

# FINANCE

## MAJOR



## Finance Highlights

**Finance involves the study of how money is stored, protected, received, distributed and generally managed.** It is a broad area that tends to overlap into a number of specialized fields such as investment management, asset securitization, risk management, real estate and banking. The major in Finance offers a strong foundation in the principles of valuation, financial statement analysis and the concepts behind sound financial decision-making, preparing students for careers in, corporate, governmental or international markets.

Students interested in investment management learn analysis of financial investments and the economic interaction among the financial institutions and the financial markets in which they operate. Students interested in the corporate side of finance study asset and liability management, capital budgeting, capital structure and multinational financial management.

- The finance program is a **CFA® Institute Affiliation Program**. (CFA® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute.)
- **The CFA student team won the 2023 state CFA Investment Research Challenge** for a second year in a row.
- **The JMU Banking Team won 1st place in the 2022 national Community Bank Case Study Competition**, sponsored by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS).
- **Gaglioti Capital Markets Lab** features computers at every seat, with access to important industry software applications such as SAS, Analytic Solver and Crystal Ball. Bloomberg terminals keep students and faculty connected to relevant and up-to-the-minute data for the finance world.
- Each fall, **the Meet the Firms event** offers ACTG, FIN and CIS majors a unique opportunity to network with firms in a career fair format.
- The College of Business is **one of 5% of business schools with AACSB international accreditation** (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

## Career Possibilities

Bank Examiner  
Financial Advisor  
Financial Analyst  
Financial Risk Manager  
Investment Analyst  
Investment Banker  
Loan Officer  
Portfolio Analyst  
Portfolio Manager  
Research Analyst  
Securities Trader

### RECOMMENDED MINORS

Business Analytics  
Computer Information Systems  
Economics  
Math  
Statistics

### CO-CURRICULAR ORGANIZATIONS

Choose from more than 25 College of Business co-ed fraternities, clubs and honor societies to connect with peers and build leadership skills.

The Madison Investment Fund is a student-run equity investment fund that manages a portion of the JMU endowment.



For more details, scan the QR code or visit: [jmu.edu/cob/finance](http://jmu.edu/cob/finance)



## Differential Tuition

As a student in the College of Business (CoB), you'll pay "differential tuition," an additional fee over JMU's standard tuition. This enables us to add significant value to your overall academic experience, and is a practice common among top business schools. These funds help ensure that our students gain a competitive edge for internships and job openings by providing hands-on experiences such as career treks, professional networking opportunities and career-development activities.



— JORDAN PRATT ('23),  
BANK OF AMERICA  
MERRILL LYNCH

"JMU's finance department opened doors for tremendous opportunities for a career in the financial world . . . I am more confident in myself and my financial knowledge because of the devoted faculty, state-of-the-art resources and connections I have gained as a JMU Finance student."

## Starting Compensation\*

College of Business Major	Avg. Starting Compensation
Finance B.B.A.	\$77,164
<b>Avg. / Bus. Majors</b>	<b>\$75,969</b>

\*This report highlights the post-graduation pursuits for 89% of the CoB Spring Class of 2023 bachelor's degree recipients.

## Curriculum Highlights

### THREE CONCENTRATION OPTIONS

Many James Madison University finance graduates go on to careers in financial analysis and the need for financial analysts remains strong. The **Financial Analysis concentration** helps prepare students for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exams and for analysis within the financial management of a firm.

**A focus in Risk Management** is designed for Finance majors pursuing a more in-depth review of the issues facing organizations and the tools needed to address those uncertainties. In the risk-management concentration, students focus on the theory of risk management, risk identification, risk measurement and applications in the form of risk modeling techniques such as value-at-risk and Monte Carlo simulations. The risk-management concentration helps prepare students for the Financial Risk Managers (FRM) exams.

The changing landscape of finance requires increased knowledge of technology and data analytics. The **Financial Technology and Analytics concentration** will prepare students to be agile in financial information systems and expose them to various analytical and visualization tools.

### COB ACCEPTANCE

After completing the lower-level B.B.A Core Courses and earning at least a 2.7 average GPA in those courses (excluding calculus and managerial accounting) students may apply for formal acceptance into the College of Business and become eligible for upper-level courses.

### LOWER B.B.A. CORE COURSES\*

- COB 191 - Business Analytics I\*\*
- COB 202 - Interpersonal Skills
- COB 204 - Computer Information Systems
- COB 241 - Financial Accounting
- COB 242 - Managerial Accounting
- COB 291 - Business Analytics II
- ECON 200 - Intro to Macroeconomics
- ECON 201 - Intro to Microeconomics
- MATH 205 or 235 - Calculus\*\*

\*official curriculum requirements are listed in the JMU Undergraduate Catalog  
\*\*or equivalent

In addition to completing major required courses, finance majors will obtain both Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) and Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) Certifications.