



ADVANCED CORPORATE FINANCE - FINA 6340 01V
Fall 2021

COURSE INFORMATION:

Duration: 08/25/2021 - 10/13/2021

Course Modality: Online Asynchronous Courses (OASYNC)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor Name: Nam H Nguyen, Ph.D.

Email: namhoang.nguyen@utrgv.edu

Telephone: 956-665-5317

Office: ECOBE 120C

Office Hours: via email and online Q&A Forum: in person by appointment

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO COURSE MODALITY STATEMENT

Online Asynchronous Courses: These courses will be delivered fully online. There will be no designated class meeting time for real-time instructor/student interaction, which gives you the flexibility to engage with the course materials as best fits your daily schedule. Your learning will be guided by the digital presentation of the course content (e.g., recorded lectures, presentations, outlines, notes) and scheduled assignments. Your instructors will provide you with feedback on assigned work, communicate with you electronically, and be available to meet as defined on this syllabus.

Course description

Advanced Corporate Finance is a comprehensive course in corporate financial management. Topics include financial statement analysis, financial assets valuation, cost of capital, capital structure, capital budgeting, dividend policy.

Prerequisites

FINA 6303 (Introduction to Finance), FINA 3380 (Introduction to Finance), or equivalent

Learning objectives/outcomes

This course is intended to help students develop a framework for evaluating the financing and investment decisions made in the management of a business firm. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to make critical analyses of such strategic decisions. Overall, FINA 6340 should also help students improve their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

Please visit the [UTRGV COVID-19 Website](#) via the following link for the most up-to-date information and resources.

UTRGV VACCINE PORTAL

UTRGV Students are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine. Students may access and complete their vaccine profile via the [UTRGV Vaccine Portal](#). For additional information on the COVID-19 Vaccine, please visit the [UTRGV COVID-19 Website](#).

Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Learning Goals and Mission

The Robert C. Vackar College of Business Entrepreneurship has adopted the following learning goals and objectives that each student should achieve while in the degree program. Not all goals and objectives are covered in each course; however, all goals and objectives should be addressed throughout the degree program.

BBA Learning Goals	This course contributes to the following College of Business and Entrepreneurship learning goals:	How measured
Demonstrate foundational knowledge of functional area concepts and theories.	X	Lectures, homework and exams
Demonstrate effective business communication skills.		
Apply sustainable practices (economic, social and ethical, and environmental) to business decision-making.	X	Lectures, homework and exams
Demonstrate an understanding of how globalization, including conditions on the US-Mexico border, shape effective business decision making.	X	Cases regarding international corporations are incorporated in the lectures and exams

Apply quantitative analytical skills to business decision-making.	X	Lectures, mini-cases and exams
Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze business issues.	X	Lectures, mini-cases and exams
Department Goals	This course contributes to the following finance learning objectives:	How measured
Communication skills		
Analytical skills	X	Exams and assignments
Global awareness	X	International corporations are used in exams and assignments
Knowledge of finance	X	Exams and assignments

Our mission is to be the agent of innovation, knowledge discovery, and economic development in South Texas, Northern Mexico, and beyond, by offering a rigorous curriculum informed by experiential learning, high quality research, and community partnerships. Your mastery of these learning goals and objectives help us to achieve this mission.

Textbook and other resources

1. The required textbook is *Fundamentals of Financial Management, concise 9th edition* by Brigham and Houston, ISBN10: 130563593; ISBN13: 978-1305635937, South Western Publishing/Cengage Learning. The Access to Thomson ONE-Business School Edition is NOT required. <https://www.amazon.com/Fundamentals-Financial-Management-Concise-MindTap-ebook/dp/B019EB9QCS>

Should a student use an older or a newer edition of the book, it is the responsibility of the student to check for discrepancies, specifically in the numbering and contents of end-of-chapter problems.

