

M.S. in Finance Academic Assessment Plan

Warrington College of Business Administration
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Office of the Provost

*University of
Florida*

*Institutional
Assessment*

*Continuous Quality
Enhancement*

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Academic Assessment Plan for M.S. in Finance

Warrington College of Business Administration

A. Mission

Program

The mission of the Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program is to graduate students with the necessary hard and soft skills for jobs as financial analysts.

College

To create influential research and educate exceptional business leaders and decision makers who contribute to a better society

University

The University of Florida is a public land-grant, sea-grant and space-grant research university, one of the most comprehensive in the United States. The university encompasses virtually all academic and professional disciplines. It is the largest and oldest of Florida's eleven universities, a member of the Association of American Universities and has high national rankings by academic assessment institutions. Its faculty and staff are dedicated to the common pursuit of the university's threefold mission: teaching, research and service.

The University of Florida belongs to a tradition of great universities. Together with its undergraduate and graduate students, UF faculty participate in an educational process that links the history of Western Europe with the traditions and cultures of all societies, explores the physical and biological universes and nurtures generations of young people from diverse backgrounds to address the needs of the world's societies.

The university welcomes the full exploration of its intellectual boundaries and supports its faculty and students in the creation of new knowledge and the pursuit of new ideas.

- **Teaching** is a fundamental purpose of this university at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- **Research and scholarship** are integral to the educational process and to the expansion of our understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses.
- **Service** reflects the university's obligation to share the benefits of its research and knowledge for the public good. The university serves the nation's and the state's critical needs by contributing to a well-qualified and broadly diverse citizenry, leadership and workforce.

The University of Florida must create the broadly diverse environment necessary to foster multi-cultural skills and perspectives in its teaching and research for its students to contribute and succeed in the world of the 21st century.

These three interlocking elements — teaching, research and scholarship, and service — span all the university's academic disciplines and represent the university's commitment to lead and serve the state of Florida, the nation and the world by pursuing and disseminating new knowledge while building upon the experiences of the past. The university aspires to advance by strengthening the human condition and improving the quality of life.

Shared

The MSF program goal to educate students in critical finance skills for success in industry supports the college and university mission to disseminate knowledge.

B. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

SLO Type	SLO #	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Degree Delivery
Knowledge	1	Produce a valuation of financial claims	The MSF Program Director and AOL faculty committee assembled a comprehensive exam designed to be very similar in topical coverage and format as the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level II exam. The exam is administered to all students during the final two weeks of study in the program.	Campus
Skills	2	Synthesize financial and economic data, apply the appropriate framework, and recommend a financial strategy	An initial asset allocation report embedded in the FIN 6525 - Asset Project Management course assesses this SLO.	Campus
Skills	3	Independently assess financial strategies	An initial asset allocation report and monthly performance reports embedded in the FIN 6525 - Asset Project Management course assesses this SLO.	Campus
Professional Behavior	4	Write business documents and make clear, concise presentations that are supported by convincing analysis	An initial asset allocation report and presentation embedded in the FIN 6525 - Asset Project Management course assesses this SLO.	Campus

C. Research

The MSF Program is a non-thesis program which offers an accelerated and challenging finance curriculum for outstanding students that have identified job placement goals in the finance industry.

D. Curriculum Map

Program M.S. in Finance

Warrington College of Business Administration

Key: Introduced

Reinforced

Assessed

SLOs	ECO 5715	REE 6045 REE 6208	FIN 6427 FIN 6429 FIN6434	FIN 6438 FIN 6465 FIN 6545	FIN 6547 FIN 6638 FIN 6935	FIN 6525 Asset Allocation Project Course	Comprehensive Exam
Knowledge							
#1	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R		A
Skills							
#2	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R	A	
#3	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R	A	
Professional Behavior							
#4	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R	A	

E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:

Program M.S. in Finance Warrington College of Business Administration

Analysis and Interpretation: May - June

Program Modifications: Completed by September

Dissemination: Completed by November

SLOs	Year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Content Knowledge							
#1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skills							
#3		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
#4		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professional Behavior							
#5		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

F. Measurement Tools

Course-embedded measures, including the following:

- A final comprehensive exam based on the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) exam
- Monthly performance evaluation reports embedded in the Asset Allocation Project Course
- Initial asset allocation report embedded in the Asset Allocation Project Course
- Initial asset allocation presentation embedded in the Asset Allocation Project Course.

