

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.)
- A team of students won **first place in the 2022 Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s "Academic Challenge."**
- The finance program landed at **No. 27 on UniversityHQ's list of the Best Finance College and Universities in the U.S.** for 2021, the highest ranking of any school in Virginia.
- **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.





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.



— MADISON FAZIO ('17),
SENIOR ANALYST,
MADISON INVESTMENT FUND

"I would not be where I am today without the profound professors who are devoted to teaching students both in and outside of the classroom, the prestigious finance clubs and organizations and the extraordinary financial equipment that is available to students at JMU."

Starting Salaries*

College of Business Major	Avg. Starting Salary
Finance B.B.A.	\$70,428
Avg. / All Majors	\$67,151
Avg. Signing Bonus	\$5,700

*This report highlights the post-graduation pursuits for 65% of the CoB Class of 2022 May 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*

*or equivalent

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