

## Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (Fall 2003)

**Academic Program:** Finance

**Graduate or Undergraduate:** Graduate

**Coordinator of the Program:** Michael Impson

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### I. Student Learning Outcomes

#### A. Required Basic Skills

1. Written and oral communication
2. Quantitative analysis
3. Computer usage

#### B. MBA Core Areas

1. Financial reporting, analysis and markets
2. Domestic and global economic environments of organizations
3. Creation and distribution of goods and services
4. Human behavior in organizations

#### C. MBA Finance Specialty Field Requirements

1. Investments
2. Advanced Corporate Finance
3. Financial Markets and Institutions
4. International Finance

### II. Measuring Student Learning Outcomes

#### A. Inputs

- A. Employer's Roundtables
- B. COBA Advisory Board
- C. Community College Advisory Board
- D. Department Advisory Board
- E. University Student Survey
- F. University Alumni Survey
- G. Graduating Student Survey (described in more detail below)
- H. Consultant's Report on Academic Advising
- I. Career Planning and Placement Annual Reports
- J. Master's Policy Committee Assessment and Strategic Plan
- K. Individual Course Student Evaluations
- L. Program Information from Competing M.B.A. providers in the area
  - Southern Methodist University
  - Texas Christian University
  - University of Texas at Dallas
  - University of Texas at Arlington
  - Texas A&M - Commerce

Baylor University (Dallas EMBA)  
Our Lady of the Lake  
LeTourneau University  
Amber University  
Dallas Baptist University  
Dallas Christian University  
Texas Wesleyan University

#### B. In-class

All the master's level courses administered by the FIREL department either at the core level, finance professional field level, or finance professional field elective level use periodic written examinations to assess learning in the course. In addition, some courses require analysis and presentation of case problems, term papers, team projects, or term projects designed to demonstrate the student's written communication skills, analytical ability, and command of the course material.

#### C. Admission and Retention Standards

1. Admission to the master's programs requires
  1. Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
  2. Minimum undergraduate GPA
  3. Acceptable scores on the GMAT or GRE Exam
2. Retention Standards
  - Maintenance of a minimum GPA of 3.0

#### D. MBA Capstone Course

Every MBA student must successfully complete a capstone course in the final semester of the program as part of the degree requirement. The capstone course requires students from all the professional fields to work as a team in analyzing and presenting business problems.

#### E. MS Capstone Course

Every MS Finance student must successfully complete the MS Capstone course in their last semester of study. The course is structured in a case discussion format designed to reinforce and enhance the analytical skills and knowledge developed in the finance courses covered in the program.

#### F. Proficiency exams

An exam covering basic skills in each of the core areas: accounting, business computer information systems, finance, management, marketing, and business statistics has been administered to students in each of the MBA core classes. Current plans are to administer the exam every spring semester.

#### G. Exit Survey

A survey of students in the MBA capstone course that requests their opinion on the quality of the program and their satisfaction with the program is administered each semester.

#### **IV. Use of Assessment Results**

##### **A. Creation of Master of Science in Finance Degree**

In an effort to provide a more focused degree for students desiring a more extensive concentration in finance, a MS Finance degree was added to the department degree programs in 1998.

##### **B. Reduction in the number of prerequisite or leveling course hours**

In an effort to be competitive with other area programs, the number of hours of background or leveling courses for students without an extensive business background was significantly reduced by converting most to 1.5 hour half-semester courses. The three hour finance leveling course Finance 5040, was eliminated entirely, although based on subsequent experience, the finance faculty has decided to reinstate the course as a 1.5 hour, half-semester course. The three hour Business Law background course was reduced to a 1.5 hour half-semester course.

##### **C. Saturday Course Offerings**

Beginning in 1998, the finance core course, Finance 5170 is now offered on Saturdays in addition to the evening choices available.

##### **D. Courses have been deleted, added, and modified as a result of assessment.**

Courses deleted:

Finance 5040, Financial Management Leveling course  
Finance 5510 Advanced International Finance  
Finance 5300 Case Problems in Finance

Courses added:

Finance 5040, Financial Management leveling course re-instated as a 1.5 hour course  
Finance 5700 MS Finance Capstone Course  
Finance 5XXX Portfolio Analysis

Courses modified:

All courses are updated in response to new developments in the rapidly evolving field of finance in areas such as derivative securities.