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
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.

Curriculum Highlights

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.

“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.”

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

Starting Compensation*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College of Business Major</th>
<th>Avg. Starting Compensation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finance B.B.A.</td>
<td>$77,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. / Bus. Majors</td>
<td>$75,969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

jmu.edu/cob/finance