

Finance

Get to Know FINANCE

At Mississippi State University, the finance major in the Department of Finance and Economics is one of the most sought-after majors in the College of Business. The BBA in finance prepares students for careers in commercial banking, financial institutions, and financial departments within corporations and government organizations. Finance plays a central role in the operation of the economy and is crucial to an organized society's resource allocation system.



Individuals often come in contact with financial instruments (money, stocks, bonds, etc.) and financial institutions (banks, thrifts, insurance companies, etc.); thus, they need to understand the role of the financial system in managing their lifetime financial portfolio. Finance majors acquire the knowledge and skills to help individuals and companies make decisions regarding allocation of scarce resources through analyzing accounting data, utilizing economic concepts, and applying statistical tools in the valuation of financial and real assets.

The finance discipline focuses on the application of mathematics, statistical analysis, technology, and ethics to the decision-making process. A finance major will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for careers in banking, corporate finance, investments, and real estate.

For specialization, students may choose from a list of electives based on their interests and career preparation needs. Popular minors include accounting and economics. For those interested in working in the insurance industry, they can add a concentration in risk management and insurance (RMI). Every spring, RMI students can engage directly with industry professionals through dedicated networking events at MSU's annual Insurance Day.

To maximize the benefits of the finance degree, students are strongly encouraged to work closely with a faculty advisor to secure an internship and develop their personal program of study. Outside the classroom, students can participate in case study competitions, career fairs, networking and skill-building events, undergraduate research, and other experiential learning opportunities.

Flexible CHOICES

Finance students at Mississippi State University can enhance their degree by pairing it with other majors in the College of Business. Combining finance with accounting enhances employability and prepares students for potential roles in auditing, tax planning, corporate accounting, or investment banking. An economics minor can sharpen quantitative skills and prepare students for forecasting or financial analyst roles. A concentration in risk management and insurance prepares students to work in the insurance industry where they might investigate a claim, analyze a risk, or explain a policy to a client. These combinations allow students to customize their education and expand their career opportunities.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

The finance program at Mississippi State University offers select courses designed to provide hands-on experience and specialized knowledge. Notable courses include TVA Panel I and II where students analyze and select funds for a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) trust. Students design long-term investment strategies, place trades, and present performance reports to the TVA. In the Advanced Bank Management course, a student team partners with a locally owned bank to compete in the national Conference of State Bank Supervisors Community Bank Case Study Competition. Students conduct an original case study on a current topic relevant to the banking industry. These courses, along with the ability to pair finance with other business majors, offer a well-rounded education for diverse career opportunities.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance

Minor and Concentration OPTIONS

Popular Minors: Accounting and Economics

Concentrations: Risk Management Insurance, International Business

2025-2026

Finance MAJOR MAP

Bachelor in Business Administration in Finance



	1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3 RD YEAR	4 TH YEAR
GET THE COURSES YOU NEED	Take courses ACC 2013, BIS 1012, EC 2113, EC 2123, MA 1313, MA 1613, EN 1103, EN 1113	Take courses ACC 2023, BQA 2113, BL 2413	Take courses FIN 3123, FIN 3723, BIS 3233, BQA 3123, MGT 3113, MGT 3123, MKT 3013, SCL 3323	Take courses BUS 4853, FIN 4223, FIN 4423, FIN 4243 or 4433, ACC Elective, FIN Elective
GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	Join clubs like the Financial Management Association Student Chapter or Gamma Iota Sigma (a student group for those interested in the insurance industry)	Explore internship opportunities for the summer Seek leadership roles in extracurricular activities	Explore internship opportunities for the summer Apply for the VentureCatalyst™ Finance Internship Apply for undergraduate research positions	Participate in mock student interviews Present work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium and Showcase
GET ENGAGED WITH THE COMMUNITY	Find volunteer opportunities through Cowbell Connect	Volunteer with community organizations such as Starkville Strong or Habitat for Humanity	Attend alumni networking events	Become a student member of the Financial Management Association to connect with peers and gain access to career resources
GET ENGAGED GLOBALLY	Learn more about Global Game Changers Consider a concentration in International Business	Study Abroad	Study Abroad	Study Abroad
GET CAREER READY	Explore Connections, the Career Center's online job board Create a LinkedIn account and follow the College of Business Attend Career Fairs	Meet with COB liaison to the Career Center to improve your resume and refine your LinkedIn profile Take the Strong Interest Inventory online assessment to explore your career interests Attend Career Fairs	Research full-time employment and options and graduate schools Attend Career Fairs and Insurance Day	Meet with COB liaison to the Career Center to improve your resume and refine your LinkedIn profile Use VMock to hone your interview skills

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

Your time in the Mississippi State University Finance program will equip you with valuable skills to boost your employability, including:

- Fundamental skills to understand the role of the financial system and decision-making under uncertainty
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills relevant to the reading, creation, and interpretation of income statements, balance sheets, and sales projections
- Quantitative skills and the application of mathematics and statistical analysis to financial models and the valuation of financial assets
- Technological proficiency using advanced Excel techniques and data visualization
- Ethics of the decision-making process
- Verbal and written communication skills necessary to articulate complex financial concepts and strategy to both corporations and individual clients
- Ability to collaborate effectively and work in team settings

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ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Career **POSSIBILITIES**

Graduates of the Finance program at Mississippi State University can pursue careers in:

- Accountant
- Analyst
- Associate Banker
- Business Owner Credit Analyst
- Financial Advisor
- Internal Auditor
- Junior Financial Consultant
- Loan Processor
- Metal Bay Tech
- Personal Banker
- Product Engineer
- Staff Accountant Teller
- Actuary
- Claims Adjuster
- Insurance Agent

Major Hiring **FIRMS**

- American Fidelity
- Cadence Bank
- Citizens National Bank
- Edward Jones
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Gallagher
- Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance
- Mutual Omaha Insurance
- Sterling Group
- TBEI
- Tristate Financial Advisors
- Walt Disney Company

Placement **STATS**

- 93% Placement Rate (Successful Career Outcomes)

Average **STARTING SALARIES**

- \$64,000

Sourced by the MSU Career Center Survey

Experiential Learning Opportunities: **INTERNSHIPS**

- VentureCatalyst™ Finance Internship: Students work in the E-Center and gain real-life business experience focused on start-up valuation.

Specialized **COURSES**

- TVA Investment Challenge: Students invest half a million dollars in assets provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority
- Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) Community Bank Case Study Competition: A team partners with a local community bank to conduct an original case study on topics important to the banking industry.

Student **ORGANIZATIONS**

- Financial Management Association Student Chapter
- Economics Club
- Gamma Iota Sigma

Career **READY**

- Risk Management and Insurance Career Fair: Showcases job opportunities across all sectors of the insurance industry, including underwriting, insurance agencies, and both retail and wholesale brokerage.
- Banking Career Exchange: Connects students to industry employers from banks of all sizes as well as regulatory agencies.