

# FINANCE

## Graduate Programs

Concentrations in finance are offered through the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Quantitative Financial Economics and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

## The Master of Science in Quantitative Finance (MSQF) Degree

(See "Business Administration (<http://catalog.okstate.edu/spears-business/watson-graduate-school/>).")

The Master of Science in Quantitative Finance Degree. The discipline of quantitative finance continues to evolve, spurred by business and financial institution demand for quantitative skills where more emphasis is on quantitative methods from regulatory authorities. Oklahoma State University offers a Master of Science Degree in Quantitative Finance (MSQF) to meet this demand. The objective of the MSQF is to produce graduates with quantitative skill sets necessary to support advanced financial and economic decision-making that includes rigorous financial-modeling, mathematical, and statistical skills.

The MSQF is a Spears School of Business degree program that draws on the combined expertise of five OSU departments—Finance, Economics, Mathematics, Statistics and Agricultural Economics. The program is designed to produce graduates with the skills necessary to participate in critical decision making processes at all levels of the organization. The program focuses on the analytical methods necessary for effective participation in the fields of financial management, investment management, risk management, and financial engineering. The program provides students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to projects that utilize quantitative financial tools and techniques. Quantitative finance embraces the role of advanced mathematics in applied finance. There is extensive use of mathematics, probability theory and financial economics, and the OSU program trains students not to become employees with just quantitative skills but financial managers who are equipped with a thorough understanding of quantitative finance.

The MSQF is a 33 credit-hour program. The core 27 hours consists of classes required of all students in the program.

The admission requirements include an earned undergraduate degree from a college or university of recognized standards. In addition to the Oklahoma State University Graduate College's standard requirements, the program's Curriculum Committee will consider the applicant's letters of recommendation, GMAT or GRE score, previous academic performance and financial/statistical modeling experience.

Additional information about the program is available on the Internet at <https://go.okstate.edu/graduate-academics/programs/masters/quantitative-financial-economics-ms.html>.

## The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

A PhD in business administration with concentration in finance prepares the student for careers in academia, business, or government.

The program is designed to meet the needs and objectives of individual students but all students will seek an in-depth understanding of the theoretical foundations of financial economics, and develop research competency and teaching skills. The small class size provides a

supportive environment conducive to the exchange of ideas and the development of new insights by both faculty and students.

Students will select finance as their major area of study. Two areas of concentration are also to be selected. As support for the major field of study, each student is required to attain graduate-level competence in economic theory and quantitative methods.

Prerequisites for admission to the program are appropriate basic courses in accounting, calculus, economics, finance, and statistics.

Competence in planning and executing research is demonstrated by a dissertation. In addition, each candidate must pass comprehensive qualifying examinations and a final oral examination on the dissertation itself.

Outstanding students with degrees in any field of study may apply. Applications for admission are evaluated on the basis of the following:

1. undergraduate and graduate grade-point averages,
2. score on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or Graduation Record Examination (GRE),
3. a two- or three-page statement describing goals and academic interests,
4. at least three letters of recommendation,
5. evidence of research potential, and
6. a personal interview when feasible.

It is the applicant's responsibility to see that all materials related to these criteria are received by the Department of Finance. Additional information about the program is available on the internet at <https://go.okstate.edu/graduate-academics/programs/doctoral/business-administration-option-in-finance-phd.html>.