

Section I: The Action

It is proposed that the Department of Economics and Finance offer a minor in Quantitative Finance.

The proposed minor program of study would require the following incremental number of courses for the following student groups, assuming these students use a specified set of major-specific electives to take courses within the proposed minor:

Economics Majors (Economic Theory Emphasis)

Two courses: Corporate Finance (FIN 3400)
Investments (FIN 4460)

Finance Majors

Three courses: Math Econ I or Actuarial Math I (ECN 4310 or MATH 5570)
Math Econ II or Actuarial Math II (ECN 5310 or MATH 5580)
Econometrics or Financial Economics (ECN 5330 or STAT 5100 or ECN 5600)

Math or Statistics Majors (Actuarial Science Emphasis)

Four courses: Intermediate Microeconomics (ECN 4010)
Financial Economics (ECN 5600)
Corporate Finance (FIN 3400)
Investments (FIN 4460)

If a student would like to pursue this minor program of study and they do not have one of the identified majors listed above, the total set of required courses for this minor is as follows:

Statistics (STAT 3000)
Econometrics (STAT 5100 or ECN 5330)
Calculus (MATH 1100 or MATH 1210)
Math Econ I (ECN 4310) or Actuarial Math I (MATH 5570)
Math Econ II (ECN 5310) or Actuarial Math II (MATH 5580)
Intermediate Microeconomics (ECN 4010)
Financial Economics (ECN 5600)
Corporate Finance (FIN 3400)
Investments (FIN 4460)

Many of these courses could be taken as part of the business core, or as part of the electives within other majors in the School of Business, or other majors across campus.

Section II: The Need

A central element of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business strategy involves a commitment to cultivate student capacity in quantitative analytics. This emanates from responsiveness to donor intent in the naming gift of the School. Many students within the Huntsman School of Business, but particularly those who have chosen majors in economics and finance majors, are interested in careers where an understanding of sophisticated financial models and complementary data analysis techniques are critical elements of their knowledge and skill set. This minor is designed to be responsive to this demand. In addition, students who

choose to pursue this minor will be better prepared for the series of exams leading to the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) credential or the series of actuarial exams. Further, students in the math – actuarial program will benefit from a focused set of economics and finance courses that provide topical coverage relevant to the actuarial exams. Due to increased sophistication of financial market transactions and the analytical innovation that is sweeping this industry, public and private entities operate in this market arena are placing more emphasis on hiring individuals with analytical skills appropriate for sophisticated risk analysis.

Section III: Institutional Impact

It is not anticipated that this minor will affect enrollment in any major. It may affect, by design, enrollment in the economics minor and the finance minor.

The proposed curriculum does not require any new courses. No new faculty, facilities, or equipment will be required.

Section IV: Finances

The addition of this minor will be budget neutral.

Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Department of Economics and Finance

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Minor in Quantitative Finance

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code:

Certificate, Diploma and/or Degree(s) to be Awarded: NA

Proposed Beginning Date: July 1, 2009

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Raymond T. Coward, Chief Academic Officer: _____

Douglas Anderson, Dean, Huntsman School of Business: _____

Tyler J. Bowles, Head, Department of Economics and Finance: _____

Date: 1/21/2009