

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PAMPLIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

FIND YOUR FUTURE IN FINANCE

FinTech & Big Data Analytics

Financial Planning & Wealth
Management (CFP®)

Finance and Real Estate

Finance Major with four options:

Corporate Finance

Financial Accounting

Financial Risk Management

Investment Management (CFA®)





Department of Finance, Insurance,
and Business Law

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[facebook.com/vtfinance](https://www.facebook.com/vtfinance)



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ABOUT US

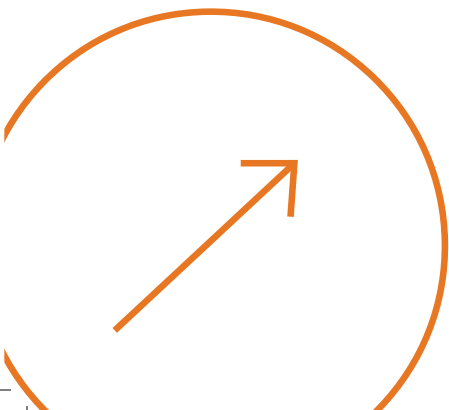
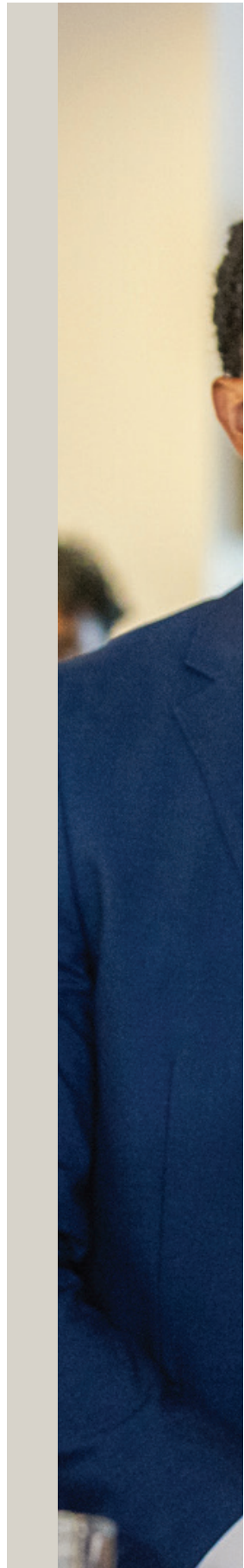
The Department of Finance is one of the largest departments in Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business. It is home to over 30 full-time and part-time faculty members, plus Ph.D. students, serving more than 1,350 undergraduates.

OUR MISSION

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- Excellence in research for visibility and outstanding teaching
- Superiority in teaching and opportunities for students
- Proficiency in service to all stakeholders: students, alumni, faculty, and staff
- A community that promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging

The Department of Finance has a long-term commitment to research excellence among its faculty and doctoral students. Ongoing research activity enables the department to continuously upgrade course content to keep it contemporary and relevant to modern business needs. Our faculty members stay informed of current trends and the latest research in the financial world, and publish their research in top-tier finance journals.





In recent ranking surveys conducted by Niche.com, Study.com, CollegeChoice.net, BusinessDegreeCentral.com, UniversityHQ.org, and others, the department was placed among the top 50 colleges and universities in the nation, based on key statistics and student reviews using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Finance is also the fourth most interviewed major by prospective employers at Virginia Tech.

2024 FINANCE RANKINGS

#12 

Virginia Tech - Niche 2024: Top Public Universities in America

#24 

College Factual 2024: Best Schools for Bachelor of Finance (Top 5% in the U.S.)

#32 

Niche 2024: Best Colleges for Accounting & Finance in America

#1 

College Factual 2024: Best Schools for Finance & Financial Management in Virginia

#1 

Niche 2024: Best Colleges for Accounting and Finance in Virginia



WHY FINANCE?

Finance is a specialty that works with the development, allocation, and use of monetary resources within established legal and ethical frameworks, while understanding and mitigating the associated risks.



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Money is a critical component of the economic system and its flow is the sustaining force of the U.S. and global economies. Therefore, in working with how governments, corporations, intermediaries, and households utilize their financial assets, finance professionals are an integral part of how the economy perpetuates the standard of living that we enjoy.

There are three separate but related fields within finance:

1. Corporate financial management or “business finance”, which focuses on the internal decisions of companies to raise funds and invest in corporate assets;
2. Investment management, which focuses on the purchase and sale of stocks and bonds or their derivatives by individuals and institutions; and
3. Financial services management, which focuses on the management and regulation of financial institutions and the role they play in the economy.

