

# Exploring Finance

## *1. What is Finance?*

Finance covers most aspects of economic activity including how markets price different financial instruments and their cash flows under conditions of uncertainty and risk as well as how firms raise and invest capital. Finance courses at MIT Sloan teach the theory and tools of modern finance. In addition, finance courses also teach students how to apply these tools to real-world problems.

## *2. Where should I start if I want to learn more about finance?*

15.411 – Finance Theory I

15.412 – Finance Theory II

## *3. Which courses will help to prepare me for a career in finance?*

| M= counts for the [Course 15 major](#) | m = counts for the [Course 15 Management minor](#) | ms = counts for the [Course 15 Management Science minor](#)

### [15.411, Finance Theory I](#)

| M | m | ms | [Syllabus](#)

Introduces the fundamentals of modern financial analysis and applications in valuation, risk analysis, and corporate financial decisions.

### [15.412, Finance Theory II](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Answers questions related to corporate finance around what to invest in, how to finance it, and how to manage firm cash flows.

### [15.433, Investments](#)

| M | m | ms | [Syllabus](#)

Focuses on the financial risk factors, models, and markets that are useful for investment decisions.

### [15.434, Advanced Corporate Finance](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Approaches corporate finance from the standpoint of a CFO whose job is to maximize the value of the firm.

### [15.437, Options and Futures Markets](#)

| M | m | ms | [Syllabus](#)

Focuses on the pricing and hedging of derivative securities and the use of derivatives for investment and risk management.

### [15.438, Fixed Income Securities and Derivatives](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Develops a sophisticated understanding of fixed income valuation and hedging methods and a basic familiarity with major markets and instruments.

### [15.439, Investment Management](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Presents the creation of a successful investment management firm through strategy, efficient implementation, and marketing and compliance.

### [15.444, International Finance: Corporate Finance](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Develops an understanding of how the international financial and economic environment affects financial decisions by corporations.

### [15.445, Mergers and Acquisitions: The Market for Corporate Control](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Focuses on financial aspects of mergers and acquisitions such as valuation, deal structure and financing.

### [15.447, International Finance: Capital Markets](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Focuses on the essential components of international financial management- international instruments, markets, and institutions.

### [15.450, Analytics of Finance](#)

| M | m | ms | [Syllabus](#)

Lays out a rigorous foundation for the main analytical techniques and quantitative methods necessary to succeed in the financial services industry.

### [15.466, Functional and Strategic Finance](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Applies finance science and financial engineering in the design of global financial institutions, markets and the financial system.

### [15.467, Retirement Finance, Lifecycle Investing, and Asset Management](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Applies finance science and financial engineering in retirement finance, lifecycle investing and asset management.

### [15.518, Taxes and Business Strategy](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Gives the tools to identify, understand, and evaluate tax planning opportunities. Applies current debates on various tax policy options to class discussions.

### [15.535, Business Analysis Using Financial Statements](#)

| M | m | [Syllabus](#)

Focuses on the strategic, financial, and accounting analysis of a company's profitability and riskiness.

#### *4. What should I take if I am interested in ...*

... **Asset Management?** 15.433, 15.437, 15.438, 15.444, 15.447, 15.450

... **Investment Banking?** 15.433, 15.434, 15.437, 15.444, 15.447, 15.518, 15.535

... **Corporate Finance/Treasury?** 15.433, 15.434, 15.437, 15.518

... **Sales and Trading?** 15.433, 15.437, 15.438, 15.444, 15.447, 15.450

*5. What are my career options?*

Sample of potential employers – JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Securities and Exchange Commission, Deutsche Bank, BlackRock, McKinsey & Co., Capital One

Sample of potential fields – asset management, investment banking, microfinance, trading, risk management, financial regulators, treasury, private equity, financial consulting

*6. What are some useful career resources?*

[MIT Global Education and Career Development Office](#)

[MIT Sloan Undergraduate Career Resources](#) (*Sloan students only*)

MIT Association of Student Activities - [Student Groups](#)

MIT Sloan Student Life Office – [Student Clubs](#)