

Program: Banking and Finance

Degree Offered: M.A. in Banking and Finance

Study Plan
Academic Year 2012

First: General Rules and Conditions:

- 1) This plan conforms to the valid regulations of the programs of graduate studies at the University of Jordan.
- 2) Specialists allowed to enroll in this plan:
Holders of a Bachelor Degree in: Banking and Finance, Accounting, Economics, Business Administration, Commerce, Marketing, Management Information Systems, Computer Science, Information technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Actuarial Sciences.

Second: English will be the program teaching language.

Third: The priority of admission is based on accumulative average of the bachelor degree and for the participants from the Jordanian banking sector institutions.

Forth: The plan – the study plan consists of (33) credit hours as follows:

A. Obligatory Courses: (24) Credit Hours as Follows:

Code	Subject	Credit Hours	Theory	Practical	Pre-requisite
1603721	Financial Markets & Institutions	3	2	2	-
1603722	Corporate Finance	3	2	2	-
1603723	Quantitative and Statistical Methods in Finance	3	-	6	-
1603725	Risk Management in Banks & Financial Institutions	3	2	2	-
1603726	Financial and Credit Analysis	3	1.5	3	-
1603727	Macroeconomics for Bankers	3	3	-	-
1603728	Derivatives and Financial Engineering	3	1.5	3	-
1603750	Seminar in Banking and Finance	3	-	6	-

B. Optional Courses: (9) Credit Hours from the Following:

Code	Subject	Credit Hours	Theory	Practical	Pre-requisite
1603731	Portfolio Management	3	2	2	-
1603732	Behavioral Finance	3	3	-	-
1603734	Security Analysis & Valuation	3	2	2	-
1603735	Managerial Accounting	3	3	-	-
1603736	Real Estate Investment	3	3	-	-
1603738	International Financial Management	3	3	-	-
1603739	Contemporary Issues in Islamic Finance	3	1	4	-

C. Comprehensive Exam (1603798)

- Every two practical hours of some courses are equivalent to one credit hour.

Courses Description

First: Obligatory Courses:

(1603721) Financial Markets and Institutions (3 credit hours)

This course provides an overview of the global financial system, introducing the important institutional players, describing and classifying financial markets where institutions and individuals operate, and developing an analytical framework to understand the determinants of prices and yields at which financial transactions occur. The course is roughly evenly split between institutional details concerning the organization of the contemporary financial system and the conceptual and analytical approaches used to understand past, current, and future developments in financial markets. **To examine this, practical applications and case studies will be used.** The course provides an integrated analytical framework for understanding the effects of economic forces and economic policy on key financial market variables that determine the success of business strategies and present risks to firms or individuals from changes in interest rates, equity values, and exchange rates.

(1603722) Corporate Finance (3 credit hours)

This course provides an introduction to the theory, methods, and the concerns of corporate finance. The main topics include: 1) the time value of money and capital budgeting techniques; 2) uncertainty and the trade-off between risk and return; 3) security market efficiency; 4) optimal capital structure, and 5) dividend policy decisions. **In addition, and to provide candidates with greater understanding of corporate finance, a number of applied research papers using real life data will be used.**

(1603723) Quantitative and Statistical Methods in Finance (3 credit hours)

This course is an introduction to empirical methods commonly employed in finance. It provides the background for empirical research in Finance. The course is organized around empirical papers with an emphasis on statistical and econometric methods. A heavy reliance will be placed on analysis of financial data applications and analysis **using statistical packages (e.g. E-views).**

(1603725) Risk Management in Banks & Financial Institutions (3 credit hours)

This course introduces market risk management with concentration on practical issues and treasury management. Additionally, the course examines risk management techniques like value at risk (VAR) and foreign exchange trading strategies. Finally, the course covers credit evaluation and control, management of loan portfolio, and special credit situations such as syndicated lending and assets securitization. **In all the issues which are covered, the applied side and practical applications will be considered.**

(1603726) Financial and Credit Analysis

(3 credit hours)

The primary goal of this subject is to learn how to create managers' "inside information" from analyzing publicly available financial statement data. The subject is designed to equip students with the skills of effective financial statement analysts to meet the challenge of the competitive business world. The subject will commence with the introduction of the framework for financial statement analysis involving discussions on the roles of accounting information and intermediaries in the economy, and how financial analysis can create value in well functioning markets. Afterwards, the subject topics will mainly cover the areas of how those business analyses and valuation frameworks can be applied **to a variety of real life decisions**. Cases and problems will be introduced gradually, and will provoke analytical and creative thinking of the subject's participants.