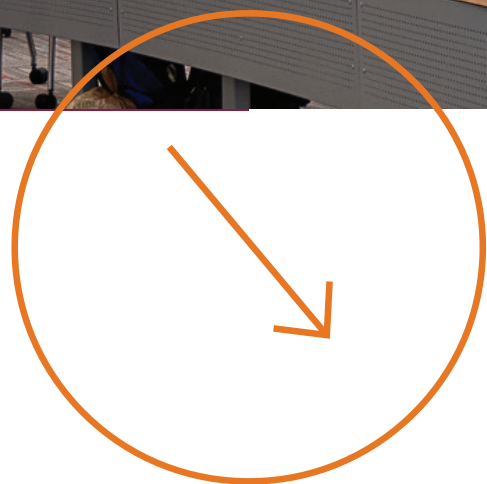
The undergraduate program in Finance meets the requirements of students who desire specialized careers in financial management. Students gain expertise in finance, analytics, and accounting that are essential for success

as a financial professional. Case-oriented coursework requires students to apply their knowledge and strengthen their oral and written communication skills.

The curriculum offers courses in finance, insurance, and business law, but majors are only available in finance-related fields of study.

OUR SPECIALIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- Major: Financial Planning & Wealth Management (CFP® program)
- Major: FinTech & Big Data Analytics
- Major: Real Estate Finance
- Option: Corporate Financial Management
- Option: Financial Accounting
- Option: Financial Risk Management (RMA certificate program)
- Option: Investment Management & Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA® program)



+750,800

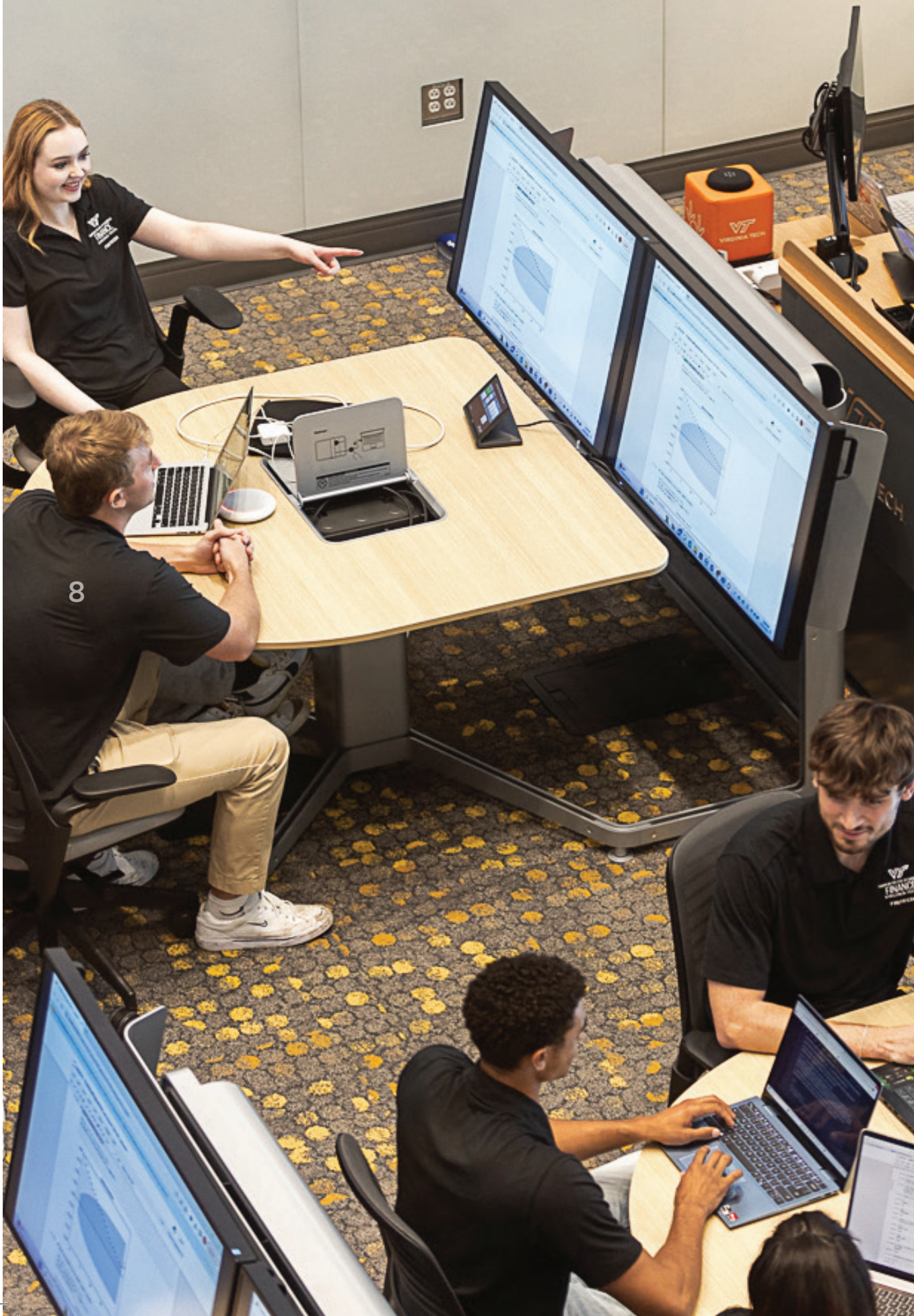
NEW JOBS IN FINANCE THROUGH 2030

\$76,300

MEDIAN STARTING SALARY PER UNIVERSITY HQ

91-94%

PLACEMENT RATE



FINTECH & BIG DATA ANALYTICS



What is FinTech?

