YOUR QUANTITATIVE SKILLS
Those with a degree in mathematics may be surprised to learn that the abilities they have acquired are in high demand in the financial sector. Whether it is developing predictive models, analyzing portfolio risk, or calculating the value of a company, high-level quantitative skills are the foundational keys to success in the financial sector.

The PLU Master of Science in Finance program is designed to help graduates hone the quantitative abilities they developed in their undergraduate mathematics work into practical, industry relevant skills that are in high demand in the financial sector. Our program provides students with a thorough understanding of accounting, economics, and finance in order to position them as well-rounded masters degree holders.

Equipped with the knowledge from a well-designed master’s degree, students will be ready to explore a wide range of career options in finance. From small privately held companies and investment firms to large corporations, the need for financial experts is strong with ample opportunities. The time to enter this exciting and challenging industry is now.

MSF PROGRAM
The MSF is jointly offered by faculty from Finance, Mathematics, Economics and Accounting to provide a cross-disciplinary education that uniquely prepares graduates to excel in financial careers. It is a 10-month, full-time, quantitatively rigorous degree program offered to new graduates as well as those with industry experience. A new cohort begins each September.

MSF VISION
The PLU MSF is pragmatic and industry-focused, yet grounded in its cross-disciplinary foundations. Graduates are equipped to hit the ground running with a powerful set of skills and tools from a curriculum designed in collaboration with industry.

CFA ALIGNMENT
An unique aspect of the PLU MSF is its association with the CFA Institute and the opportunity to work toward the Chartered Financial Analyst designation while simultaneously earning your master’s degree. The CFA credential, with three levels of examinations, is considered by many to be the gold standard for professionalism and knowledge in the world of finance.

“The CFA Program is a globally recognized, graduate level curriculum that provides a strong foundation of real-world investment analysis and portfolio management skills along with the practical knowledge you need in today’s investment industry. It also emphasizes the highest ethical and professional standards.” –CFA Institute

As the only official CFA Institute University Recognized Program in the Pacific Northwest region, the fall semester covers much of the CFA Level I content, while the January term and spring semester prepare students for the Level II examination. Session timing allows interested students to sit for the Level I exam in December and for the Level II exam in June. While it can be of great benefit professionally, participation in the CFA exams is optional for students.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Degree: Master of Science in Finance
Format: 10-month program, September-June
40 semester credit hours
Full-time cohort model
Four-credit courses plus 2-4 credit capstone
Internship, optional
Calendar: 14-week semesters, 4-week January and June courses.
AACS B: PLU School of Business accreditation since 1971. Less than 5% of universities worldwide have achieved this elite distinction.
Faculty: Jointly offered by Finance, Accounting, Mathematics, and Economics faculty.
CFA: CFA Institute University Recognized Program.
Technology: Students must have their own computers. Dedicated computer labs in Morken available.
Location: Courses are offered at the PLU campus in Tacoma, Washington. The greater Puget Sound region, from Tacoma to Seattle, is home to asset and wealth management firms with approximately US$400B under management, and is home to some of the world’s largest firms.
Tuition: Tuition for 2014-15 is US$38,800
Housing: PLU offers affordable on-campus housing.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
- Bachelor’s degree by time of entry
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 and higher
- Official GMAT or GRE scores
- International students: TOEFL-iBT score of 88 or minimum IELTS score of 6.5 (may be waivable)
- Application and brief essays
- Fast-track admission: Undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or above and a GMAT over 600

ETHICS IN THE CURRICULUM
The ethical guidelines for a Chartered Financial Analyst are embedded in the MSF curriculum. Ethics discussion includes professionalism, market integrity, duties to clients and employers, conflicts of interest, and responsibilities as a CFA Institute member or candidate. The CFA guidelines uphold integrity, competence, diligence, respect, and ethical behavior with all stakeholders. Please see http://www.cfainstitute.org/ethics/codes/ethics.

INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS
- Money Management: Russell Investments, Parametric Portfolio Associates, Milliman, Rainer Investment Management, Freestone Capital Management, Blackrock
- Local Public Corporations: Microsoft, Amazon, Costco, Nordstrom, Paccar, Alaska Airlines, Starbucks
- Risk Management/Insurance: State Farm, Symetra, Liberty Mutual, Premera
- Public/Regulatory Organizations: Federal Home Loan Bank, FDIC Seattle, WA State Dept of Retirement Systems
- Investment/Commercial Banking: J.P. Morgan Chase, D.A. Davidson, Cascadia Capital, Pacific Crest Securities, Bank of NY Mellon, KeyBank

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Web: www.plu.edu/msf/math
Email: msf@plu.edu
Phone: +1 (253) 535-7224
Facebook: www.facebook.com/plu.msf

MORKEN CENTER
The School of Business offers MSF courses in the Morken Center. It offers state-of-the-art technology in its classroom spaces and computer facilities.

OPPORTUNITIES
- Gary Baughn MSF Student Investment Fund with over $100,000 managed independently by a MSF student team
- Graduate fellowships
- Intensive credit-bearing internship opportunities during January term
- Participation in CFA Pacific Northwest Investment Research Challenge
- Ongoing PLU School of Business Research Series

CURRICULUM
Fall Semester (16 cr)
ECON 503 Economics for Finance
BMSF 505 Financial Econometrics
BMSF 512 Financial Accounting: Reporting & Analysis I
BMSF 514 Foundations of Finance

January Term (4 cr - Rotating Offering)
ECON 516 International Economics
BMSF 518 Financial Accounting: Reporting & Analysis II
BMSF 530 Financial Markets, Institutions & Intermediaries
BMSF 595 Internship

Spring Semester (16 cr)
BMSF 507 Mathematical and Stochastic Foundations for Finance
BMSF 532 Valuation, Fixed Income, Derivatives, Alternatives
BMSF 534 Portfolio Theory and Management
BMSF 536 Advanced Corporate Finance

June Term (4 cr)
BMSF 538 Portfolio Reporting, Rebalancing & Performance Attribution
BMSF 599 Capstone: Integration and Graduate Research in Finance

PARTICIPATING FACULTY
Jeffrey Stuart, Ph.D.
Mathematics Department
Head of BS in Financial Mathematics degree program

Kevin K. Boeh, Ph.D.
Finance faculty, former investment banker, 15+ years industry experience

Lynn Hunnicutt, Ph.D.
Economics Department Chair; Director, PLU Center for Vocation

Ufuk Ince, Ph.D., CFA
Finance faculty, trustee and board member of CFA Society of Seattle, Registered Investment Advisor

Tim Mooney, Ph.D.
Finance faculty, former Assist. President, Deutsche Bank AG; Head of the Graduate Student Investment Fund

Martin Wurm, Ph.D.
Economics faculty, financial economics, money and banking, and macroeconomics

Gaurav Gupta, Ph.D.
Accounting faculty, financial accounting and reporting, Beta Alpha Psi Advisor

SELECTED EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
Darcy Johnson, Principal, Managing Partner, Fulcrum Capital, LLC.
PLU Graduate 1978, 1982

Steve Maxwell, President, South Puget Sound District KeyBank
PLU Graduate 1990

Brenda Morris, CFO, 5-11 Tactical
PLU Graduate 1991

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Nancy Albers-Miller, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Business

Michael Renfrow, M.P.A.
Associate Director, MSF Program