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

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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.