

MS in Finance

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Transcripts for all undergraduate and any graduate work must be submitted to the UIC Liautaud Graduate School of Business Program Office. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of undergraduate study.
- **Tests Required** Standardized tests such as the GMAT or GRE are not required for this application. However, applicants may choose to submit a test score. Applicants with a relatively low undergraduate GPA may strengthen their application—and improve their chances of admission and scholarship consideration—by submitting a competitive test score.
- **English Proficiency** Additional information on the English proficiency test requirement for international students can be found on the [UIC Admissions website](#). Minimum test scores for this program are:

Exam	Score	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
TOEFL iBT (exams taken on or after January 21, 2026)	4.5	4	4	4.5	4.5
TOEFL iBT (exams taken prior to January 21, 2026)	80	19	17	20	21
IELTS Academic	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
PTE Academic	54	51	47	53	56

- **Letters of Recommendation** Two required.
- **Personal Statement** Required.
- **Resume or CV** Required.
- **Other Requirements** FIN 500, ACTG 500, IDS 570, and ECON 520, or the equivalent coursework. Deficiencies can be addressed by taking these courses at UIC, thus increasing the time to complete the degree.
- **Guaranteed Admission to MS in Finance** University of Illinois students or alumni (from UIC, UIS, or UIUC) who have graduated from any undergraduate, graduate, or professional program within five years of the start of the MS in Finance program with a cumulative GPA of 3.25/4.00 or higher will have the GMAT and GRE requirements waived and will be guaranteed admission into the program provided all other requirements are met. Complete applications for guaranteed admission must be submitted by the specified deadline to qualify for guaranteed admission. University

of Illinois students who do not meet the 3.25/4.00 GPA requirement are still strongly encouraged to apply to the MS in Finance program; these applicants will be considered for admission based on a comprehensive review of their application.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 32.
- **Coursework** Degree candidates must present a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00/4.00 for 32 hours counting toward the degree. Required courses can be waived by exams or at the discretion of the director of graduate studies, but they have to be replaced by other courses in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses (12 hours)		
FIN 510	Investments	
FIN 520	Corporate Finance	
FIN 570	Quantitative Methods in Finance	
Electives (20 hours)		
Elective courses will be selected in consultation with an advisor based upon student's educational and professional goals. Courses can be chosen from the following list of approved electives; other courses may be chosen with approval of the MSF director of graduate studies. At most, 8 hours can be in disciplines other than finance.		
FIN 512	Portfolio Analysis	
FIN 515	Fixed Income Securities	
FIN 516	Theory and Structure of Options and Futures Markets	
FIN 521	Advanced Corporate Finance	
FIN 522	Alternative Investments: Venture Capital, Private Equity, and Hedge Funds	
FIN 523	Financial Modeling	
FIN 524	Financial Communication	
FIN 525	Energy Finance	
FIN 530	Money and Banking	
FIN 531	Capital Markets	
FIN 540	International Financial Markets	
FIN 542	International Finance	
FIN 545	Financing Entrepreneurship	
FIN 549	Applied Equity Investment Management	
FIN 550	Personal Finance	
FIN 551	Financial Decision Making I	
FIN 556	Advanced Investment Management	
FIN 571	Empirical Issues in Finance	
FIN 573	Risk Management	
FIN 580	Securities Markets and High-Frequency Trading	
FIN 594	Special Topics in Finance	
FIN 596	Independent Study in Finance	
ACTG 502	Financial Accounting I	

ACTG 516	Financial Statement Analysis
ACTG 585	Corporate Valuation and Accounting Information
ACTG 593	Professional Accounting Research
IDS 561	Analytics for Big Data
IDS 564	Social Media and Network Analysis
IDS 566	Advanced Text Analytics for Business
IDS 567	Business Data Visualization
IDS 572	Data Mining for Business
IDS 575	Machine Learning and Statistical Methods for Business Analytics
IDS 576	Deep Learning and Modern Applications
IDS 582/ ECON 537	Time Series Econometrics
IDS 583/ ECON 538	Business Research and Forecasting II
ECON 509	Microeconomic Theory I
ECON 511	Macroeconomic Theory I

- **Comprehensive Examination** None.
- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options** Coursework only.
No other options available.