

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MASTER OF (M.B.A.)/BUSINESS, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN FINANCE [DUAL DEGREE]

Advanced study in business administration and finance is available through a dual degree program sponsored by the School of Business.

The dual degree Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Business with a concentration in finance program allows students to earn two degrees with a minimum of 63 graduate credits rather than the 75 graduate credits necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while also reducing time to earning both degrees.

Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may effectively increase the number of credits needed to earn the degrees.

Program goals

The objectives of this dual degree program are to:

- Prepare individuals to be not just effective finance professionals but also leaders and managers in today's organizations
- Provide the ability to develop and use financial models and data for making managerial decisions and achieving strategic organizational goals.
- Develop interpersonal and professional skills critical to business, including communication and presentation skills, leadership and management, and situational awareness, among others

Among the many benefits offered by participation in the dual degree program are the following:

- Complementing the general management skills obtained in the M.B.A. with a solid specialization in finance
- Enhanced ability to effectively compete for managerial positions not just in finance but across a wide spectrum of levels and areas in today's organizations
- Enhanced job prospects – particularly for candidates intending to switch careers or striving to move up within their organizations
- The ability to effectively complete both degrees within a shorter time frame with considerable time and tuition savings through the 12 shared credits

The diplomas for this dual degree program may be awarded sequentially or simultaneously.

Students are not required to begin both programs in the same semester, but must be enrolled in both degrees for at least one semester prior to graduation from either program for credits to be shared across programs.

Student learning outcomes

See each degree program page for student learning outcomes.

Other information

Advising

A program manager will serve as an adviser and administrative liaison for students. The assigned program manager will assist in developing a plan of study to meet the curriculum requirements of both programs. A faculty adviser from the Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate will help students consider electives that will best serve their professional goals.

Admission requirements

Students must officially apply and be admitted to each degree program separately before the pursuit of the dual degree program may begin. It is not required to begin both programs in the same semester. View the application requirements for each program for additional details.

Degree requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 63 total credits to earn the Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Business with a concentration in finance.

A total of 12 credits may be counted toward both programs:

Course	Title	Hours
FIRE 621	Cases in Financial Management (core requirement for M.S.; satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
FIRE 622	Financial Intermediation and Analysis of Fixed-income Securities (core requirement for M.S.; satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
FIRE 623	Financial Management (core requirement for both degrees)	3
FIRE 635	Investments and Security Analysis (core requirement for M.S.; satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3

The diplomas for this dual degree program may be awarded sequentially or simultaneously.

Curriculum requirements for the dual degree

Course	Title	Hours
M.B.A. requirements		
• Required courses		
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3
ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	3
ECON 610	Managerial Economics	3
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3
FIRE 623	Financial Management (core requirement for both degrees)	3
INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers	3
INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	3
MGMT 641	Leading People and Organizations	3
MGMT 642	Business Policy and Strategy	3
MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3

SCMA 675	Operations Management	3
• Electives		
Satisfied by FIRE 621, FIRE 622 and FIRE 635		9
M.S. requirements		
• Required courses		
FIRE 610	Financial Modeling and Analysis	3
FIRE 621	Cases in Financial Management (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
FIRE 622	Financial Intermediation and Analysis of Fixed-income Securities (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
FIRE 623	Financial Management (core requirement for both degrees)	3
FIRE 635	Investments and Security Analysis (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
• Approved electives		12
Select four from the following:		
ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	
ECON 617	Financial Markets	
FIRE 540	Financial Analytics	
FIRE 626	Risk Management	
FIRE 629	Cases in Real Estate	
FIRE 639	International Finance	
FIRE 650	Derivatives	
FIRE 654	Short-term Financial Management	
FIRE 657	Current Issues in Investments and Markets	
FIRE 658	Real Estate Finance and Investments	
FIRE 664	Current Issues in Corporate Finance	
FIRE 691	Topics in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	
FIRE 693	Field Project in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	
or FIRE 697	Guided Study in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	
• Free elective		3
Select one course from the following:		
ACCT (any 600-level)		
ECON (any 600-level)		
FIRE (any 600-level)		
INFO 610	Analysis and Design of Database Systems	
INFO 614	Data Mining	
MGMT 644	International Business Management	
MGMT 655	Entrepreneurship	
MKTG 656	International Marketing	
MKTG 673	Marketing Research	
SCMA 632	Statistical Analysis and Modeling	
SCMA 643	Applied Multivariate Methods	
SCMA 669	Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business	
Total Hours		63

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree is 63.

Sample plan of study

What follows is an example plan that meets the prescribed requirements. Students may work with their adviser to consider an individual enrollment plan that best meets their goals. Part-time enrollment and summer courses may be considered.

Year one

Fall semester		Hours
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3
INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	3
SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3
Term Hours:		12

Spring semester

ECON 610	Managerial Economics	3
INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers	3
MGMT 641	Leading People and Organizations	3
SCMA 675	Operations Management	3
Term Hours:		12

Year two

Fall semester		Hours
ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	3
FIRE 623	Financial Management (core requirement for both degrees)	3
MGMT 642	Business Policy and Strategy	3
MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
Term Hours:		12

Spring semester

FIRE 622	Financial Intermediation and Analysis of Fixed-income Securities (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
FIRE 635	Investments and Security Analysis (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
FIRE 650	Derivatives	3
Finance elective		3
Term Hours:		12

Year three

Fall semester		Hours
FIRE 621	Cases in Financial Management (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
Finance electives		9
Term Hours:		12

Spring semester

Free elective		3
Term Hours:		3
Total Hours:		63

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree is 63.

Contact

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Additional contact

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Program website: business.vcu.edu/academics/mba-options (<https://business.vcu.edu/academics/mba-options/>)