FINANCIAL ENGINEERING, MS
for the degree of Master of Science in Financial Engineering

Financial Engineering (FE) is the application of quantitative methods to the analysis of financial markets and financial products. The quantitative techniques may include Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, Machine Learning, Neural Nets, and generalized Data Analytics. The applications include searching for opportunities as well as deriving solutions to financial problems. All financial markets are a subject for FE, from public exchanges to private over-the-counter markets. Similarly, all financial products, from equities, bonds and derivatives to bitcoins are candidates for quantification. An overarching theme for FE involves balancing reward against techniques for the measurement, management, and mitigation of risk.

Admission
Applicants to the MSFE Program will have a Bachelor's degree with one year of calculus, one semester of linear algebra and differential equations, one semester of programming (preferably in C/C++), and one semester of probability and statistics. Knowledge of basic finance and economics is helpful but not necessary. Given its technical emphasis, applicants to this program typically will have completed a Bachelor's degree in an engineering field, mathematics, physics, computer science, or economics that provides sufficient preparation to facilitate a fast-paced, in-depth learning environment.

All applicants are expected to have a minimum grade point average of at least 3.25 (A=4.00) for the last two years of undergraduate study and a 3.50 for any previous graduate work completed. Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (http://www.ets.org/) general test are required of all applicants. GMAT (https://www.gmac.com/gmat-other-assessments/about-the-gmat-exam/the-gmat-advantage/) scores as evidence of English proficiency. Minimum admission requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) are set by the Graduate College. Under certain circumstances applicants may be exempt (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement.

All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit TOEFL (http://www.toefl.org/) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (http://www.ielts.org/) scores as evidence of English proficiency. Minimum admission requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) are set by the Graduate College. Under certain circumstances applicants may be exempt (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement.

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Covering topics in finance, economics, numerical methods, stochastic calculus, and computer programming, the MSFE is a rigorous, three-semester, 48-credit, resident degree program with a summer internship opportunity. Twelve courses each of 4 graduate credits are required for graduation; they are expected to be taken in sequence in the respective semesters.

For additional details and requirements refer to the program's website (http://msfe.illinois.edu/) and the Graduate (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/) College (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/) Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).

Code | Title | Hours
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FIN 500 | Introduction to Finance | 4
FIN 512 | Financial Derivatives | 4
FIN 516 | Term Structure Models | 2
FIN 553 | Machine Learning in Finance | 4
IE 522 | Statistical Methods in Finance | 4
IE 523 | Financial Computing | 4
IE 524 | Optimization in Finance | 2
IE 525 | Stochastic Calculus & Numerical Models in Finance (2 times) | 4

Elective Coursework (approved by academic advisor) | 16
Professional Development | 4
IE 527 | MSFE Professional Development | 0
IE 583 | MSFE Practicum Project | 4
or FIN 583 | Practicum | 4

Total Hours | 48

Other Requirements

Requirement
A minimum of 36 credit hours must be taken from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus.
Minimum GPA: 2.75

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1. Comprehension of common financial engineering techniques (toolkit).
2. Ability to identify and apply the appropriate techniques (tools) to real financial engineering opportunities and problems.
3. Ability to minimally code to analysis.
4. Awareness & knowledge of the financial environment.
5. Ability to assess & articulate results to non-technical peers.

for the degree of Master of Science in Financial Engineering

Department Head (Industrial & Enterprise Systems Engineering): Jeff Shamma
Department Head (Finance): Louis Chan
Program Director: Liming Feng
Financial Engineering website (http://msfe.illinois.edu)
Financial Engineering faculty (https://msfe.illinois.edu/about/faculty/)
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(217) 300-7346
MSFE email (msfe@illinois.edu)

Gies College of Business
Gies College of Business website (https://giesbusiness.illinois.edu/)

Grainger College of Engineering
Grainger College of Engineering website (https://grainger.illinois.edu/)

Admissions
Financial Engineering Admissions Requirements (https://msfe.illinois.edu/admissions/)
Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 11/2023
Financial Engineering Application Inquiries (msfe-apply@illinois.edu)