The following information outlines the methods used for this measure.

Comprehensive Exam

The MSF Program Director and AOL faculty committee assembled an exam designed to be very similar in topical coverage and format as the CFA Level II exam. The exam is administered to all students during the final two weeks of study in the program. The exam is graded by June 1st and a report of the scores by student and by subject area will be presented to the faculty teaching in the program.

Asset Allocation Project Course

Work product from the Asset Allocation Project Course (FIN 6525), a required course for all MSF students, will be used to assess the “ability to synthesize financial and economic data, apply the appropriate framework, and recommend a financial strategy”, “ability to independently evaluate financial strategies”, and “effective communication skills” learning goals. The format of the course is as follows. Teams of students develop an asset allocation designed to outperform a predetermined benchmark portfolio. The paper portfolios are tracked from approximately October

1 to April 1. Students actively manage the portfolios throughout the year and write monthly performance evaluations.

The exercises of forming a portfolio, managing the portfolio, and reporting on the portfolio performance requires the students to (1) gather financial and economic data and research markets in real time so as to form assessments about the relative strengths of various asset classes (critical analysis of finance problems), (2) translate the views about asset classes into portfolio allocations (problem solving and decision making skills), and (3) present the analysis in coherent form (effective communication skills).

Rubrics will be tallied and data from the following reports and presentation will be collected.

Monthly Performance Evaluation Reports

Each student is required to write a monthly portfolio performance report. A committee of the MSF Program Director and additional faculty members will score the report for the purposes of determining the extent that learning objectives associated with effective communication skills and critical analysis learning goals are met.

Rubric for Evaluation of Monthly Performance Evaluation Reports

	Weak - 0	Acceptable - 1	Outstanding -2
Critical Thinking			
Ability to relate market conditions to asset class performance		Coherent interpretation of macro economic events	Deep analysis of macro economic events relative to information embedded in prices
Effective Communication			
Well Structured report		Report includes identifiable themes	Report is built around identifiable themes
Effective Use of Graphs and Charts		Report contains self contained graphs and charts	Report includes creative and effective graphs and charts

Initial Asset Allocation Written Report

A committee of the MSF Program Director and two other faculty members will score the initial asset allocation report for the purposes of determining the extent that learning objectives associated with effective communication skills and problem solving learning goals are met.

Rubric for Evaluation of Initial Asset Allocation Report

	Weak - 0	Acceptable - 1	Outstanding -2
Problem Solving			
Initial Asset Allocation Analytics		Sound use of historical data for model inputs	Model inputs reflect deep financial economic analysis
Effective Communication			
Well Structured report		Report includes identifiable themes	Report is built around identifiable themes
Effective Use of Graphs and Charts		Report contains self contained graphs and charts	Report includes creative and effective graphs and charts

Initial Asset Allocation Presentation

A committee of the MSF Program Director and two other faculty members will score the initial asset allocation presentation for the purposes of determining the extent that learning objectives associated with effective communication skills are met.

Rubric for Evaluation of Initial Asset Allocation Presentation

	Weak - 0	Acceptable - 1	Outstanding -2
Effective Communication			
Effective Slide Presentation		Clear points on each slide	Highly Effective presentation
Well Structured Presentation		Report includes identifiable themes	Report is built around identifiable themes
Effective Use of Graphs and Charts		Report contains self contained graphs and charts	Report includes creative and effective graphs and charts

G. Assessment Oversight

Here, list the names and contact information of those who oversee the assessment process in your program. Add or delete rows as needed.

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David Brown	Finance Department	david.brown@warrington.ufl.edu	352-392-2820