(1603727) Macroeconomics for Bankers

(3 credit hours)

This course provides candidates with practical applications of macroeconomics in finance. Some of the main covered topics include the measurement of national income and other measures such as inflation, the role of both fiscal and monetary policies, and the determinants of consumption, investment, inflation, and unemployment.

(1603728) Derivatives and Financial Engineering

(3 credit hours)

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the necessary skills to value and to employ options, futures, and related financial contracts in investment and risk management contexts. In order to provide a useful treatment of these topics in an environment that is changing rather rapidly, it is necessary to stress the fundamentals and to explore the topics at a technical level. The topics that will be covered include the valuation of futures contracts on stock indices, on commodities and Treasury instruments; the valuation of options; empirical evidence; strategies with respect to these assets; dynamic asset allocation strategies, of which portfolio insurance is an example; swaps; and the use (and misuse) of derivatives in the context of corporate applications.

(1603750) Seminar in Banking and Finance

(3 credit hours)

This is a capstone course for students specializing in banking and finance. It exposes students to a wide range of finance related topics, including issues affecting the current financial environment of business firms. **The course integrates concepts, tools and techniques from previous courses and applies them to a number of practical applications.** Finally, students are expected to submit a mini dissertation about an empirical topic of their choice.

Second: Optional Courses:

(1603731) Portfolio Management

(3 credit hours)

This course focuses on both the investment environment and investment process. The investment environment examines the market-making mechanisms that prevail in stock markets. The investment process part of the course examines portfolio diversification methods, capital asset pricing models, portfolio construction and asset allocation, and portfolio performance evaluation. **The course involves a number of practical applications which are derived from the investment world.**

(1603732) Behavioral Finance

(3 credit hours)

There is an abundance of evidence suggesting that the standard economic paradigm - rational agents in an efficient market - does not adequately describe behavior in financial markets. This course surveys the evidence and use psychology to guide alternative theories of financial markets. Along the way, we will address the standard argument that smart, profit-seeking agents can correct any distortions caused by irrational investors. Further, the course examines more closely the preferences and trading decisions of individual investors. The second half of the course extends the analysis to corporate decision making and presents the two themes of behavioral corporate finance: rational managers exploiting financial market inefficiencies and managerial decision-making biases. Finally, the course explores the evidence for both views in the context of capital structure, investment, dividend, and merger decisions.

(1603734) Security Analysis & Valuation

(3 credit hours)

This course explores techniques, models and industry practices used in the selection of securities for institutional equity portfolios. Both quantitative and fundamental analyses are covered. Considerable attention is paid to recent research, through published journal and working papers on the efficiency or otherwise of financial markets, and to anomalies that form the bases for quantitative stock election models. Students will develop skills in finding recent material not yet in standard textbooks, thus enhancing their ability to remain current throughout their professional careers. A changing selection of contemporary topics, such as advanced theories of risk, hedge funds, etc. **and their practical applications may also be included.**

(1603735) Managerial Accounting

(3 credit hours)

This course introduces the basic concepts of managerial accounting for internal decision-making. Major topics included are product costing, emphasizing costing approaches used in today's business environments, relevant costs for decision analysis, variance analysis, divisional performance evaluation, and transfer pricing.

(1603736) Real Estate Investment

(3 credit hours)

This course provides a broad introduction to real estate with a focus on financing issues. Basic project evaluation, financing strategies, and capital markets issues related to real estate are covered. No prior knowledge of the industry is required, but students are expected to rapidly acquire a working knowledge of real estate markets.

(1603738) International Financial Management

(3 credit hours)

This course analyzes financial problems which corporations face from operating in an international environment. Major topics covered are corporate strategy and the decision to invest abroad, forecasting exchange rates, international portfolio diversification, managing exchange risk, taxation issues, cost of capital and financial structure in the multinational firm, and sources of financing.

(1603739) Contemporary Issues in Islamic Finance

(3 credit hours)

The course introduces the principles and practice of Islamic finance: religious principles and their interpretations (Riba, Zakat and the "moral economy" of Islam). Additionally, the course will provide an in-depth look at the full range of actual Islamic tools and products used in commercial and investment banking, insurance, mutual funds, wholesale and retail/domestic and international banking, and stock markets. **Finally, the course relies heavily on the Islamic principles as they are applied by the banking sector.**