

Master's Programs in Finance

Orientation 2023

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Welcome to Maryland Smith!

Welcome to the Master of Finance (MFin) and Master of Quantitative Finance (MQF) Programs!

Introduction

- The Smith School offers two premier finance Master's programs
- The Master of Finance (MFin) program started in 2009
 - Ranked #5 in the US by Financial Times in 2022
 - It is now STEM-eligible which gives international students a 24-month OPT extension
- The Master of Quantitative Finance (MQF) is a newer degree program starting in 2018
 - It serves a growing need in the finance industry for professionals with sophisticated quantitative and computation skills
 - It is STEM-eligible which gives international students a 24-month OPT extension



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THE PROGRAM



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Master of Finance

- The program consists of 30 course credits
 - Most courses have 2 credits each
 - 12 credits (6 courses) are required/core courses
 - The remaining 18 credits (9 courses) are elective courses



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The program can be completed in 9 or 15 months

Term	Aug		May		A	Dec
	A	B	C	D		
9-month	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective		
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective		
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective		
		Elective	Elective	Elective		

15-month	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective	Elective
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective	Elective
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective	Elective



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Master of Quantitative Finance

- The program consists of 36 course credits
 - Most courses have 2 credits each
 - 16 credits (8 courses) are required/core courses
 - The remaining 20 credits (10 courses) are elective courses



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The program can be completed in 15 or 21 months

Term	Aug					Dec		May
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
15-month	CORE	CORE	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective		
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective		
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective		
21-month	CORE	CORE	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
	CORE	CORE	Elective	Elective				



Electives

- Any BUFN class may be taken for credit.
- Up to six (6) credits may be taken outside of finance.
 - Typical non-finance classes include accounting, data analytics, statistics, and economics classes
 - There is a list of pre-approved classes. Anything else needs permission from the Academic Director.
- PhD-level finance classes may be taken with permission.



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THE CURRICULUM



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Curriculum: Three Building Blocks

Corporate Finance
& Risk Management

Investments

Numerical
Methods

MFIN: 6 Core Classes + Electives

Financial Management
Valuation

Capital Markets
Derivatives

Financial Analytics
Machine Learning

ELECTIVES



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Curriculum: Three Building Blocks

Corporate Finance
& Risk Management

Investments

Numerical
Methods

MQF: 8 Core Classes + Electives

Financial Management
Valuation

Capital Markets
Derivatives

Financial Analytics
Machine Learning

Financial Mathematics
Financial Programming

ELECTIVES



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Sample Curriculum

Focus: Corporate and Risk Management

2 + 7

2 + 2

2

Financial Management Valuation	Capital Markets Derivatives	Financial Analytics Machine Learning
Financial Analysis and Modeling	Fixed Income	
Corporate Strategy	Institutional Asset Management	
Corporate Restructuring		
International Finance		
Enterprise and Credit RM		
Financial and Non-Financial RM		
Venture Capital and Private Equity		



Sample Curriculum

Focus: Asset Management

2

2 + 6

2 + 3

Financial Management	Capital Markets	Financial Analytics
Valuation	Derivatives	Machine Learning
	Fixed Income	
	Fixed Income Derivatives	Financial Programming
	Portfolio Management	Financial Engineering
	Quantitative Investment	Textual Analysis
	Institutional Asset Management	
	Market Microstructure	



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Sample Curriculum

Quantitative Finance

2 + 2

2 + 4

4 + 4

Financial Management	Capital Markets	Financial Analytics
Valuation	Derivatives	Machine Learning
Enterprise and Credit RM	Fixed Income	Financial Math
Financial and Non-Financial RM	Fixed Income Derivatives	Financial Programming
	Portfolio Management	Financial Engineering
	Quantitative Investment	Textual Analysis
		Big Data
		Fintech



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ELPs, GEF, and Independent Study

- Some students also take ELP's (experiential learning projects), GEF (global equity fund), and/or independent studies, as elective credits.
- These opportunities require special approval, and admission is competitive.
- These classes may be for one, two, or more credits and count toward your 30/36 credits, so you must plan carefully to keep in line with your proposed graduation date.



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ACADEMIC MATTERS



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GPA Requirements

- The Graduate School requires that you always keep a 3.0 GPA to maintain good standing.
- If you dip below a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of any semester, you will be on academic probation and can be reinstated upon improvement.
- If you ultimately do not get above the required average, you will not graduate.
 - The Graduate School will never make exceptions to this policy.



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Academic Integrity

- Be aware of the [Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Codes](#).
- If you are not sure what is allowed, ASK!
- This is a **very** serious issue.
 - The recommended penalty for cheating in graduate level classes is expulsion.



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International Students

- You must take at least four (4) credits in each term to maintain your visa status.
 - For example, you cannot take a heavy load in one term and then take one or zero classes another term. The only exception is your final term.
- A 3.0 cumulative GPA is also required for international students to be eligible for CPT.



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Former Plus-One Students

- Former plus-one students who have already completed 10 graduate credits should generally aim to graduate in two semesters for MFIN and three semesters for MQF.
- If you start with fewer than 10 graduate credits, your load will need to be higher in some terms to graduate in one year.



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Expectations

- Be prepared. Be active. Eager to Learn.
 - Check information on Canvas and get ready for class
 - Participate in classroom discussion and group studies
- Hard-working. Professionalism.
 - Always try your best
 - Be professional to your teachers, school staff, and fellow students.
- Be responsible.
 - Plan travel around academic schedule. Be sure to check with individual professors.
- Be proactive on job search.
 - Pay attention to emails from the Office of Career Services (OCS). Be sure to accurately fill out job status in OCS surveys in the future.



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COVID Updates

- Proof of vaccination is currently not required. However, it is HIGHLY recommended.
- Masks are not required on campus, although it is recommended for added protection.
- Check the university's website for the up-to-date guidelines
 - <https://umd.edu/4Maryland>



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Questions?



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