FinTech is the integration of finance, computer science and computation modeling, and data analytics to solve very complex quantitative finance problems. The application of computer science and CMDA to finance has created efficiencies and streamlined financial processes in many industries. The finance industry has rapidly evolved in embracing FinTech/Quantitative Finance skill sets.

Why FinTech & Big Data Analytics?

The FinTech and Big Data Analytics Major (FBDA) is designed to meet an increasing need in the financial industry for personnel who have both in-depth knowledge of finance and advanced analytical and computational skills. It contains a much more rigorous curriculum in math, statistics, and computer science in addition to the typical finance courses, and concludes with a capstone finance class that applies these technical and innovative skills to address real-world financial problems.

Student Knowledge Outcomes

- In-depth knowledge of finance, advanced analytical and computational skills
- Technical, highly specialized industry knowledge

Targeted Skill Sets

- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Computational modeling
- Quantitative finance

Example Careers

- Financial Data Analytics
- Portfolio Analytics
- Risk Management Modeling & Analysis
- Algorithmic Trading
- Structure Products Modeling & Analysis

100%
PLACEMENT RATE



\$82,000 - \$120,00
STARTING SALARY RANGE

Fintech Employers

Deloitte.

citi

Bank of America.


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Capital One

amazon

 **Microsoft**

Deutsche Bank 

KPMG

accenture

**WELLS
FARGO**


edf

GEICO®

Coursework for FinTech Major

ACCOUNTING

Principles of Accounting

Financial Statement Analysis

BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Business Statistics, Analytics & Finance

Operation and Supply Management

Introduction to Business Analytics Modeling

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Introductory Data Analytics & Visualization

Introduction to Programming in Python

Introduction to Software Design

Software Design & Data Structures

ECONOMICS

Principles of Economics

FINANCE

Introduction to Finance

Legal and Ethical Environment of Business

Python/SQL for Data Analytics & Finance

Financial Analytics

Investments: Debt, Equity, & Derivatives

Corporate Finance

Financial Modeling in Excel

FinTech Capstone Course

FIN Elective Courses: Students must complete one.

→ International Financial Management

→ Fixed Income Securities

→ Managing Risk with Derivatives

→ Equity Securities

MANAGEMENT

Introduction to International Business

Management Theory & Leadership Practice

Strategic Management

MARKETING

Marketing Management

MATHEMATICS

Calculus of a Single Variable

Multivariable Calculus

Introduction to Linear Algebra

STATISTICS

Statistical Methods

Probability & Distributions





FINANCIAL PLANNING & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Why Financial Planning & Wealth Management?

This major is designed for students who want to pursue a career in financial planning and wealth management. Graduates work primarily with individuals and families, or in some cases may also manage assets for foundations, trusts, or employee retirement plans. As a CFP® Board-registered curriculum, the major combines the traditional finance curriculum with the educational requirements for a student to take the Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) examination after graduation. Certified Financial Planner™ is the most widely recognized professional designation within the financial planning profession.

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (CFP Board) owns the CFP® certification mark, the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification mark, and the CFP® certification mark (with plaque design) logo in the United States, which it authorizes use of by individuals who successfully complete CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements.

What Graduates Can Expect

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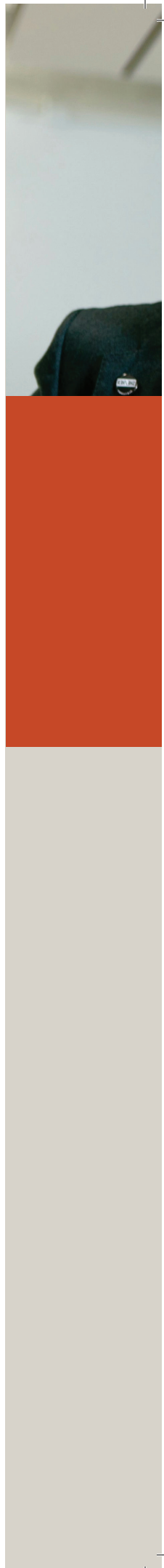
Graduates of the financial planning program join a broad range of companies, from national firms like Vanguard and Charles Schwab to mid-level and smaller firms, including Cary Street Partners, Crosspoint Wealth Management, and Partners in Financial Planning.

