The Master of Science in Financial Economics is designed as a terminal, professional degree in financial economics. The curriculum includes courses in the key areas of finance and the supporting areas of economics and quantitative methods. It is intended to prepare students for a wide range of careers both within and outside the financial industry, including risk management, asset management, macroeconomic and financial forecasting, capital markets and financial and economic research.

DIVE DEEP INTO THE WORLD OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

The Master of Science in Financial Economics (MSFE) is a terminal, professional degree in financial economics. The curriculum includes courses in the key areas of finance and the supporting areas of economics and quantitative methods. It is intended to prepare students for a wide range of careers both within and outside the financial industry, including risk management, asset management, macroeconomic and financial forecasting, capital markets and financial and economic research.

LEARN WITH PROFESSIONAL TOOLS

Bloomberg Terminals and Training: Bloomberg is synonymous with real-time financial information. Every major financial institution hosts Bloomberg terminals. However, very few universities provide access to Bloomberg due to the expense. The Department of Economics and Finance at the Huntsman School of Business has made a strategic investment in Bloomberg to help prepare our students for success. These terminals not only support classroom instruction and faculty research, but provide a means for students to become certified in the use of Bloomberg – a skill that may provide value to future employers on day one of your professional career.

SET YOURSELF APART FROM THE COMPETITION

Prepare for the CFA Exam: The MSFE curriculum is designed to help students prepare to sit for the level 1 exam during their final semester in the program. The CFA is the most internationally recognized and credible credential for financial professionals and is earned by passing a series of analytically rigorous exams. The department provides competitive scholarships to MSFE students to help offset the cost of taking the exam. Further, the department makes available study-guide material to help students prepare for the exam. USU is one of a select group of universities worldwide to be named a member of the CFA Institute’s University Recognition Program, which provides scholarships and study aids to students preparing for the CFA exam.
Program Requirements

**Structured as a Plan B Master’s Degree**

A MSFE student must earn a minimum of 30 credits above a bachelor’s degree. These credit requirements include 27 credit hours of course work (i.e., nine, 3 credit courses) and three thesis credits. It is anticipated that most students will complete the thesis credits (i.e., the Plan B paper) over the course of the summer semester following their fall entrance into the program.

The ideal student will have passed the Level 1 CFA exam, be Bloomberg certified and completed a Plan B paper by the time they enter the job market with their freshly minted master’s in financial economics from the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University.

**Gain hands on learning:** Beginning in Fall 2013, Zions Bank provided our graduate students with an incredible opportunity. Under the direction of the faculty from the Department of Economics and Finance, our MSFE students will manage a portfolio of $5 million consisting of fixed income securities.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Department of Economics and Finance offers several graduate assistantships. An assistantship may come with a waiver of the out-of-state portion of tuition. In addition, students have the opportunity to enroll in the university’s health care program with Blue Cross/Blue Shield at a subsidized rate. Note that the assistantship is competitive. A GRE or GMAT score in the 80th percentile or above on the quantitative portion of the exam is generally required in order to be competitive for a departmental assistantship. The Huntsman School of Business also offers several graduate scholarships. GRE or GMAT scores at the 70th percentile on both the verbal and quantitative parts of the exam are required in order to be considered for these scholarships.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Admission to the MSFE requires a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (4.0 = A) for the last 60 semester credits earned prior to applying for the program. Educational requirements include bachelor’s degree, courses in intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomics, econometrics or statistics, mathematical economics/calculus, and corporate finance. Students whose prior academic performance warrants admission but who have not taken some of these courses may be admitted provisionally. Such students will be required to make up deficiencies by enrolling in appropriate courses prior to beginning the program. These preparatory courses are offered in the summer semester.

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

A student may apply by going to www.usu.edu/graduateschool and clicking on the Future Students link near the middle of the screen. From there you will be able to navigate through the application process and find more information about the requirements for successfully completing the application. The general application deadline is June 30; however, early application will increase your chance of receiving a departmental assistantship.

**PLACEMENT EXAMPLES**

Goldman Sachs, Royal Bank of Scotland, Wells Fargo, Utah Ph.D. Program, Penn State Ph.D. Program