

Program Fact Sheet Template for Majors

Please complete all questions. Do not add questions.

Name of program:

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration--Finance Banking requires 57 hours, with 39 hours of liberal studies and 24 hours to use for electives, second major or a minor.

Q1: What makes this program special? The finance program at WCU offers two concentrations—Banking and Financial Planning. Students in the banking business track will learn how to manage a retail bank and will acquire the skills and knowledge needed to prepare them for careers working in and with retail banks in western North Carolina and throughout the country. Either track will introduce students to sufficient finance theory and concepts to consider other careers in finance or graduate study.

Q2: Are there any additional admission requirements? To declare finance as a major, students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 for their first thirty hours of college credit. Students are strongly encouraged to declare finance as their major right away and start taking courses in the programs since there are many specific courses required as prerequisites and for graduation.

Q3: What scholarship monies are available? The finance program and College of Business have a number of scholarships that are either specific to finance and/or business majors. Scholarships range from \$250 to \$5,000.

Q4: What will I be able to do with this degree when I graduate?

Every town has one or more banks. Graduates of the banking track are prepared to work in the retail banking industry as a bank manager, loan officer, personal banker, commercial accounts manager or in other banking services.

Q5: What are the professors in this program like? Each of the full-time finance faculty members holds a doctorate degree. Adjunct faculty are hired based on professional certification, such as the CFP, business experience and education. Faculty members know and interact with area banks and financial planning firms and businesses and participate in academic and/or professional organizations.

Q6: What are the students in the program doing? Students in the banking track must complete a required internship, usually during their last semester of enrollment. Service learning, wherein students work with area businesses and organizations, is an integral part of the program.

Q7: Will I be able to participate in clubs and other extracurricular opportunities? The Finance Club at WCU is very active. Students benefit from the opportunity to meet financial planning and banking executives, go on field trips and do community service. The annual trip to New York City gives finance students an opportunity to visit the financial capital of the world as well as to partake of sightseeing and other entertainment activities NYC has to offer. We manage a \$300,000 investment portfolio for the Tennessee Valley Authority and participate annually in financial planning competitions, where we have often placed nationally.

Q8: Things you should know about this program:

- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree
- 21-hour major, 36-hour common business core, 39 hours of liberal studies, 24 hours of electives
- Paid and non-paid experiential learning through internships
- Average starting salaries in excess of \$25,000 nationally

- Many banking opportunities both locally, regionally and nationally
- Very active student organization
- Prepared for stock brokerage and other finance careers as well

Q9: Careers associated with this degree:

- Bank manager
- Loan officer
- Mortgage broker
- Personal banker
- Commercial banker

Q10: Whom do I contact for more information about (insert program name here)?

Name: Dr. Roger Lirely

E-mail: lirely@email.wcu.edu

Ph: [828] 227-3491

Program and/or departmental Web site address: www.wcu.edu/cob/afe/

Additional links to: Faculty Web sites, news releases, feature stories on students, video, etc. here

Finance salary information: www.wageweb.com/fin1.

General information and jobs: www.careers-in-finance.com