

USC SCHOOL	Marshall School of Business
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT	Finance Specialized Masters Programs
GRADUATE PROGRAM	Master of Science in Finance
POST CODE	1525
TERM EFFECTIVE DATE	Fall 2025
HOW TO APPLY	Apply Here

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A brief description of the graduate program.

The primary objective of the USC Marshall Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program is to provide students with a flexible and rigorous STEM curriculum to prepare them for a wide range of career opportunities in finance. All courses are taught on the University of Southern California campus by the Marshall School of Business' award-winning teachers, researchers and practitioners. Students can personalize their degrees with elective courses on such topics as real estate, mergers and acquisitions, and hedge funds. The program is open to both business and non-business majors. Academic history must convey potential to succeed in a rigorous STEM-designated quantitative program.

COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS

A list of common bachelor's degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program. Some programs are restricted to certain majors while others are open to all students.

Business Administration	Viterbi Majors
Economics, Economics/Mathematics	Dornsife: Natural Sciences Majors
Mathematics	
Accounting	

PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program. Required coursework is listed first, followed by recommended courses. If not applicable, this section will be blank.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Required or Recommended	Units
BUAD 306 or BUAD 308	Business Finance or Advanced Business Finance	Required	4
BUAD 215*	Foundations of Business Finance	Recommended	4
ECON 351	Microeconomics for Business	Recommended	4
FBE 421	Financial Analysis & Valuation	Recommended	4
ECON 352	Macroeconomics for Business	Recommended	4
BUAD 310/312	Applied Business Statistics/Statistics & Data Science for Business	Recommended	4
MATH 118/125	Fundamental Principles of Calculus/Calculus I	Recommended	4
BUAD 302	Communication Strategy in Business	Recommended	4

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
BUAD 306 or BUAD 308	Business Finance or Advanced Business Finance	4
BUAD 215*	Foundations of Business Finance	4
ECON 351	Microeconomics for Business	4
FBE 421	Financial Analysis & Valuation	4
BUAD 302	Communication Strategy in Business	4
Accounting Majors		

CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk () and the exception is explained in the "Department Notes" section at the end of this course plan template.*

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
GSBA 510*	Accounting Concepts and Financial Reporting (Fall only, Fall 1 preferred)	3
GSBA 511*	Microeconomics for Management (Fall only, Fall 1 preferred)	3
GSBA 542*	Communication for Management (Fall 1 only)	1.5
GSBA 548*	Corporate Finance (Fall 1 only)	3
FBE 506	Quantitative Methods in Finance (Fall only, Fall 1 preferred)	3
FBE 529*	Financial Analysis and Valuation (Spring 1 only)	3
FBE 555	Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management (Spring only)	3
FBE 531	Corporate Financial Policy and Corporate Governance (Fall 2 or Fall 3 only)	3

PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

5-6	TOTAL ELECTIVE COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE
13.5	TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE

TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS

36	TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE
6	TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)
30	MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE

NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT

This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

*GSBA 510 may be waived for Accounting majors. GSBA 511 may be waived if ECON 351 has been completed with a B+ or better. GSBA 548 may be waived if BUAD 215 (taken in fall 2022 only), BUAD 306, or BUAD 308 has been completed with an A- or better. FBE 529 may be waived if FBE 421 has been completed with a B+ or better. GSBA 542 may be waived if BUAD 302 has been completed with a B or better.

Non-Marshall majors must have a final grade in BUAD 306: Business Finance or BUAD 308: Advanced Business Finance before submitting an application.

Eligible PDP students may reduce their total unit requirement to a minimum of 30 units. Students who are eligible to waive more than 6 units of coursework must replace any excess units with 500-level FBE electives.

The Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program, and progressive degree program in particular, is very competitive often with a higher GPA standard (3.5+ GPA preferred).

The MSF program begins in Fall semesters each year and requires three semesters (two Fall terms and one Spring term) of enrollment. MSF PDP degree completion is not limited to three semesters, but the course plan should reflect the course sequencing indicated above.

GSBA 548 and GSBA 542 must be taken in the first Fall term, regardless of course plan length. All PDP students must enroll in at least two core MSF courses in the first Fall term. If students are eligible to waive GSBA 548 and/or GSBA 542, they must enroll in other core courses (GSBA 510, GSBA 511, and/or FBE 506) to meet the two-course minimum requirement for the first term.

All 500-level FBE courses and a select list of approved non-FBE courses may be taken to satisfy the elective requirements. Please see the USC Catalogue for a list of preapproved electives:

<https://catalogue.usc.edu/>

Elective courses may be taken in 3-unit or 1.5-unit increments and must sum to a minimum of 13.5 units.

Marshall Undergraduate Majors

Marshall UG majors may be able to use up to 12 units of 500-level graduate electives taken as part of the MSF program toward their Marshall MUDE units. You will have the opportunity to discuss this in detail with the graduate program advisor if your application is recommended for admission.

Rahsan Akbulut

Name of Authorizing Master's Program Dean

8/28/2024

Date Approved

Associate Dean for Specialized Masters Programs | Marshall School of Business

Authorizing Dean's Title