

Current Funding Priorities:

Bloomberg Terminals

Details: We have a subscription for 12 Bloomberg terminals. Four terminals are with BASIS, 2 with SEED, and 6 in the Computer lab.

Cost: \$70,000 per year.

Purpose: Bloomberg terminal is an indispensable data source for anyone connected with the financial markets, such as traders, investment bankers, mutual fund managers, hedge fund managers, etc. This is an essential tool and a strong line on a student's resume. All Finance students must get certified on Bloomberg prior to graduation.

Financial Literacy Initiative

Details: The Finance department teaches a course on "Investments and Financial Literacy" where students learn financial survival skills such as how to manage money, budgets, debt including student loans, retirement planning, insurance, investments, etc. The course is open to all university students irrespective of their major or level. We started offering the course in Fall 2014 and are gradually increasing the number of sections, depending on funding availability, to accommodate more students without increasing class size. At the current time, we have 4 sections with about 175 students.

Cost: \$10,000 per section per semester.

Purpose: It is essential that students graduate with basic Finance skills. This course is intended to provide basic and intermediate skills to manage personal finances.

Student Scholarships

Details: The Finance department has very few scholarships for students that excel in Finance. The terms for selection of students can be laid down by the donor based on the student's field (real estate, banking), performance (GPA), etc.

Cost: \$2,000 per scholarship per year. The scholarship will be awarded at the Awards banquet each April. The donor's name will be included in the list of major donors on the bulletin board outside the Finance department office, on the web site, and in the newsletter.

Purpose: To encourage students to major in Finance and to reward outstanding students.

Finance Club

Details: The Finance Club is a voluntary organization for Finance majors that organizes social get-togethers, invites speakers, and promotes interaction among Finance majors. We would like to encourage the Finance Club and similar voluntary student organizations.

Cost: \$5,000 per year for operation of the club.

Purpose: To encourage Finance students to network.

Finance Visitor series

Details: Finance alumni are invited to campus for a day. The visitors meet with class(es), administrators, and students in an informal setting. These visitors are essential for students in the Careers in Finance course so that the students can get a real world perspective on career opportunities and skills required.

Cost: \$5,000 per semester or \$10,000 per year. The series will prominently display the name of the donor. The donor's name will be included in the list of major donors on the bulletin board outside the Finance department office and on the web site.

Purpose: It allows the students to initiate relationships with alumni; students learn about the real world environment; the administrators learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the existing program; and the alumni get an opportunity to assist VT students.

Finance Academic Speaker series

Details: Academic speakers from other universities are invited to visit the department to present their research, meet with the faculty, and meet with doctoral students. All of the speakers are from reputed universities such as Chicago, Northwestern, Michigan, Pennsylvania (Wharton), and UNC.

Cost: \$10,000 per year. The series will prominently display the name of the donor. The donor's name will also be included in the list of major donors on the bulletin board outside the Finance department office and on the web site.

Purpose: Interaction with visiting academic speakers is necessary to foster an intellectual environment in the department where faculty continue to produce high quality, important, and high impact research.

Funding for Experiential Learning Programs

Details: The Finance department supports experiential learning programs such as SEED and BASIS. The programs are very useful for students in the investments field because they provide hands-on training to a selected group of smart, disciplined, and committed high-quality students. These students find jobs in the best investment banks, corporations, and consultancy organizations in the U.S. while successfully competing against graduates from the Ivy League schools. We would like to expand experiential learning to corporate finance and banking.

Funding for SEED, BASIS

Details: These student-run, faculty-advised organizations require funding for visits to New York, Chicago, and Northern Virginia.

Cost: \$10,000 per year each for SEED and BASIS.

Summer grants

Details: Regular faculty are employed by the university for an academic year, that is, from mid-August to mid-May. High quality faculty expect to be funded during the summer for continuing to work on their research. The college is able to provide limited support to some faculty, which is inadequate to retain faculty.

Cost: \$20,000 per year for a faculty member.

Department Excellence Fund

Details: The department has many ongoing expenses including simple things like office supplies and copying. There is a big push to give class handouts so that students are discouraged from bringing distracting tablets and computers to class. In addition, faculty travel to conferences to present their own research and for learning from others. Travel is expensive. An excellence fund allows the department to fund such operational expenses.

Cost: \$50,000 to \$100,000 per fund.