

# DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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The Finance program at Western Kentucky University (WKU) offers a rigorous and flexible undergraduate education, preparing students for dynamic careers in the financial industry. Students can choose from five concentrations within the Bachelor of Science in Finance:

- Business Finance – General | Investment | Analyst | Financial Services
- Personal Financial Planning

In addition to the major, WKU also offers a Finance minor and two specialized certificate programs:

- Certificate in Financial Planning (CFP® Board-Registered)
- Accredited Financial Counselor Certificate

## Program Mission

Our mission is to deliver a comprehensive finance education that integrates financial theory, practical application, and student-focused instruction. Our faculty are committed to excellence in teaching and applied research, helping students develop the analytical, technical, and decision-making skills needed to succeed in today's fast-paced financial environment.

## Why Study Finance at WKU?

- Hands-on Learning and Real-World Experience
- Small Class Sizes and Personalized Faculty Mentorship
- Access to Advanced Financial Technology and Bloomberg Terminals
- Engagement in Award-Winning Student Organizations
- Career-Ready Programs and Internships

Students benefit from high-impact experiences through programs like PEAK Professional Development, financial coaching at the Center for Financial Success, and leadership opportunities across campus and beyond.

## Distinctions That Set Us Apart

- CFP® Board-Registered Programs-WKU's *Personal Financial Planning concentration* and *Certificate in Financial Planning* are officially registered with the Certified Financial Planner™ Board of Standards, Inc. As of December 2024, WKU is one of only three institutions in Kentucky to offer CFP Board-registered degree programs—an elite credential that enhances students' marketability and career prospects in financial planning.
- TVA Investment Challenge Program-WKU is one of just 25 universities in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service region participating in the TVA Investment Challenge. This real-world investment experience allows students to manage a live portfolio, which reached a valuation of \$500,000 as of January 2025. It's a powerful opportunity for students to apply classroom knowledge to real financial markets.

- AACSB Accreditation-The Gordon Ford College of Business at WKU holds prestigious accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This accreditation affirms our commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement.

## Degree

- Finance, Bachelor of Science (664) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/business/finance/finance-bs/>)

## Minor

- Finance, Minor (357) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/business/finance/finance-minor/>)

## Certificate

- Accredited Financial Counselor, Certificate (1758) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/business/finance/accredited-financial-counselor/>)
- Financial Planning, Certificate (200) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/business/finance/financial-planning-certificate/>)

## Faculty

### Professor

Christopher L. Brown PhD (Business Administration), Oklahoma State University Main Campus, 1998

Indudeep S. Chhachhi DBA (Business Administration), Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1990

### Associate Professor

Mohsen Aram PhD (Business Administration, Finance), Oklahoma State University Main Campus, 2016

### Assistant Professor

Dipesh Bhattarai PhD (Finance), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2024  
Kerron T. Joseph PhD (Finance), University of Texas at San Antonio, 2022

### Pedagogical Associate Professor

Andrew J. Head MA (Applied Economics), Western Kentucky University, 2010

Ronald A. Rhoades JD (Law), University of Florida, 1985

### Instructor I

Zachary P. Jones MBA (Business Administration), Western Kentucky University, 2018