2. A financial calculator is useful. The *Texas Instruments BA II Plus* is recommended. The following website provides tutorials on most financial calculators: http://www.tvmcalcs.com/calculator_index
3. Students are encouraged to read the *Wall Street Journal* or other periodicals that publish financial news.
4. Minimum technology requirements: This online course requires a dependable *Internet* connection. While smartphones and other mobile devices may allow access to the course contents on *Blackboard*

Learn (for short *Blackboard* at <https://mycourses.utrgv.edu>), please make sure to have a Windows or Mac based computer available in the event your mobile device does not meet the needs of the course.

A working UTRGV email account is required. An up-to-date web browser (e.g., *Internet Explorer*, *Google Chrome*, *Safari*, etc.), *Microsoft Word*, and *Microsoft Excel* are must-have tools for the class. It is the responsibility of each student to acquire the skills needed to use these tools. Instructions on navigating the learning environment are available on *Blackboard*. Your use of reliable antivirus software (e.g., *McAfee*) is also required for participation in this course.

Basis for Final Grade

The computation of your average numerical score for the course will be based on the following weighting scheme:

	Points
Five Quizzes	100 points (each 20)
Midterm Exams	400 points (each 200)
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	300 points
Project	200 points
Total	1000 point

Course grades will be based on the weighted average score you receive out of 100% for the term using the following scale: $A \geq 90\%$ (or 900 points), $90\% > B \geq 80\%$ (or 800 points), $80\% > C \geq 70\%$ (or 700 points), $70\% > D \geq 60\%$ (or 600 point), and $F < 60\%$

Course Policies: Grades

Quizzes: The class divides into three modules. Each module requires students to complete assigned quizzes. Each quiz consists of a set of multiple-choice questions. Before you attempt to take any quiz, you must fully study materials on the PowerPoints. A quiz is *HIGHLY* correlated with topics discussed on the PowerPoints.

Exam: Each exam will consist of a set of multiple-choice questions, which require its completion within 120 minutes. The Exam is *HIGHLY* correlated with topics discussed in class. Any information from the text can be included on the exam, but completing quiz is extremely helpful as the exam will come from topics covered in class. **There is no make-up** for graded work (i.e. quizzes and exams) for this online course. Please do not ask for extensions or work for extra credit during or at the end of the term because they will not be granted. The key is that you should not wait for the last moment to complete any assigned work.

Project: The case assignment will be an individual basis. You must submit a written report with any supporting material (e.g., excel worksheet). Since a case project is a case study of a real-world situation problem, it is expected that completing a project will require some serious effort. All students are expected to communicate well in writing (i.e., typing). Each assignment should include 5 pages of analysis (typed and double-spaced) with references to an unlimited number of tables, figures, and notes attached to appendices. To receive full credit, students need to show all your works and turn an **electronic-copy** in on due dates (through Blackboard).

The written report is evaluated by the instructor according to four criteria: understanding the problem in the case (20%), the correct application of concepts or theories (20%), concise writing (30%), and evidence to support your conclusions or suggestions (30%). All written assignments will be subject to submission to anti-plagiarism software. **No late submissions will be accepted.**

Tentative Schedule

Each assigned work is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on the due date.

	Start Date	End Date	Due Date	Chapters
Module I	08/25/2021	09/12/2021		
<i>1st Quiz</i>			09/12/2021	3,4,5
<i>2nd Quiz</i>			09/12/2021	6,7
<i>1st Exam</i>			09/12/2021	3,4,5,6 and 7
Module II	09/13/2021	09/26/2021		
<i>3rd Quiz</i>			09/26/2021	8,9
<i>4th Quiz</i>			09/26/2021	10,11
<i>2nd Exam</i>			09/26/2021	8,9,10 and 11
Module III	09/27/2021	10/13/2021		
<i>5th Quiz</i>			10/11/2021	Ch. 12,13,14,15
<i>Project</i>			10/11/2021	
<i>Final Exam</i>			10/13/2021	Comprehensive

Note: The schedule is subject to revision at the instructor's discretion.

