

Financial Engineering

The objective of the M.S. in Financial Engineering program is to provide students with a strong education in advanced finance, risk management, and quantitative financial analysis tools, grounded in a common series of courses. This sequence will provide key concepts from financial theory, applied mathematics, and engineering. With these building blocks, program graduates will become instrumental in the creation of innovative solutions for real financial problems using state-of-the-art analytical techniques and computing technology.

This program equips students with the necessary skill set to prepare for the Financial Risk Manager® examination offered by The Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP). (<http://www.garp.org/>)

Prerequisites

Applicants must show basic competency in the following areas: investments, probability and statistics, and calculus. These courses will not count toward the master's degree. Examples are given from Lehigh courses; prerequisites do not need to be taken at Lehigh.

Investments-REQUIRED

FIN 323	Investments (OR)	3
GBUS 420	Investments (OR)	3
Equivalent course		

Statistics and Probability-REQUIRED

MATH 231	Probability and Statistics (OR)	3
ISE 328	(OR)	3

Equivalent introductory calculus-based statistics and probability course

Calculus Series-REQUIRED

MATH 021	Calculus I (AND)	0,4
MATH 022	Calculus II (OR)	4

Equivalent calculus series

Financial Accounting-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

ACCT 108	Fundamentals of Accounting (OR)	3
ACCT 151	Introduction to Financial Accounting (OR)	3
GBUS 401	Financial Reporting for Managers and Investors (OR)	3

Equivalent accounting course

Corporate Finance-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

FIN 328	Corporate Financial Policy (OR)	3
GBUS 419	Financial Management (OR)	3

Equivalent course

Linear Algebra-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

MATH 205	Linear Methods (OR)	3
MATH 242	Linear Algebra (OR)	3-4

Equivalent course

Calculus - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

MATH 023	Calculus III (OR)	4
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Equivalent Course

To those admitted without business coursework: Instructors teaching in the MFE Program's Coursework assume that all prospective students have met the prerequisite business foundation requirements. Although we only require an Investments course, we assume that the student has a background in financial accounting, introductory finance, corporate finance, and investments. Please note you will be competing against students within the classroom that have all these business foundation courses. You are encouraged to gain the necessary background by either taking these courses prior to coming to Lehigh or taking these foundation courses during your first term.

To those admitted without the quantitative coursework: Instructors teaching in the MFE Program's Coursework assume that all prospective students have met the prerequisite mathematics foundation requirements. Although we only require a 2-course Calculus series and a math-based Probability/Statistics course, we recommend an Advanced Calculus course, as well as a course in

Linear Algebra. Please note you will be competing against students within the classroom that have all these additional foundation courses. You are encouraged to gain the necessary background by either taking these courses prior to coming to Lehigh or taking these foundation courses during your first term.

Required Courses

CORE: 6 courses (18 credits)

MATH 467	Stochastic Calculus	3
MATH 312	Statistical Computing and Applications (OR)	3,4
STAT 410	Random Processes and Applications	3
GBUS 421	Advanced Investments (Fixed Income)	3
GBUS 422	Derivatives and Risk Management	3
ISE 426	Optimization Models and Applications	3
ISE 447	Financial Optimization	3

ELECTIVES: Choose 3 courses (9 credits) from one of the following 3 tracks

Quantitative Risk Track		
MATH 468	Financial Stochastic Analysis	3
STAT 439	Time Series and Forecasting	3
GBUS 424	Advanced Topics in Financial Management (Risk Management)	3

Data Science & Financial Analytics Track		
ISE 465	Applied Data Mining	3
ISE 444	Optimization Methods in Machine Learning	3
STAT 438	Statistical Models in Data Science	3
CSB 442	Blockchain: Mathematical Foundations and Financial Applications	3

Financial Operations Track		
GBUS 426	Financial Markets and Institutions	3
GBUS 421	Advanced Investments (Security Analysis)	3
GBUS 424	Advanced Topics in Financial Management (Valuation)	3

Machine Learning Requirement: Choose 1 course (3 credits)

CSE 326	Fundamentals of Machine Learning (OR)	3
CSE 426	Fundamentals of Machine Learning	3
ISE 364	Introduction to Machine Learning	3
STAT 465	Statistical Machine Learning	3

Capstone: 2 courses (4 credits)

GBUS 485	Financial Engineering Practicum Capstone I	2
GBUS 487	Financial Engineering Practicum Capstone II	2

Developmental: 2 course sequence (2 credits)

GBUS 482	Financial Engineering Professional Development I	1
GBUS 483	Financial Engineering Professional Development II	1

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED FOR DEGREE 36

financial engineering Certificate Programs

The M.S. in Financial Engineering Program offers three certificate programs to candidates in the MFE program. Certificates are available in Data Science & Financial Analytics, Quantitative Risk Management, or Financial Operations Research and may be earned by completing an additional two courses for a total of 36 credit hours. Candidates for the MFE degree do not need to apply initially for certificate programs.