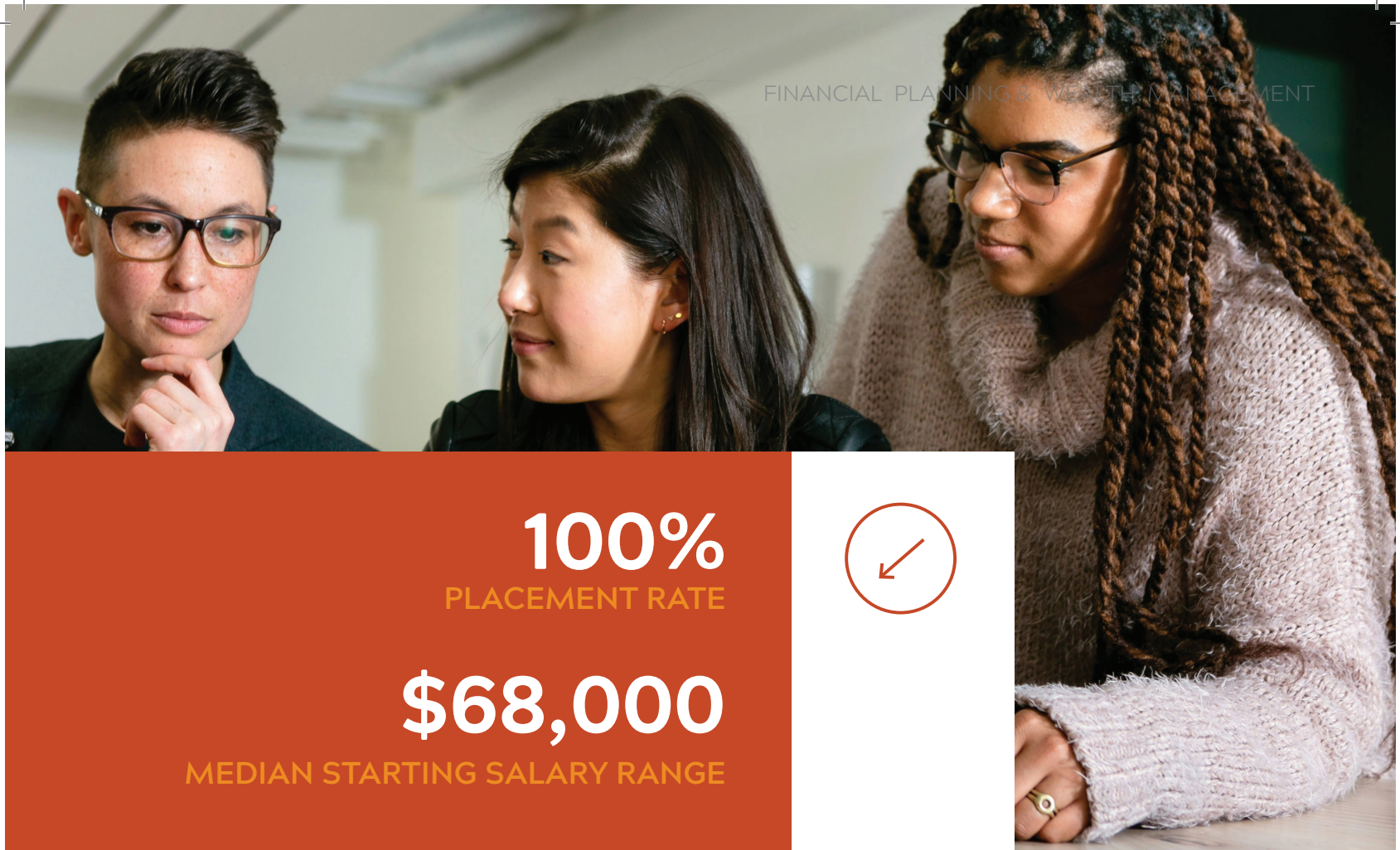
Targeted Skill Sets

- Attention to detail
- Written and oral communication skills
- Problem-solving and analytical perspective
- Adaptability
- Interpersonal skills and humility
- Team-oriented, but capable of working independently
- Work ethic and drive
- Commitment to lifelong learning

Example Careers


- Client Service Associate
- Financial Planning Associate
- Associate Advisor
- Wealth Management Associate
- Client Service Coordinator
- Associate Portfolio Manager
- Client Relationship Manager





100%
PLACEMENT RATE

\$68,000
MEDIAN STARTING SALARY RANGE



Financial Planning Employers

Vanguard[®]

charles SCHWAB



Plus so many more employer opportunities,
including firms created by our very own alumni!

Coursework for Financial Planning & Wealth Management Major

ACCOUNTING

Introduction to Business Analytics & Business Intelligence

Principles of Accounting

Introduction to Accounting Analytics

Intermediate Financial Accounting or Analysis of Financial Statements

Tax for Financial Planners

BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Introduction to Business Statistics, Analytics & Modeling

Operations & Supply Chain Management

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Introductory Data Analytics & Visualization

