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## ***UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE***

*BUS 2203-01 Principles of Finance 1 – AY2024-T2*

*Learning journal unit 1*

*Instructor: Ibrahim Kabir*

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As a student majoring in business, I am excited to take the Principles of Finance course this term. I hope this class will provide me with core financial knowledge and skills that I can apply throughout my future career. My goals for this course include developing a strong base of financial terminology and theory, learning how to analyze financial statements, gaining an overview of financial markets and institutions, understanding time value of money concepts, and acquiring skills in financial decision making.

One of the key things I hope to learn is how to read and interpret financial statements, including the balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. I want to understand how these reports reflect the financial health and performance of a company. Through ratio analysis and other techniques, I expect to learn how to assess a company's liquidity, solvency, efficiency, and profitability. This skill will be invaluable for making investment decisions and evaluating companies I may work for in the future.

I look forward to learning the basics of how financial markets function. I hope to gain insight into capital markets, investment banks, and the roles of financial institutions in our economy. I want to understand what drives stock prices, interest rates, and currency fluctuations. Having knowledge of financial markets will help me comprehend global financial news and events.

Another essential concept I will learn is the time value of money - how interest rates affect the value of future cash flows. I expect to perform calculations using formulas for present and future value to make decisions about loans, investments, annuities, etc. Mastering time value of money principles is important for both personal and professional scenarios.

I also want to improve my financial decision-making skills in this course. I plan to learn techniques for capital budgeting, valuation, working capital management, and assessing risk vs. return. I hope to develop my analytical abilities and critical thinking when reviewing financial options and strategies. With stronger financial decision skills, I will add value to any organization I work for in the future.

The Principles of Finance course will equip me with fundamental finance knowledge and skills that will benefit me greatly in my business studies and career. I look forward to learning about financial statements, markets, institutions, time value of money-, and decision-making models this semester. This course will build a strong foundation for my future success in the finance field.

Reference:

Wright, R.E. & Quadrini, V. (2009). Money and Banking. Saylor Foundation.

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