Students meet with any Program Director to select their certificate choice (if any) once they are enrolled in the program.

Certificate programs enhance skills and development by allowing additional exploration in three main functional areas.

1. Data Science & Financial Analytics (DSFA) Certificate

The objective is to provide students with a unique skill set preparing them for careers in the interdisciplinary field of Data Science and Financial Analytics, with particular application to the financial services industry. Skills developed include working with massive data sets, data-driven analytical methodologies, SAS and R programming, Data Mining, and Machine Learning.

Curriculum: 12 Credits

ISE 465	Applied Data Mining (REQUIRED)	3
One of the two courses below:		3
ISE 467	(OR)	
ISE 444	Optimization Methods in Machine Learning	
AND		
MATH 312	Statistical Computing and Applications (REQUIRED)	3
One of two data-intensive finance courses below:		3
GBUS 422	Derivatives and Risk Management (OR)	
GBUS 424	Advanced Topics in Financial Management (Risk Management)	

2. Quantitative Risk Management (QRM) Certificate

The objective is to train students in the quantitative methodologies and regulatory practices that are essential for risk management functions within a financial institution. Prepares students for and reinforces material from the FRM examination. The Financial Risk Manager (FRM) designation is the premier certification for professionals in financial risk management. The two-part exam contains the following topics, many of which overlap the curriculum of the MSFE program: Financial Markets and Products, Valuation and Risk Models, Quantitative Analysis, Foundations of Risk Management, Market Risk, Credit Risk, Operational Risk, Risk Management and Investment Management, and Current Regulatory Issues. Furthermore, Lehigh's MSFE program is an Academic Partner of the Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP) who administers the FRM certification.

Curriculum: 12 credits

GBUS 422	Derivatives and Risk Management	3
GBUS 424	Advanced Topics in Financial Management (Risk Management)	3
GBUS 426	Financial Markets and Institutions	3
ONE of the following MATH/STAT courses:		
STAT 434/MATH 334	Mathematical Statistics	3
MATH/STAT 461	Topics In Mathematical Statistics	3
STAT 438/MATH 338	Statistical Models in Data Science	3

3. Financial Operations Research

The objective is to provide the student with an understanding of the fundamental techniques underlying Operations Research Techniques that are of ubiquitous use in all areas of business today like Linear Programming, Game Theory, Dynamic Programming, Integer Programming, Nonlinear Programming, and Machine Learning.

Curriculum: 12 Credits

ISE 426	Optimization Models and Applications (REQUIRED)	3
ISE 447	Financial Optimization (REQUIRED)	3
Two (2) electives from the following courses:		
ISE 458	Game Theory (OR)	3
ECO 463	Topics in Game Theory	3
ISE 455	Optimization Algorithms and Software	3

ISE 407	Numerical Methods and Scientific Computing	3
ISE 416	Dynamic Programming	3
ISE 444	Optimization Methods in Machine Learning	3
ISE 467		

PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MFE program (<https://business.lehigh.edu/academics/graduate/masters-programs/ms-financial-engineering/admissions-information/>) will be based on the applicants essay, resume or CV, transcripts, 2 letters of recommendation, interview, and/or GMAT/GRE test scores if the applicant chooses to submit test scores. International students must show English proficiency. (<https://business.lehigh.edu/graduate/english-language-proficiency/>)

Lehigh undergraduate students may opt for a 4+1 program (<https://business.lehigh.edu/academics/graduate/masters-programs/ms-financial-engineering/accelerated-program/>) that would allow the M.S. in Financial Engineering degree to be completed in an accelerated mode.

Further information about the M.S. in Financial Engineering Program may be obtained by visiting the MFE website (<https://business.lehigh.edu/academics/graduate/masters-programs/ms-financial-engineering/>), contacting the Graduate Programs Office of the College of Business (<https://business.lehigh.edu/graduate/contact/>) or contacting the program manager/co-directors:

Program Manager

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