

Financial Economics, MS

Department: Economics and Finance Department

College: Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

Overview

About This Degree

The master of science in financial economics is designed as a terminal, professional degree in financial economics. The curriculum includes courses in the key areas of finance and the supporting areas of economics and quantitative methods, and is designed to help students pass the first Chartered Financial Analyst exam at the end of their second semester in the program.

The CFA is the most internationally recognized and credible credential for financial professionals and is earned by passing a series of analytically rigorous exams. Students have the opportunity to work with qualified faculty members with extensive training in finance and financial macroeconomics. Faculty members are experts in economics and finance research and they have professional credentials and real-world experience.

The department is also one of the select few departments in the nation that provides students with access to Bloomberg Terminals and Training. These terminals not only support classroom instruction and faculty research, but provide a means for students to become certified in the use of Bloomberg, a skill that provides value to future employers once students begin their professional careers.

The oldest business school west of the Mississippi, USU has offered business degrees since 1894 and has long held prestigious accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International and continues to be on the forefront of advanced business education.

Career Options

The MSFE prepares students for a wide range of careers both within and outside the financial industry, including:

- Risk management
- Asset management
- Macroeconomic and financial forecasting
- Trading
- Financial and economic research

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

Students from various majors are welcome to apply; however, it is preferred that students have taken courses in intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomics, econometrics or statistics, mathematical economics/calculus, and corporate finance.

Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile for the verbal portion and above the 60th percentile for the quantitative portion on the GRE or GMAT
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following deadline:

- Fall semester – June 30
- In order to increase chances for financial assistance, students should apply by March 15.

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the MSFE by pursuing the following option:

- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

Financial Assistance

Most graduate students in this program receive placement as a [research assistant](#), which includes a one-year, \$9,000 stipend and subsidized [health insurance](#).

A variety of funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), [tuition awards](#), and [travel support](#).

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Science**.

Contact

Advisor(s)

Tyler Bowles

Department Head, Professor

Office: BUS 615

Phone: (435) 797-2378

Email: tyler.bowles@usu.edu

Faculty

Basudeb Biswas, PhD, University of Chicago

Professor

Area: International trade and economic development

Office: BUS 614

Phone: (435) 797-2304

Email: basudeb.biswas@usu.edu

Ben Blau, PhD, University of Mississippi

Assistant Professor

Area: Short-scale constraints, market efficiency informed trading

Office: BUS 603

Phone: (435) 797-2340

Email: ben.blau@usu.edu

Tyler Bowles, PhD, University of North Carolina

Department Head, Professor

Area: Econometrics, international economics

Office: BUS 615

Phone: (435) 797-2378

Email: tyler.bowles@usu.edu

Frank Caliendo, PhD, Utah State University

Associate Professor

Area: Macroeconomic dynamics with a focus on public and private pension design, behavioral economics and finance, saving for retirement, household finance, mathematics

Office: BUS 602

Phone: (435) 797-2963

Email: frank.caliendo@usu.edu

Drew Dahl, PhD, University of Tennessee

Howard Dance Professorship

Area: Financial institutions, international finance

Office: BUS 804

Phone: (435) 797-1911

Email: drew.dahl@usu.edu

Christopher Fawson, PhD, Texas A&M University

Senior Associate Dean

Area: Senior Associate Dean

Office: BUS 309

Phone: (435) 797-2320

Email: chris.fawson@usu.edu

James Feigenbaum, PhD, University of Iowa

Assistant Professor

Area: Lifecycle consumption and saving, macroeconomics, finance, econophysics

Office: BUS 620

Phone: (435) 797-2316

Email: j.feigen@aggiemail.usu.edu

T. Scott Findley, PhD, Colorado State University

Assistant Professor

Area: Pension design within the context of life-cycle consumption, saving theory

Office: BUS 612

Phone: (435) 797-2371

Email: tscott.findley@usu.edu

John Gilbert, PhD, University of Auckland

Vernon Maughan Buehler and MaRee C. Buehler Professor

Area: International trade theory and policy, applied general equilibrium modeling, development economics

