1. Name of the proposed graduate certificate.

Graduate Certificate in Finance

2. Name of the departments and/or programs involved.

Finance

3. Name of the contact person.

Travis Sapp

4. Need for the graduate certificate.

There is a robust and growing need for practitioners skilled in all aspects of finance, including financial analysis and investment management. While Iowa State provides a strong 40-credit master’s degree program, the extensive training offered by this degree may not be attainable for every individual given their goals and circumstances. The 12-credit graduate certificate in finance offers training in core competencies in finance, allowing students a shorter path to acquire a credentialed, valuable skillset.

5. Objective of the graduate certificate.

This certificate will focus on financial analysis within the corporation, through training in corporate finance, and from the perspective of an investor or money manager, through training in investments and securities valuation.

6. General description of the graduate certificate.

The graduate certificate will consist of four courses (3 credits each). Three of the courses are required (FIN 510 Advanced Corporate Finance, FIN 520 Investments, FIN 530 Financial Analysis and Valuation). Students will be able to choose the fourth course from an approved elective list.

7. Graduate certificate requirements including:
   a. Admission standards and prerequisites for the certificate program.

   Admission to the Finance Graduate Certificate program is contingent upon the following requirements:
   
   • Bachelor’s degree in Business, STEM, or related field
• GPA should be 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester/90 quarter units of study, with an absolute GPA of 2.5
• International (non-English speaking) students need to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English language Testing System (IELTS). Minimum scores for admission are: paper based TOEFL – 600; Internet TOEFL – 100; or IELTS – 7.

Students may take up to nine credits as a non-degree seeking student, so it is possible to begin studies before formal admittance into the program.

b. Courses and seminars.

The Finance Graduate Certificate consists of a minimum of 12 approved graduate credits.* Students must maintain a grade average of B or higher.

* For those lacking any prior background in Finance, FIN 501 must be taken, but does not apply toward the 12 credits needed for the certificate.

**Required courses (9 credits):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fin 510</td>
<td>Advanced Corporate Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin 520</td>
<td>Investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin 530</td>
<td>Financial Analysis and Valuation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective courses (Minimum of 3 credits):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fin 515</td>
<td>Case Studies in Financial Decision Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin 535</td>
<td>Venture Capital, Private Equity, and Mergers &amp; Acquisitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin 528</td>
<td>Fixed Income Analysis and Portfolio Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin 534</td>
<td>Financial Derivatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin 580X</td>
<td>International Finance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. General description of the resources currently available and future resource needs:

a. A list of supporting faculty members including a brief description of their expertise relating to the graduate certificate.

All graduate faculty are eligible to teach in this program.

b. The effects of any new courses on faculty workload.

No new courses would be required for the certificate. The certificate makes use of courses already being offered.

c. Other resources required for the program including graduate assistants, laboratories and other facilities, supplies, etc.
The Department of Finance will handle admissions and management of students into this certificate. This is a course-only certificate, so no additional resources for laboratories, facilities, or supplies are needed. The College of Business will handle all marketing and recruiting of students into the certificate program.

9. Relationship of the proposed graduate certificate to the strategic plans of the department, college, and the university.

The finance certificate program furthers Iowa State University’s 2017-2022 strategic plan by providing students a strong, focused curriculum with top-notch faculty in order to “Create, share and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.” Given the potential of financial markets to impact the economy and all aspects of life, imparting sound analytical tools and a solid grasp of the functioning of financial markets and instruments is an important contribution towards this goal. Also, the graduate certificate program will help to recruit, retain, and graduate a diverse group of outstanding graduate and professional students dedicated to making a difference in the world.

The departmental and college strategic plans align with that of the university in furthering “Iowa State University’s land-grant ideals by delivering high-quality education through impactful research, teaching, and community engagement.” The Finance department has top-notch faculty capable of adding value through the robust slate of graduate finance course offerings. The expertise of the faculty will benefit the students by delivering knowledge and skills they can put to immediate use in the workplace.


The certificate program will be reviewed by the College of Business Curriculum Committee every five years.