Introduction to Programming in Python

Introduction to Software Design

Software Design & Data Structures

ECONOMICS

Principles of Economics

FINANCE

Survey of Finance and Career Planning

Introduction to Finance

Financial Planning for Professionals

Financial Analytics

Investments: Debt, Equity, & Derivatives

Corporate Finance

Risk and Insurance

Legal & Ethical Environment of Business

Wills, Trusts, & Estates

Retirement Planning

Client Relationship Management

Financial Planning Applications

Financial Planning Technology & Modeling

Equity Services

MANAGEMENT

Foundations of Business

Introduction to International Business

Principles of Management

Strategic Management

MARKETING

Marketing Management

Principles of Management

MATHEMATICS

Business Calculus

STATISTICS

Statistical Methods

Probability & Distributions





FINANCE & REAL ESTATE

Connecting Finance & Real Estate

Real estate is the largest asset class in the world, encompassing land, housing, commercial buildings (hotels, office buildings, shopping centers), industrial buildings (warehouses and factories), healthcare facilities (hospitals and nursing homes), and government buildings (offices, schools, military, etc.). There are a variety of opportunities in real estate for finance professionals, including valuing real estate, analyzing the financial aspects of real estate projects and investments, financing real estate projects and investments, and selling and leasing real estate.

Financial analysis is at the heart of many decisions involving real estate—whether or not to proceed with a building project, whether to buy or lease a building, whether to expand or renovate a building, determining the right price at which to buy or sell, deciding how to finance a project, or estimating the fair value of the stock of a real estate company. As a result, a wide variety of employers in various facets of the real estate industry value students who have knowledge of both finance and real estate.

Why Real Estate Finance?

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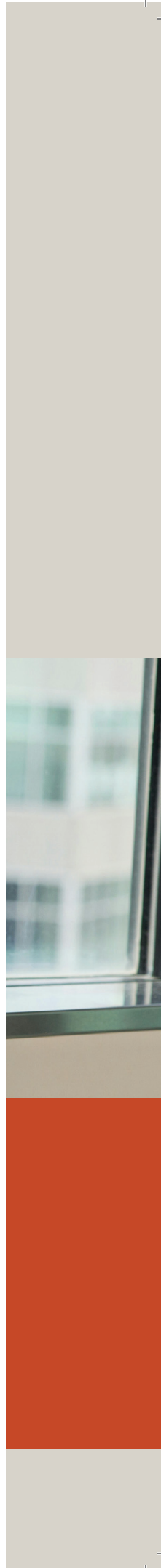
Virginia Tech's Real Estate Finance major is for students who want to pursue a career in real estate finance and development. The program provides students with in-depth coursework in both real estate and finance, positioning them well for success in a wide variety of real estate-related careers after graduation.

Targeted Skill Sets

- Interest in real estate assets and markets
- Willingness to learn about a diverse set of subject areas (project design and management, financial analysis, laws and regulations, financing, and investments)
- Ability to organize and analyze data using Excel
- Ability to make data-based decisions and apply them to tangible projects and assets
- Ability to analyze projects from both a qualitative and quantitative standpoint

Example Careers

- Prudential Financial Analyst in Real Estate Development
- Real Estate Appraiser (Valuation)
- Bank Credit/Loan Officer in Real Estate
- Mortgage Broker
- Investment Banking
- Real Estate Investing



Real Estate Finance Employers





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91-94%
PLACEMENT RATE

\$60,000
MEDIAN STARTING SALARY RANGE





THE FINANCE MAJOR

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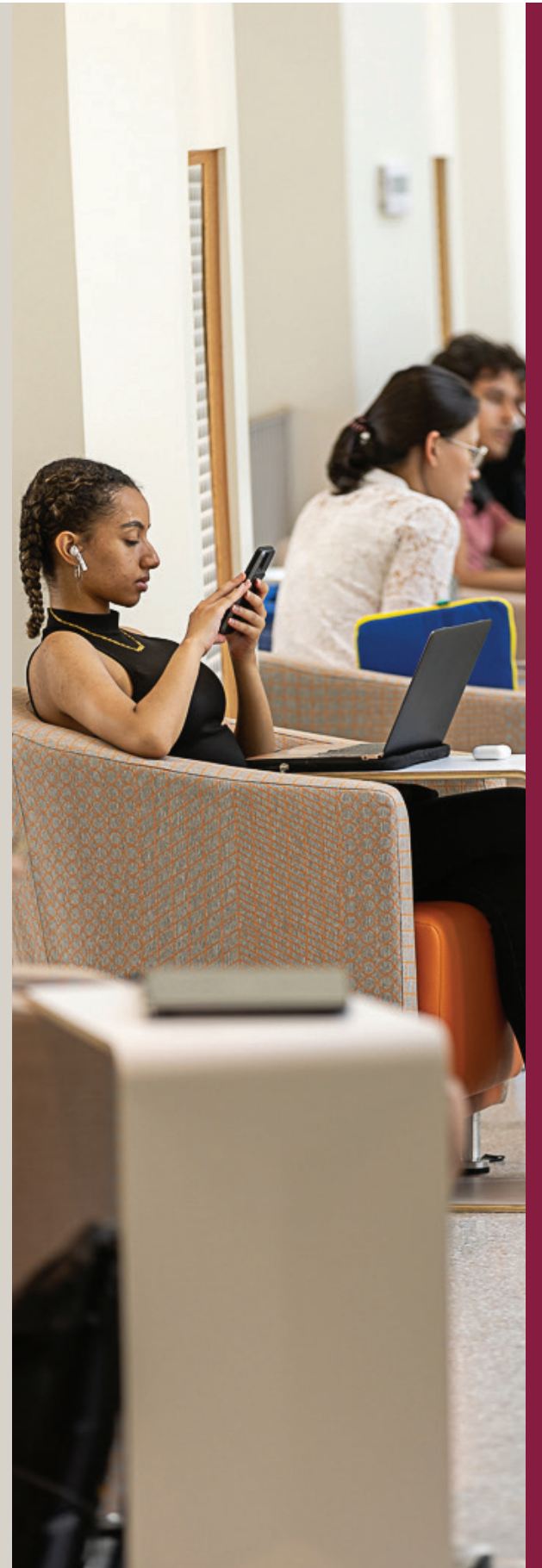
The undergraduate program in Finance offers significant coursework in finance, analytics, modeling, and accounting, all of which are essential for success as a financial professional.