Use of course website and electronic communication

The course website is our virtual classroom. All course related materials are posted on *Blackboard*, accessible from <https://mycourses.utrgv.edu>. All assigned work must be submitted via *Blackboard* as specified within each assignment. Completed work sent by email will not be considered for grading. Any late or missed work will be assigned a score of zero.

The University requires that all electronic communications must be via the official UTRGV supplied systems (*Blackboard* or email). Please check your UTRGV e-mail regularly or make sure to forward your e-mail from that added account that you check at least daily. Your instructor may send you important information and updates to your UTRGV e-mail address. Make sure you include your name, course #, and section #, etc.

Email

When using email, please make sure to

1. Use something descriptive in the subject line; for this course, start with "**FINA 6340**".

2. Be concise and clear. Be courteous and efficient in your communication.
3. Do not use all caps. Using all capital letters is considered ``shouting`` and makes the message hard to read. Make every effort to avoid spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.
4. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use single line spacing between paragraphs.
5. Sign your messages.

Computing issues

Technical issues such as “No internet connection”, “A frozen computer”, “A crashed disk”, and the like, are not valid excuses for failing to submit a task by the due date. Any late or missed work is assigned a score of zero.

Notice:

Your enrollment in this course requires that you use Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for online assessment proctoring. LockDown Browser is a custom browser that locks down the testing environment within Blackboard and replaces regular browsers such as Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Respondus Monitor requires you to have a webcam and microphone as it will record you while taking your assessment. **YOUR ACTIVITIES ARE RECORDED WHILE YOU ARE LOGGED INTO OR TAKING YOUR ASSESSMENT(S). THE RECORDINGS SERVE AS A PROCTOR AND WILL BE REVIEWED AND USED IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.**

You can find more detailed information on [Lockdown Browser and Monitor](#) at UTRGV.edu/online.

BLACKBOARD SUPPORT

If you need assistance with course technology at any time, please contact the [Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology](#) (COLTT).

Campus:	Brownsville	Edinburg
Location:	Casa Bella (BCASA) 613	Education Complex (EEDUC) 2.202
Phone:	956-882-6792	956-665-5327

Toll Free: 1-866-654-4555

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Support Tickets Submit a Support Case via our [Ask COLTT Portal](#)

24/7 Blackboard Support

Need Blackboard assistance after hours? You can call our main office numbers, 956-882-6792 or 956-665-5327, to speak with a support representative.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; have been provided such an accommodation by Student Accessibility Services (SAS); for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students

should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Members of the UTRGV community uphold the [Vaquero Honor Code](#)'s shared values of honesty, integrity and mutual respect in our interactions and relationships. In this regard, academic integrity is fundamental in our actions, as any act of dishonesty conflicts as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, STU 02-100, and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). **All violations of Academic Integrity will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities through [Vaqueros Report It](#).**

A. Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when individuals attempt to present as their own what has come from another source. Plagiarism takes place whether such theft is accidental or deliberate. It is no defense to claim that one has "forgotten" to document ideas or material taken from another source. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- i. Using the ideas of another person, whether or not such ideas are paraphrased, from whatever source including oral, print, broadcast, or computer-mediated communication;
- ii. Rewriting borrowed material by simply dropping a word here and there, substituting a few words for others, or moving around words or sentence;
- iii. Presenting borrowed material, whether a phrase, sentence, or whole paragraphs without placing quotation marks around the borrowed material in the approved style;
- iv. Presenting, as one's own an assignment, paper, or computer program partially or wholly prepared by another person, whether by another student, friend, or by a business or on-line service that sells or distributes such papers and programs;
- v. Failing to use proper citation for information obtained from print sources or the internet, according to citation criteria specified by the instructor or in cases where instructor guidance is not given, by standard manuals of style (e.g. The Chicago Manual of Style).

