The mission of the Department of Finance is to maintain and improve the intellectual environment that encourages creation and dissemination of knowledge. The Department of Finance has award-winning faculty with excellent teaching credentials. The department has been ranked 24th in the nation for scholarly output, in a recent compilation of knowledge disseminated in the most respected academic outlets over the past four years.

Programs
The Department of Finance offers a wide variety of programs. The following are prepared programs the department is ready to present.

Financial Analysis for the Non-Financial Manager
The dominant focus of this hands-on program is to develop the interpretive skills managers need if they are to make sound business decisions. The program also provides the basic skills required for more advanced courses. The main goals of this course are to identify and understand information contained in balance sheets, income statements, statements of cash flow, and other performance reports; historical analysis; and the forecasting of expected performance through the use of pro-forma statements. This program is designed for mid to upper level management in all disciplines. It will also assist consultants and small business owners who want a better understanding of financial principles.

Investment Management
This program identifies and describes different types of financial securities and explains how these securities are traded in the financial markets, explains the role of mutual funds and other financial intermediaries, shows how to calculate risk and return of securities and portfolios, explains portfolio diversification, shows how to calculate bond prices and yields, explains term structure of interest rates, shows how to estimate interest rate risk of bonds and bond portfolios, shows how to analyze and value stocks, explains the payoffs and pricing principles of options and futures, and shows how to calculate prices for simple options using The Black-Scholes option pricing model.

Corporate Finance
This program enables participants to forecast a firm's cash flow, estimate the firm's cost of capital, select and evaluate capital projects, explain the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative sources of financing the firm's assets, explain the firm's choice of capital structure and financing sequence, and explain the firm's dividend payout policy.

International Finance, Markets, and Trade
This program explores the international economic environment, including analyses of exchange rates, international monetary systems, contemporary currency regimes, and current financial crises. Students will examine a firm's exposure to various kinds of exchange risks and the methods and financial instruments used to manage those risks. The course introduces global opportunities open to firms for raising capital, foreign investment in financial assets, and managing currency and interest rate risk.

Capital Investment Decisions
This program is designed for senior and mid-level management in all disciplines, treasurers, operations staff, and financial officers responsible for capital investment decisions. The program provides the theoretical and operational framework needed by today's managers to make capital investment decisions. More specifically, the program provides an understanding of project cost, project free cash flow levels and timing, project risk, project real options, and finally project value to the firm. The dominant focus of the program is valuation, its primary drivers, and hands on analysis of real world investment decisions.
Risk Management and Financial Derivatives
Designed for mid-level and senior executives and financial analysts this program introduces the discipline of financial risk management, which is commonly implemented using financial derivatives that include options, futures, forwards, and swap contracts. Emphasis is placed on how derivatives are priced and on how various derivatives-based strategies are implemented to manage diverse financial risks.

Managing Money with Stock Market Anomalies
This program covers anomalies in financial markets and how to profit from them. It is designed to enhance the ability of money managers and investors to invest more effectively realizing some of the limitations of efficient markets and understand anomalies, a summary of current research, and evidence on the success of low risk investment strategies based on those anomalies.

The program is designed for a broad array of audiences including money managers and investors who are interested in mispricings in the stock market. It does not presume a deep understanding of financial markets, just an interest in the stock market and a thirst for knowledge.

Personal Financial Planning
This program can be designed for any level employee, through upper management. This program is designed to enhance the personal financial planning skills of the participants and provide them with the understanding necessary to make knowledgeable financial decisions.

Raising Venture Capital or Private Equity
This program is designed for start-up entrepreneurs. It answers the following questions in order to assist in navigating a business from concept to potentially successful commercialization: What are the alternative sources of private equity funds available? How to develop a business plan to attract private equity capital? Should a placement agent be retained? How to value the enterprise? Based on this valuation, how to negotiate the terms of the financing deal to ensure a fair return/ownership stake as founder? How to develop a strategy for multiple rounds of financing?

Interest Rates and the Valuation of Fixed Income Securities
This program is designed to integrate the concepts of central bank money creation with the theory of interest rates, term structure, and the valuation of fixed income instruments.

The program is designed for a broad audience of finance professionals. This group includes executives and professionals of financial institutions involved in the management of fixed income assets or the acquisition of interest bearing liabilities, corporate managers whose responsibilities include the raising of funds in the money market and/or the bond market, and executives and managers of non-profit organizations whose responsibilities include the management of endowment funds.

Valuation of a Firm
Designed for managers of private and public companies, this program explains how to estimate the value of a firm, and which of the different methods available is likely to work best in a given situation. The program uses Harvard Business School notes, cases and problem assignments.

Evaluating Portfolio Choices for Private Clients
Designed for finance professionals who advise wealthy clients, this program discusses the following topics: Context of Portfolio Analysis and Planning for Private Clients, Analyzing Open-end Mutual Funds, Evaluating Open-End Mutual Funds vs. Exchange Traded Funds, Overview of Hedge Funds, Choosing Among Hedge Funds, Investing in Private Equity, and Investing in Managed Futures.