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Students learn the fundamental theory underlying the core areas of finance, the application of theoretical models in financial decision-making, and various analytical approaches to solving financial problems. The program maintains a strong focus on coursework that will help students apply their knowledge to realistic situations. In addition to taking university-required courses, college-required courses, and finance courses, students choosing the Finance major are also required to choose a Finance option.

These include:

- Investment Management & CFA® (FCFA)
- Financial Risk Management (FNRM)
- Corporate Financial Management (FCFM)
- Financial Accounting (FFAC)



One Major, Four Options

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT & CHARTERED FINANCIAL ANALYST (CFA®) (FCFA)

This option is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in investment management. Career opportunities include working at institutional money management firms, such as mutual funds and insurance companies, as well as managing money for individuals and families. The CFA® certification, which one receives after passing all three levels of the CFA® exam, is a globally recognized professional certification for the investment management profession.

FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (FNRM)

FNRM allows students to pursue many paths involving financial risks, focusing on banking, valuation, credit analysis, business analytics, and credit markets, with a hands-on experiential capstone for those eligible. Any situation where a business has to assess the viability of a counterparty to fulfill its financial obligations will require the skills learned in the FNRM option. Employers are eager to obtain talent with these skills.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING (FFAC)

Many employers seek graduates with strong skills in both accounting and finance, and this option is designed to provide students with strength in both areas. The Financial Accounting option combines upper-level coursework in both accounting and finance, and most

students in this option graduate with a double major in those two subjects. Some go on to take the CPA exam after graduation and enter roles with accounting firms, while others follow a variety of consulting and finance career paths. The object of this option is to equip students with the analytical tools and skills used in financial decision-making, along with an extensive knowledge of accounting practice. Accounting is the language of finance, and strong accounting skills give Finance majors a significant competitive advantage.

CORPORATE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (FCFM)

Many of the major decisions in a business are driven by financial analysis. These include determination of capital requirements, identification of available sources of capital, allocation of capital among various business segments, optimal division between debt and equity, liquidity, financial risk management through different investments like options and futures, and maximization of long-term profitability and return on capital. There are numerous voluntary and involuntary actions, such as large asset sales and purchases, contracts, mergers, and acquisitions, where this analysis can be applied. The object of the Corporate Financial Management option is to equip students with the analytical tools and skills for such financial decisions made by businesses. Students can also utilize those same skills in the public sector and with employers such as investment banks and consulting firms.



Example Careers

- Corporate & Public Sector Financial Planning, Budgeting & Analysis
- Corporate Treasury
- Contract and Project Analysis
- Consulting
- Corporate Risk Management
- Investment Banking
- Public Sector Finance
- Auditor
- Corporate Tax Planning
- Debt Capital Markets (DCM)
- Asset Portfolio Management
- Private Debt/Equity Lender
- Late-Stage Venture Capital
- Counterparty Risk Manager
- Research Analyst
- Portfolio Manager
- Contract Analyst
- Valuation



91-94%
PLACEMENT RANGE



\$60,000-\$70,000
STARTING SALARY RANGE

Employers for Finance Options

Deloitte.

Google

Bank of America.



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Capital One



Vanguard

Freddie Mac
We make home possible®

KPMG

 **FannieMae**

 **leidos**

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Coursework for Finance Major

ACCOUNTING

Introduction to Business Analytics & Business Intelligence
Principles of Accounting
Introduction to Accounting Analytics
Intermediate Financial Accounting or Analysis of Financial Statements

BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Introduction to Business Statistics, Analytics & Modeling
Operations & Supply Chain Management

ECONOMICS

Principles of Economics

FINANCE

Survey of Finance and Career Planning
Introduction to Finance
Financial Analytics
Investments: Debt, Equity, & Derivatives
Corporate Finance
Credit Risk Analysis
Legal & Ethical Environment of Business

Asset Valuation & Corporate Governance
Bank Management & Financial Services
Fixed Income Securities
Python for Finance
Financial Modeling in Excel
Equity Securities
International Financial Management
Managing Risk with Derivatives
Venture Capital & Investment Banking

MANAGEMENT

Foundations of Business
Principles of Management
Introduction to International Business
Strategic Management

MARKETING

Marketing Management
Principles of Management

MATHEMATICS

Business Calculus

Finance Minor

Students pursuing a major outside the Pamplin College of Business (with the exception of Real Estate) may apply for a minor in Finance if they have a minimum 2.50 overall GPA, have completed 24 hours at Virginia Tech, and have completed the math requirement. The minor requires 27 hours of coursework.





