

**Department of Finance  
Faculty Qualifications/Credentials  
Approved December 2013**

**Policy**

To teach in the undergraduate program, an instructor must have completed at least 18 hours of graduate course work either in the area of finance or in the area of finance in combination with one of the related areas that is described in the following paragraphs. Doctoral students who are instructors of record must hold master's degrees in finance or one of the areas described below or have completed 18 graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline; doctoral students will be directly supervised by faculty members holding appropriate qualifications in the discipline, will receive regular mentoring and coaching, and will receive planned and periodic evaluations.

To teach in any of the graduate programs in the department, an instructor must have a doctorate degree or its equivalent in finance or a related discipline as described below.

**Finance Interpretation of SACS Policies and Guidelines**

Much of the theory upon which finance is based and most of the models that are used to make financial decisions evolved from theories and models that were developed in economics. In fact, until the development of professional colleges of business in the 1950s, finance related subjects were covered in economic curricula. Even today, many universities and colleges continue to teach finance in their economics departments or to cross list certain finance and economics courses. For these reasons, doctorates in economics often have qualifications comparable to those who have earned doctorates in business with a major in finance. This fact can be demonstrated by the number of Nobel Laureates in Economics who have doctorates in economics and who have contributed seminal theory to the area of finance.

As an area of study, finance encompasses four general topics: (1) corporate finance, (2) investments, (3) financial markets and financial institutions, and (4) financial services. The strategy of the Department of Finance is to utilize persons who have the best qualifications in each of these areas to provide a quality education to the students. The Department's decision to hire a new faculty member is based on a number of factors, including the person's academic background, existing research record, research potential, and fit with the department.

We recognize that some universities offer a substantial number of finance-related courses in their economics departments and some universities only offer finance curricula in their economics departments. As a result, when we seek new faculty members, our recruiting universe includes persons who have earned, or will soon earn, doctorates in finance or economics. In addition, the Department of Finance at the University of South Florida offers a Master of Science in Real Estate, and insurance courses are taught in the department. As a result, we sometimes seek persons who have earned, or will soon earn, doctorates in real estate or insurance, or doctorates in business or economics with either a major in real estate or insurance or a concentration in these areas.