

UNIVERSITY SENATE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Undergraduate Academic Council

Date: March 10, 2008

FINANCIAL ANALYST HONORS PROGRAM

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the attached proposal to create a Financial Analyst Honors Program be approved by the University Senate effective for the Fall 2008 term.
2. That this proposed honors program be forwarded to the Interim President George M. Philip for approval.

Financial Analyst Honors Program

This program is designed to provide serious students of finance with the opportunity for a special educational experience in small seminars where they can develop their analytical and communication skills.

School of Business students may apply for admission to the Honors program at the end of the 1st semester junior year so long as they have achieved a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 for:

(1) all courses taken through the 1st semester junior year,

and

(2) the following four courses: ACC 211, ACC 222, FIN 300, and ACC 313.

Interested students must submit an application by December 1st. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Student Services, BA 361A. Students will be notified of admission or non-admission by mid-January.

NOTE: Students will be allowed to advance register for second semester junior year courses with the understanding that if they do not meet the minimum qualification for admission to the honors program, they will receive a letter informing them of their non-admission to the honors program and will be deregistered for courses in the program.

Maintenance of a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 overall and a 3.5 in all courses required in the Honors sequence is required to remain in the program.

The Honors program has a mandatory mentoring program and all students in the program will be matched with a mentor as assigned by Finance department faculty in consultation with the Office of Student Services. Students will retain the mentor relationship so long as they are registered in the program.

Required Honors Program courses for the concentration are:

BACC 313
BFIN 380
BFIN 400
BFIN 410
BFIN 436
BFIN 470
BFIN 490Z

FINANCIAL ANALYST HONORS PROGRAM SEQUENCE:

Fall semester junior year:

BACC 313 (Financial Statement Analysis)

BFIN 300 (Financial Management) *Required of all School of Business students

Spring semester junior year:

BFIN 380 (Investment Valuation and Analysis)

BFIN 400 (Financial Case Problems)

BFIN 410 (Fixed Income)

Fall semester senior year:

BFIN 490Z (Financial Analysis Seminar and Thesis)

BFIN 470

Spring semester senior year:

BFIN 436

During the Financial Analysis Seminar and Thesis course, students will be required to present oral and/or written progress reports on their ongoing research and critique each other's work. Each student must submit his or her senior honors thesis to the Finance faculty for review and eventual acceptance.

NOTE: Students who drop or are dropped from the Financial Honors Program at the end of their junior year will be allowed to use any completed courses in Finance toward a combined concentration in Finance/ITM, Finance/Management or Finance/Marketing after consultation with the School of Business undergraduate advisement personnel. Table 1 on the following page shows each Financial Analyst program course along with the combined concentration course that could be waived if the Financial Analyst Program course is completed successfully. For example, successful completion of BFIN 380 will allow for waiver of BFIN 333. Table 2 shows the additional courses in departments other than Finance that would be necessary for completion of a combined concentration in Finance/ITM, Finance/Management, and Finance/Marketing.

Students who successfully complete the courses in the Financial Analyst Honors Program and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 will be awarded the Bachelors of Science degree with Honors in Financial Analysis, and will be recognized formerly at the School of Business graduation ceremony in May. Students whose cumulative GPA is below 3.5 will be awarded the Bachelors of Science degree in Financial Analysis (without honors).

Table 1

Financial Analyst program course taken in Spring of Junior year		Course in combined concentration that Financial Analyst course is completed
BFIN 380 -- Investment Valuation and Analysis	↔	BFIN 333 -- Investment Management
BFIN 400 -- Financial Case Problems	↔	BFIN 301 -- Corporate Financial Policy and
BFIN 410 -- Fixed Income Analysis	↔	BFIN 375 -- Money and Capital Markets

Table 2

The following additional courses must be taken in Senior year to complete a joint Finance/Management concentration

BITM 322 -- Quantitative Analysis for Business Decisions (Fall Senior Year)
BITM 331 -- Business Application Development (Summer between Junior & Senior Year)
BITM 415Z - Management Information Systems (Fall Senior Year)

The following additional courses must be taken in Senior year to complete a joint Finance/Management concentration

BMGT 430 -- Management of Human Resources (Fall Senior Year)
BMGT 470Z -- Motivation, Productivity, and Change Management (Fall Senior Year)
BMGT 471 -- Human Resource Information System (Spring Senior Year)

The following additional courses must be taken in Senior year to complete a joint Finance/Management concentration

BMKT 351 -- Consumer Behavior (Fall Senior Year)
BMKT 376 -- Global/International Marketing or BMKT 432 - Integrated Marketing (Fall Senior Year)
One BMKT Z course (Spring Senior Year)

These sequences listed above would only represent 3 courses that would need to be taken after spring, junior year. At the most, by switching to a combined concentration, there would only be 4 - 6 School of Business courses necessary in the senior year to complete the Business core and a combined concentration. This is a normal course of events for Business majors to have 4 - 6 courses required in the School of Business in their senior year. Consequently, students who would have to leave the Financial Analyst Honors program at the end of their junior year would not be at a disadvantage in completing a combined concentration and graduating on time.