FINANCE GRADUATE PROGRAM



Finance Graduate Program

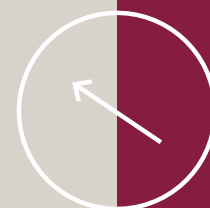
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The doctoral program in Finance in the Pamplin College of Business is a research-oriented program designed to prepare students for successful academic careers in research and teaching. Our graduates have been placed in tenure-track positions at well-known universities. The strength of our doctoral program is derived from high-quality researchers on our faculty. The Finance faculty at Virginia Tech has published extensively in the top journals in finance and economics (including Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, Review of Financial

Studies, Journal of Business, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, American Economic Review, and Journal of Political Economy). These faculty experts conduct one-on-one mentoring and work closely with students on research projects and publications. In a recent ranking conducted by UT Dallas, the Finance Department at Virginia Tech was ranked in the top 100 (#68) among universities in the U.S., based on research publications for the 2018-2023 period. The department has a long-term commitment to research excellence among its faculty and doctoral students.



**SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR PHD PROGRAM AND PAMPLIN'S
MBA PROGRAM.**







EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



BASIS (Bond and Securities Investing by Students)

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Students in BASIS (Bond and Securities Investing by Students) manage a real fixed-income (bond) portfolio valued at approximately \$5 million. Funds for the portfolio come from Virginia Tech's endowment fund, which is BASIS's sole client. BASIS invests in investment-grade corporate bonds, U.S. Treasury and agency bonds, government-sponsored enterprise bonds, and U.S dollar-denominated sovereign and supranational bonds. The BASIS fund is one of the few undergraduate student-managed funds devoted solely to debt instruments in the country, as well as one of the largest. Students in BASIS learn how economic conditions, monetary policy, and interest-rate changes impact the bond market and its interest rates; how to perform corporate credit analyses; how bond indexes work; how factors such as duration and credit quality impact the performance of individual bonds and the portfolio; and how to prepare reports and presentations on the portfolio and its holdings. Students are selected for BASIS each year through a competitive process.

CREDIT

CREDIT is a student-run group at Virginia Tech that manages a \$2 million portfolio of commercial bank loan participations. CREDIT is a one-of-a-kind learning experience where students lend to companies through the acquisition of loan participations offered by partner banking organizations. The program receives its funding through the Virginia Tech Endowment, which supports its ongoing initiatives.



SEED (Student-managed Endowment for Educational Development)

Students in SEED (Student-managed Endowment for Educational Development) manage a real stock portfolio valued at approximately \$5 million. Funds for the portfolio come from Virginia Tech's endowment fund, which is SEED's sole client. Students in SEED learn how to gather data on industry sectors and individual companies, model company financials, perform valuation analyses, trade stocks, reposition the portfolio to respond to market conditions, and prepare periodic reports on the portfolio and its holdings. SEED students also compete in stock pitch contests held at other universities. SEED is one of the largest undergraduate student-managed equity funds in the nation. Students are selected for SEED each semester through a competitive process.

Financial Planning Association (FPA) Student Chapter

The Financial Planning Association (FPA) Student Chapter is a student-run organization dedicated to providing professional development and networking opportunities to students interested in entering the financial planning profession, whether through comprehensive financial planning or private wealth management. The group hosts numerous guest speakers throughout the school year, enabling students to further their understanding of the profession, shaping the type of planners they will become. The organization also provides service to the local community: members work with organizations such as Junior Achievement, the Virginia Council on Economic Education, and local schools to teach children and teenagers basic financial life skills.

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Finance for Females and Friends

Finance for Females and Friends is a student-run organization, open to all majors, dedicated to empowering females to take control of their financial futures. They partner with various companies to host panels, treks, and workshops to educate members about professions within finance, available opportunities, and the roles that finance plays within their daily lives. By networking with faculty and professionals and normalizing the conversation about money, the organization's goal is to improve academics, careers, and overall financial well-being for all of its members.

FinTech Club

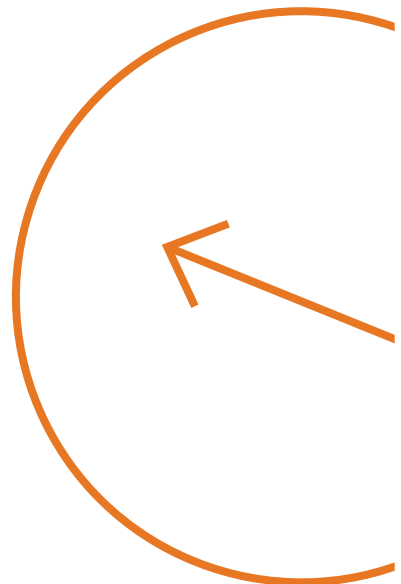
Founded in 2021, the FinTech club is a student-run organization sponsored by the Virginia Tech Finance department. The club seeks to educate students of all majors on FinTech and Big Data Analytics, provides opportunities for industry networking and mentoring opportunities, and hosts industry speaker events. The club offers peer mentoring, tutoring and guidance. The FinTech club competes in FinTech challenges and competitions during the academic year.