B. Cheating

Cheating occurs when individuals use course materials, information or devices (e.g., programmable calculator, cell phone) when such is unauthorized or prohibited. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

- i. Having or using unauthorized materials, information or an unauthorized device at an examination, test or quiz;
- ii. Copying from another student at an examination, test or quiz, or copying another student's assignment, data or laboratory report;
- iii. Permitting another student to copy from an assignment, paper, computer program, project, examination, test or quiz;
- iv. Obtaining and/or using an unauthorized examination, test, or quiz prior to its administration;
- v. Having another person act as proxy to take an examination, test or quiz or to complete an assignment, paper, computer program, or project.

Sanctions for violations of academic integrity outlined in the UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines include a receiving a failing grade on the assignment/examination, and possibly of receiving a failing grade for the course.

Note: Despite the score that could have been earned according to the posted grading rubrics, a submitted work will be assigned a score of zero in case of any evidence of plagiarism or violation of academic integrity.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive reasonable academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** for additional information. In order for accommodation requests to be considered for approval, the student must apply using the *mySAS* portal located at www.utrgv.edu/mySAS and is responsible for providing sufficient documentation of the disability to SAS. Students are required to participate in an interactive discussion, or an intake appointment, with SAS staff. Accommodations may be requested at any time but are not retroactive, meaning they are valid once approved by SAS. Please contact SAS early in the semester/module for guidance. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery may also be eligible for temporary accommodations.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) should submit the request using the form found at <https://www.utrgv.edu/pregnancy> for review by **Student Accessibility Services**.

Student Accessibility Services:

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are encouraged to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

Fall Module 1 (7 weeks)	October 6-12, 2021
Fall Regular Term 2021	November 12- December 1, 2021
Fall Module 2 (7 weeks)	December 1-7, 2021

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT and MANDATORY REPORTING: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (OIED@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR (drop) until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES:

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Student Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, counseling services, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. In addition, services such as the Food Pantry are also provided. Locations are listed below.

Center Name	Brownsville Campus	Edinburg Campus
Advising Center AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu	BMAIN 1.400 (956) 665-7120	ESWKH 101A (956) 665-7120
Career Center CareerCenter@utrgv.edu	BINAB 1.105 (956) 882-5627	ESSBL 2.101 (956) 665-2243
Counseling Center Counseling@utrgv.edu Mental Health Counseling and Related Services List	BSTUN 2.10 (956) 882-3897	EUCTR 109 (956) 665-2574
Food Pantry FoodPantry@utrgv.edu	BCAVL 101 & 102 (956) 882-7126	EUCTR 114 (956) 665-3663
Learning Center LearningCenter@utrgv.edu	BMSLC 2.118 (956) 882-8208	ELCTR 100 (956) 665-2585
Writing Center	BUBLB 3.206	ESTAC 3.119

Center Name	Brownsville Campus	Edinburg Campus
WC@utrgv.edu	(956) 882-7065	(956) 665-2538

Some important dates for Fall 2021 Module 1 include:

August 25	First day of classes.
August 25	Last day to add a class or register for Fall 2021 Module 1 classes.
October 5	Last day to drop a class or withdraw.
October 13	Final Exams (Term Ends)
October 15	Grades Due at 3 p.m.

DEAN OF STUDENTS RESOURCES:

The Dean of Students office assists students when they experience a challenge with an administrative process, unexpected situation such as an illness, accident, or family situation, and aids in resolving complaints. Additionally, the office helps to advocate on behalf of students and inform students about their rights and responsibilities as well as serving as a resource and support for faculty and campus departments.

[Vaqueros Report It](#) allows students, staff and faculty a way to report concern about the well-being of a student, seek assistance in resolving a complaint, or report allegations of behaviors contrary to community standards or campus policies.

The Dean of Students can also be reached by emailing dos@utrgv.edu or visiting [Virtual Office hours](#) in which a representative is available Monday-Friday 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.