when working within regulatory and management control environments. The material is both theoretical and practical to provide an understanding of the evolution of controls and regulations as well as an examination of issues facing organizations. The focus is on the behavioral side—how controls and regulations are used to influence and motivate what people do. The legal, ethical, and political factors influencing management control systems are also examined.

FIN 604 – Legal Environment for Executives

This course is an introduction to the American legal system with an emphasis on the relationship between business, society, and government. You will leave the course with an appreciation and understanding of the legal system as it affects you as a citizen, consumer, employee, and business owner. The course covers legal rights and the agencies for their enforcement, criminal and tort law applied to business; consumer protection; contracts; sales; agency and business organizations, and the application of the Uniform Commercial Code.

MIS 755 – Information Systems Security Management

This course will prepare you to identify information security threats and solutions for an organization and/or a system. To do this you will cover in detail information security management, threat analysis, risk management, attack methods, security models, application security methods, network security methods, physical security, access control, and cryptography. Among other learning objectives, you will be able to discuss how policies are used to implement security plans

MGT 722 – Business Ethics and Social Institutions

This course lies at the intersection of business and the liberal arts. You will be encouraged to think systematically and rigorously about ethical issues that occur in a business context and will be introduced to ethical frameworks that will help you to clarify and examine the ethical system you now hold. After investigating several formal ethical theories closely tied to business ethics, you will apply these theories to current business-ethics issues. In addition, you will be asked to read assignments thoroughly and critically, to develop personal observations and insights about the material, and to write about and talk about those insights.

MGT 746 – Corporate Governance

This seminar will give you an in-depth look at the corporate governance triad that controls the modern American corporation: top management, boards of directors, and investors. By the end of the course, you will understand both the history of the complex inter-relationships among these players and the current trends that will continue to mold 21st-century corporate governance. You will be better prepared than most of your peers to take an informed leadership role as a corporate executive, director, or

shareholder. You will also examine what it means to have a “theory of corporate governance,” examine existing theories of the firm, and discuss their shortcomings in light of recent events.

Management of Technology Issues in Business Theme: Course Descriptions

MIS 688 – Information Systems in Organizations

This course exposes you to ways in which modern organizations utilize information technology (IT) strategically to enhance their competitive positions in an increasingly complex and global business environment. Technological as well as organizational and behavioral issues confronting today’s IT executive are explored, and analytical approaches to addressing these issues are developed. At the end of the course, you will be able to: describe the evolving business and IT environments, use strategic information systems for planning and decision making, apply theoretical models of information systems planning and management, employ organizational IT performance measurement and valuation metrics, describe common IT governance and the management of change practices, describe the international dimensions of information systems, and evaluate situations involving the ethical responsibilities of today’s IT professionals.

MIS 691 – Decision Support Systems

This course will expose you to IT-enabled processes of decision-making and to provide you with the ability to design systems to support decision-making. To do this we will discuss decision theory and the technologies and processes used in the creation and management of decision support systems, research decision support system literature, and create individual and group decision support systems. Course topics include decision theory, decision modeling, group decision support systems, expert systems, artificial intelligence, knowledge management, and data warehousing and mining. At the end of the course you will be prepared to analyze decision processes and design and specify decision support systems to support those processes. You will also be prepared to build individual decision support systems using Microsoft Excel and Access and will be familiar with the research resources available to Decision Support Systems students.

Finance Classes: Course Descriptions

FIN 617 – Financial Management II

Develops topics to include asset pricing, capital budgeting techniques, dividend policy and financing decisions, applications of options and futures, term structure of interest rates, regulation of financial markets, leasing decisions, corporate control.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Calculate common investment criteria and project cash flows associated with corporate project evaluation, including cross-border projects
- Evaluate corporate projects using scenario, sensitivity, and simulation analysis
- Apply measures of cost of capital and financial leverage to form long-term financial policies for businesses
- Judge the merits of leasing over borrowing to purchase assets
- Describe the common factors influencing dividend payout policy
- Describe applications of derivatives in financial management
- Relate capital investment decisions and financial policies to business valuations

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

Finance 617 is an intermediate level course in financial management, designed to complement BA 665. Together, the two courses provide a complete overview of modern corporate finance.

PREREQUISITE: Business Administration 665 – Financial Management I

FIN 641 – Financing the Emerging Enterprise

Financial considerations in emerging and growing enterprises to include financial management of internal and external funding sources, and dealing with private equity investors. Emphasis on integration of theory, practice, and human judgment in financial decision making.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Provision of framework for evaluating startups; the framework comprises three key drivers of performance: market opportunity, competitive position, and funding structure.
- Describe and evaluate sources of funding for start-up businesses
- Analyze the composition and terms of financing entrepreneurial businesses
- Discuss various equity valuation approaches as venture proceeds from startup to IPO.

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

Students seeking careers in finance and entrepreneurship; students seeking a course using the case studies approach to gain an understanding of emerging enterprises.

