MASTER OF FINANCE ONLINE

FAQ

Who is a good candidate?

We are looking for someone with strong quantitative backgrounds. For example, besides finance majors, students majoring in quantitative area such as: math, engineering and economics are all

welcome to apply. For others, we need to look at the quantitative score in the standard tests.

What are some good prep course?

Some basic courses include business statistics, intermediate microeconomics, intermediate corporate finance, and college level calculus.

What career resources for a job?

You have access to many resources and tools to develop your career—whether you’re searching for a job, salary information, or to network. PSU has the largest dues-paying alumni association in the world—and you can immediately join your local chapter—so that you can begin networking. We have two online job fairs per year and resume writing and interviewing workshops. The Nittany Network is an online job board just for Penn Staters to find jobs and internships.

What jobs do your graduates want to have?

The program is designed for those who wish to further their careers in asset or wealth management, become investment or financial analysts, CFO’s, or add credentials. But students come from a variety of industries and work in financial and non-financial companies.

Start dates?

You can begin in either the spring or fall semesters.

How flexible is this program?

This is a two-year lock-step cohort program designed for full-time working adults. You’ll be expected to enroll in three semesters (fall, spring, summer) per year, with two terms in the fall and spring, and one term in summer.

What is the capstone like?  
For the capstone course, students will work as team to do company evaluation project.

Can I transfer credits into this program?

Up to 9 credits may be transferred from another AACSB accredited institution. Credits must have been completed within the last 5 years with a grade of “B” or better, and the course must be substantially like courses in the program (a course syllabus is usually required). We will gladly review your potential transfer credits before you apply.

What does the transcript/diploma say?

As a World Campus graduate, you will earn your degree from The Pennsylvania State University. Diplomas and transcripts are identical to those earned by our Penn State students studying on campus. Your diploma and transcript will not indicate that you took classes online; ‘World Campus’ will not appear on your transcript.

Can I get a GMAT/GRE waiver?

Prospects need to demonstrate strong quantitative skills in order to be successful in the program. However, applicants may request a waiver if they meet one of the criteria outlined below:

·         An undergraduate junior/senior GPA of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale\* at a regionally-accredited university with AACSB, EQUIS, or AMBA accredited business programs or an undergraduate junior/senior GPA of at least a 3.3 on a 4.0 scale\* from a regionally-accredited university without AACSB, EQUIS, or AMBA accredited business programs AND demonstrated effective communication and quantitative skills based on course work

·         An advanced degree (e.g. master’s or higher) from a regionally-accredited university with AACSB, EQUIS, or AMBA accredited programs

·         Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society recognized by AACSB

·         One or more professional certifications including a CFA, CPA, FRM, and/or CMA, or doctoral degree (e.g. Ph.D., M.D., or J.D.)

The GMAT/GRE will not be waived for years of professional experience.

What is the total cost of this program (tuition, texts, etc.)?

Tuition is approximately $34,500. Additionally, the cost of texts is $150-$200 per class.

Is it STEM designated?

Yes, the program is STEM-designated.  [here](https://greatvalley.psu.edu/academics/stem-designated-programs) is the information on our website. The CIP code is 27.0305.

How long has this program been offered?

This program has been offered in residence in suburban Philadelphia since 2007 and online since 2014.

Who is your typical student?

Many applicants come from backgrounds in business, math, and engineering. However, we have many career changers, you just need strong math/quantitative skills.

What is the average GMAT score and GPA?

The average GMAT score is 563.  The average GRE score is: 152 verbal, 155 quantitative, and 3.6 on the analytical writing portion. The average GPA is 3.37.

What application pieces do I need to submit?

The following will be required, and will be submitted directly to GV:

Application

Application fee

2 official transcripts - undergraduate, graduate and/or military (if applicable). For International applicants, transcript needs to be accompanied by an English-language translation, and marks sheets.

TOEFL scores (for International applicants, as required) IELTS is also accepted. Minimum score of 6.5 required.

GMAT or GRE (If candidate is an MBA from an accredited AACSB program, CPA, FRM, JD, Ph.D., CMA, CFA, or a 3.3 or better from an undergraduate or graduate school with an AACSB-accredited business program, and have an average of B+ or better in quantitative courses such as math, econ, statistics, accounting and finance, the candidate is not required to submit standardized test scores; it will not be waived for years of professional experience.)

Resume

Statement of objective

2 letters of recommendation (form emailed to recommenders by PSU to complete)

Will this program prepare me for the CFA?

The program is designed to help prepare students for the CFA, covering many of the topics for the exam and using CFA textbooks in several of the courses. It covers 80%-90% of the CFA level 1 and most of the CFA level 2 material.

How does this program compare to an MBA?

This degree offers more of a foundation in finance; it is not a general degree.

Does this help one become a financial advisor?

MFIN courses do teach those students who want to be financial advisors. Those classes include portfolio management, real options, analysis of financial markets. I hope this helps the student to make decision.

What are the classes like?

The coursework is entirely asynchronous. There is up to 40% teamwork. You can expect math problems, short videos, quizzes, and modeling with assignments due weekly.

What are the technical requirements?

Here is the link for the MFIN technical requirements: <https://courses.worldcampus.psu.edu/public/diagnostics/tech_spec/mfin.html>

I have financial aid questions.

Please direct your question to the World Campus Office of Student Aid at [studentaid@outreach.psu.edu](mailto:studentaid@outreach.psu.edu) . You can also visit the World Campus web page for student aid at <http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid>.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

Going to graduate school is like having a part-time job. Each class will vary but plan on 15-20 hours of work per week.

What jobs do your graduates want to have?

The program is designed for those who wish to further their careers in asset or wealth management, become investment or financial analysts, CFO’s, or add credentials. But students come from a variety of industries and work in financial and non-financial companies.

What are alumni doing?  
Most of our students (excluding international students) are working full-time and many are receiving tuition reimbursement. Several students moved into new jobs because of their degrees or connections they made among classmates while in the program. One of our students had an internship with Bloomberg and was offered a full-time job with them as a Global Data Analyst. Another individual was hired at Vanguard through a contact he made with a student. Another moved from Connectiv Energy to PJM as a Lead Market Strategist. One of our alumni is now a portfolio manager at Graystone Wealth Management and another became Senior Accounting Manager at Penske Truck Leasing. Two of our international students who are graduating this August received internships in New York City—one with Deutsche Bank as an analyst and the other with a property management group. These are just a few examples.

**Can I do non-degree?**

No