Office: BUS 604

Phone: (435) 797-2314

Email: jgilbert@usu.edu

Terry Glover, PhD, Purdue University

Professor

Area: Production economics and policy

Office: BUS 607

Phone: (435) 797-2297

Email: terry.glover@usu.edu

Dwight Israelsen, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Director of International Academic Initiatives

Area: Comparative systems, economic history

Office: BUS 608

Phone: (435) 797-2298

Email: dwight.israelsen@usu.edu

Austin Kwag, PhD, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Associate Professor
Area: Investments, corporate finance
Office: BUS 605
Phone: (435) 797-2361
Email: austin.kwag@usu.edu

Robert Malko, PhD, Purdue University
Professor
Area: Corporate and energy utility finance
Office: BUS 606
Phone: (435) 797-2363
Email: jrmalko@comcast.net

Shannon Peterson, PhD, The Ohio State University
Clinical Assistant Professor
Area: History of economics, political science, international relations and trade
Office: BUS 309
Phone: (435) 797-3966
Email: shannon.peterson@usu.edu

Randy Simmons, PhD, University of Oregon
Professor
Area: Environmental politics and policy, public choice
Office: BUS 618
Phone: (435) 797-1310
Email: randy.simmons@usu.edu

Alan Stephens, PhD, University of Utah
Associate Professor
Area: Corporate finance, systems thinking, investments
Office: BUS 806
Phone: (435) 797-2367
Email: alan.stephens@usu.edu

Diana Thomas, PhD, George Mason University
Assistant Professor
Area: Public choice, development economics
Office: BUS 616
Phone: (435) 797-2013
Email: diana.thomas@usu.edu

Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters and **Western Regional Science Association:** Students are encouraged to submit papers to the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters and the Western Regional Science Association, both of which are multidisciplinary organizations that hold conferences where scholars present research.

Western Economic Association International: WEAI is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to encouraging and communicating economic research and analysis. The association's principal activities include publishing two refereed quarterly journals and staging scholarly conferences that are forums for current economic research.

Labs, Centers, Research

Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence: This center aids students in the creation of new organizations that promote independence and self-sufficiency and make significant contributions to the communities in which they operate. Some of the resources offered include a lecture series, tools for assessing business opportunities, branding services, web design, programming, student competitions, mentoring programs, marketing tools, workshops on critical topics, corporate partners, and funding sources for new ventures.

Entrepreneurship Research Group: Founded in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, the Entrepreneurship Research Group is based on the notion of engaged scholarship and administered as a scholarly think tank. The Research Group is a nationally recognized consortium of university scholars, corporate leaders, and qualified undergraduate students dedicated to high-quality research experiences who contribute to the business profession.

Huntsman Computer Laboratory: The computer lab in the business building has sophisticated statistical software, including E-Reviews, R, and SAS.

Huntsman Field Studies: As part of the field studies experience, students and faculty work together to provide consulting for companies and non-profit organizations in exchange for a modest financial contribution to the school. The program typically provides a variety of consulting opportunities from which to choose, such as marketing research, supply chain issues, establishing lean management systems, organizational design, employee satisfaction surveys, international business, entrepreneurial projects, and corporate strategy.

Partners in Business: Partners in Business professional business seminars feature speakers from the cream of the business and academic worlds. Seminars cover current and compelling business issues and provide in-depth training and continuing education for business professionals. Top-notch business students from USU are actively involved in coordinating seminars and running various aspects of the Partners program.

Small Enterprise Education and Development Program: SEED gives USU students an opportunity to work with people in developing economies. Students teach workshops about business principles, including tracking sales, and how to identify costs, manage cash, and develop a business plan. At the conclusion of the training, participants may be awarded funding by an external company. USU students continue to work with the funded businesses, helping them grow.