PREREQUISITE: Business Administration 665 – Financial Management I

FIN 642 – Financial Risk Management

Measurement and management of foreign exchange, interest rate, equity, and commodity risks. Risk assessment models, implementation strategies, risk management, and capital allocation. Using derivatives for risk management.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Describe characteristics of forward and futures contracts, options, and swaps and their applications in risk management
- Describe the sources of interest-rate, currency, equity, and commodity risk
- Calculate risk exposure using value-at-risk methodology and stress tests
- Construct static and dynamic hedges using financial derivatives
- Explain how risk management contributes to firm value and impact capital structure

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

Students seeking careers in risk management, investments, and financial services. Examples and cases are from non-financial firms. Risk management in financial services firms is covered in Finance 656.

PREREQUISITE: Business Administration 665 – Financial Management I

FIN 651 – Investments

Characteristics of financial markets and instruments. Approaches to problems of pricing equity and fixed income securities; techniques of analysis; measurement of risk; return, and investment values.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Explain the structure of publicly traded financial assets-stocks, bonds, mortgages, options, futures.
- Describe the operations of primary and secondary financial markets
- Identify the roles of various market players and participants-financial analysts, investment bankers, brokers, mutual funds, hedge funds and other financial institutions
- Evaluate the economic and industry environment in which companies operate
- Develop and employ tools of financial analysis for examining company fundamentals
- Critically examine the concepts of market efficiency, intrinsic value and risk, and related investment concepts
- Apply theories of securities valuation to construct a financial portfolio

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

Students seeking eventual employment with a brokerage company, an investment company or financial services company with responsibilities in evaluating and selecting equity and fixed-income securities for investment portfolios. This course should be

completed prior to enrolling in Finance 652 – Seminar in Security Analysis and Portfolio Management.

PREREQUISITE: Business Administration 665 – Financial Management I

FIN 652 – Security Analysis and Portfolio Management

Security valuation, alternative instruments, portfolio theory, active and passive management techniques, asset allocation, performance measurement, use of derivatives in portfolio management, debt portfolio management techniques, ethical standards.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Describe the steps of the portfolio management process
- Make investment policy recommendations, including the determination of an optimal asset allocation
- Analyze and evaluate the performance of an investment manager
- Analyze bond portfolio management strategies
- Explain the concept of market efficiency
- Explain how asset prices should be determined according to some of the main financial theories
- Explain how derivatives products can be used in portfolio management

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

Students seeking a career with a brokerage or investment company with responsibilities in counseling clients, marketing financial services, and evaluating and selection of securities for investment portfolios.

PREREQUISITE: Finance 651 – Seminar in Investments, or equivalent

FIN 653 – Case Studies in Financial Management

Applies theory of finance to practice of financial decision-making. Includes valuation, mergers, and restructurings. Integrates theory and managerial judgment in a decision-making context. Case study format.

PREREQUISITE: Business Administration 665 – Financial Management I

FIN 654 – International Business Finance

International financial instruments, markets, and institutions; international trade and capital flows; foreign exchange risks and their management; direct and portfolio investment; implications for conduct of global business.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Describe the characteristics of foreign exchange markets

- Describe theories of purchasing-power and interest-rate parity and their predictions about prices in foreign exchange markets
- Calculate common measures of foreign exchange risk
- Calculate hedges using derivatives to achieve a desired level of foreign exchange risk exposure
- Assess alternative methods for financing international trade

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

MBA and MSBA Students seeking to explore financial management issues in a global environment context.

PREREQUISITE: Business Administration 665 – Financial Management I

FIN 656 – Financial Institutions

Techniques used by managers of financial institutions to measure and manage risks. Impact of the evolving regulatory and technological environment on the management of financial institutions.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Calculate appropriate measures of key risks facing financial institutions.
- Describe and appraise alternative techniques to manage prevalent risks facing financial institutions.
- Create simple models to estimate value-at-risk.
- In the context of a bank management simulation, develop and implement lending, investments, deposits, capital, and risk management strategies to create value.
- Discuss the impact of evolving regulatory and technological environments on the management of financial institutions.

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

MBA and MSBA students interested in careers in the financial services sector or financial risk management.

PREREQUISITE: Business Administration 665 – Financial Management I

FIN 659 – Decision Making in the World Economy

Application of macroeconomic theory to business decision making, study of economic environment and government macroeconomic policy from a business viewpoint.

PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Employ government macroeconomic statistics to assess the current business climate.
- Judge whether a firm's operating strategies and financial policies are consistent with economic conditions.

- Forecast the impact of government economic policies, especially monetary policy, on a business.
- Conduct country analysis to evaluate foreign direct and portfolio investment opportunities in a country.
- Forecast the impact of economic shocks and government policy decisions on interest rates, output, prices, and exchange rates using standard macroeconomic models.

FOR WHOM THE COURSE IS INTENDED

MBA and MSBA students interested in developing their skills in analyzing information on the economic climate and government policies as it pertains to business decisions. Useful to students planning to take the CFA or CFP exams.

PREREQUISITE: Classified graduate standing.



College of Business Administration
Leadership for the Global Marketplace

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