Finance Club

The goals of the Finance Club are to help students who are interested in Finance to connect with each other, learn about Finance career opportunities and the placement process, and network with faculty, alumni and employers. The club is open to all students who are interested in Finance. It holds a variety of events throughout the year, including company information sessions, alumni speaker events, workshops focusing on various aspects of the internship recruiting process, and networking socials with faculty and alumni.





FINANCE DEPARTMENT FACULTY

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The Finance Department's faculty are internationally recognized experts in their respective fields. Their ongoing research allows the faculty to bring the latest concepts and ideas into the classroom.

The department has 25 full-time faculty members, including some who have worked 15-plus years in the finance industry. It also has several part-time members and multiple Ph.D students serving the department.

This variety of faculty provides students with the knowledge and experience necessary to connect finance theory with its practical applications, the ability to discuss current events with useful insights, and the advice they seek regarding future careers.

Members of the faculty have won numerous teaching awards at the university, state, and national levels.

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The Finance faculty at Pamplin are well-published across the spectrum of media, including in:

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The New York Times

The Washington Post

Chicago Tribune

The Economist

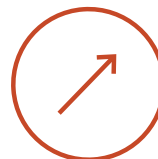
INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

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More Finance faculty in the media

- Financial Times
- The Journal of Finance
- Journal of Financial Economics
- Review of Financial Studies
- Journal of Business
- The American Economic Review

Scan here to view our full office directory.





FINANCE ADVISORY BOARD

The Department of Finance attempts to integrate advice available from our alumni, employers, supporters, and industry leaders to provide the most relevant training and opportunities for our students and faculty.

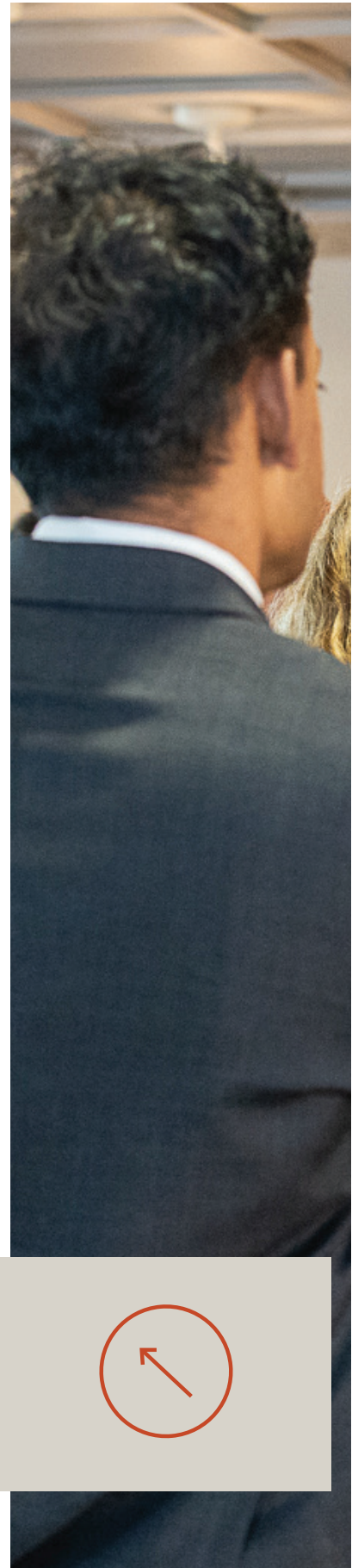
To aid this, we have provided a structured environment for the exchange of ideas through the Pamplin Finance Advisory Board since 2007. The Advisory Board assists along the following dimensions, offering a better level of interaction with its alumni and supporters:

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- Provides students with a placement network and makes them aware of placement opportunities
- Provides suggestions on or additions to the undergraduate and graduate curricula
- Assists the department with long-term strategies and planning
- Assists with the recruitment and retention of outstanding students/faculty by funding scholarships, professorships, and operating expenses



Scan here to view our full
Finance Advisory Board panel.







**WHERE WILL
YOUR FUTURE
IN FINANCE
TAKE YOU?**



CONTACT US

Department of Finance, Insurance,
and Business Law

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1016 Pamplin Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Phone: 540-231-5904
Fax: 540-231-3155
email: fin@vt.edu

www.finance.pamplin.vt.edu



[linkedin.com/school/vt-finance-department/](https://www.linkedin.com/school/vt-finance-department/)



[facebook.com/vtfinance](https://www.facebook.com/vtfinance)

