FINANCE

SPS Certificate website: https://sps.northwestern.edu/post-baccalaureate/finance/index.php

A solid foundation in finance is required for many business careers and for admission into certain graduate schools of business administration. The Finance certificate consists of courses that provide core knowledge, ranging from basic concepts and models to corporate finance to investment theory.

Certificate Offered
- Finance, Certificate (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/finance/finance-certificate/)

Finance Courses

FINANCE 202-CN Introduction to Finance (1 Unit)
Introduction to the basic concepts and models used in finance.
Prerequisite: MATH 101-CN, STAT 202-CN, or college algebra, statistics, financial accounting, microeconomics, and macroeconomics, or equivalents. Carries business credit.

FINANCE 202-DL Introduction to Finance (1 Unit)
Introduction to the basic concepts and models used in finance.
Prerequisite: MATH 101-CN, STAT 202-CN, or college algebra, statistics, financial accounting, microeconomics, and macroeconomics, or equivalents. Carries business credit.

FINANCE 360-CN Corporate Finance (1 Unit)
Topics include capital budgeting; how companies determine what an appropriate discount rate would be for a given capital investment; the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and the Arbitrage Pricing Theory (APT) models used to estimate a firm’s cost of equity; detailed consideration of how beta is estimated for the CAPM; how a company derives its weighted average cost of capital (WACC); the dividend policy decision and capital structure theory; financial planning models; the adjustments typically made to financial statement data to accommodate the needs and viewpoints of financial analysts and investors; corporate risk management (hedging techniques).
Prerequisite: FINANCE 202-CN or equivalent.

FINANCE 363-CN Financial Markets and Institutions (1 Unit)
The role of financial institutions and markets from a financial manager’s perspective. Process of financial intermediation within the economy.
Prerequisite: FINANCE 202-CN.

FINANCE 364-CN Investment Theory (1 Unit)
Theory underlying the construction of a financial assets portfolio with the objective of maximizing expected return for a specified tolerable level of risk. Topics include risk aversion and utility functions; diversification; capital allocation to risky assets (the separation property); optimal risky portfolios; index models; the Capital Asset Pricing Model and multifactor models of risk and return; and the efficient market hypothesis.
Prerequisite: FINANCE 202-CN or equivalent.

FINANCE 365-CN Portfolio Management (1 Unit)
Applied investment management.
Prerequisite: FINANCE 202-CN or equivalent.

FINANCE 368-CN Options and Futures (1 Unit)
Development of skills to value and use options, futures, and related financial contracts. Topics include arbitrage, hedging, spreading, pricing relations, models such as Black Scholes and cost of carry, and currency and interest-rate swaps.
Prerequisite: FINANCE 202-CN or equivalent.

FINANCE 390-CN Special Topics: (1 Unit)
Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

FINANCE 399-CN Indp Study (1 Unit)