



# Recruiting Texas MBAs in Finance



## THE TEXAS MBA: FINANCE

The Texas MBA program prepares students to take leadership roles in their careers. Finance students are exposed to broad theoretical concepts and are taught how to apply these concepts in financial modeling and valuations. With an emphasis on the application of finance theory, students gain extensive practical experience through company projects, case-based study and real-world programs such as Venture Fellows, Energy Finance practicum, the MBA Investment Fund, and the REIT Fund.

Companies who hire Texas MBA finance students value their drive, strong work ethic and success on team projects. Recruiters frequently remark that McCombs students have the business and finance tools to immediately contribute in their new jobs.

“My experience at McCombs positioned me well for the finance career I now enjoy at ExxonMobil. The program’s rigor provided solid preparation to take on the complex issues that I deal with on a daily basis. From my current vantage point as an alumnus, who regularly visits and recruits on campus, I remain confident in the development provided in the program for the world’s future financial leaders.”

*Michael C. Smith, MBA '05, Offshore Unit Supervisor;  
ExxonMobil - Americas Regional Controller*



top inset: Laura Starks, Associate Dean, Professor, Department of Finance and Director of the AIM Investment Center  
below: Winners of the 2011 National Energy Finance Challenge



# Curriculum

In addition to the core program requirements of Financial Management and Financial Accounting, students concentrating in finance will take Valuation, Investment Theory and Practice, and Advanced Topics in Corporate Finance.

To support our students' diverse interests in finance, the program offers students the opportunity to develop a concentration in Corporate Finance, Energy Finance, Investments, Real Estate Finance or Private Equity Finance. Additional related elective courses offered are:

- *Financial Markets and Institutions*
- *Global Finance*
- *Portfolio Management and Security Analysis*
- *Financial Risk Management*
- *Fixed-Income Analysis*
- *Financial Statement Analysis*
- *Financial Strategies in Energy Finance*
- *Financial Strategies in Private Equity*
- *Hedge Fund Analysis*
- *Cost Management*
- *Advanced Financial Reporting Topics for MBAs (Intermediate and Advanced Financial Accounting)*
- *Financial Management of Small and Middle-Sized Enterprises*
- *Real Estate Investment Decisions*
- *Real Estate Finance*
- *Real Estate Analysis*
- *Real Estate Decision Making*
- *REIT analysis*

Texas MBA students in finance also receive practical training through programs such as two-day workshops on financial modeling, valuation training and asset management. Students seeking even more in-depth, hands-on experience can apply to the highly-competitive MBA Investment Fund, REIT Fund, Venture Fellows or other select energy and real estate finance projects.

## How to Get Involved

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

#### Graduate Finance Association (GFA)

With more than 160 student members, the GFA acts as the umbrella organization for MBA students studying finance and provides continuing education, interview preparation, training and numerous networking opportunities. The GFA works with companies to develop interview workshops and also encourages participation in the annual Finance Challenge and New York Financial Services Trek. In addition to the GFA, there are several specialized finance-related student organizations at McCombs, including:

- *Energy Finance Group*
- *CleanTech Group*
- *Graduate Real Estate Society*

#### MBA Investment Fund

Growth, value-oriented and endowment portfolios are managed by students for individual and institutional clients in this \$10+ million dollar fund. Approximately 16 MBA students are competitively selected each year to act as fund managers who are responsible for all facets of managing the portfolios, including selecting securities, monitoring holdings and reporting performance to outside advisors.

#### Venture Fellows

The Venture Fellows program provides an opportunity for 20 MBA students to obtain practical experience in the private equity market. Students admitted to this prestigious program participate in a two-semester practicum that includes an internship with a business incubator, venture capital or buyout firm, or agent or advisor. The Fellows also attend weekly seminars with faculty and guest lecturers to discuss private equity issues.

#### REIT Fund

The Fund's portfolio of U.S. Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) is managed by a team of about five to ten competitively

selected MBA students with the help of BBA students. The Fund is managed with respect to a standard industry index. Students are responsible for decisions on over- and underweighting each REIT relative to that index, as well as managing the Fund's risk (or tracking error). These activities and the associated curriculum are overseen by both finance department faculty and a board of industry advisors.

#### Practica

A student or team of students, working under a faculty advisor, complete a real-time business project on behalf of a company sponsor during finance practica. Projects must have appropriate academic relevance with practical significance for the students' educational experience to be approved. To participate, please contact Donnell Ocker Roy at [donnell.ockerroy@mcombs.utexas.edu](mailto:donnell.ockerroy@mcombs.utexas.edu) or (512) 471-8064.

#### TREKS AND CHALLENGES

To participate in any of the treks contact Graduate Finance Association (GFA) at [graduatefinanceassociation@mcombs.utexas.edu](mailto:graduatefinanceassociation@mcombs.utexas.edu) or for challenges contact MBA Employer Relations.

#### New York Financial Services Trek

Texas MBA Career Management, along with various student organizations, sponsor annual networking trips for first-year MBA students to meet with UT alumni, recruiters and other professionals at major investment banks, financial services firms and corporations. Finance treks are scheduled in the Fall.

Additional treks are led by the Graduate Real Estate Society in the spring, and by the MBA Fund managers in both the fall and spring semesters.

#### MBA Finance Challenge

This team-based, in-depth financial business case competition is scheduled each November. Nearly 150 first-year MBA students compete for cash prizes in front of a panel of corporate and faculty judges.

#### National Real Estate Challenge

Each November, students from 20 leading business schools across the country present a case prepared by JP Morgan before nationally-recognized judges during this annual case-based real estate competition.

#### Energy Finance Challenge

Sixteen student teams from top business schools across the country present solutions to a finance case problem during the annual National Energy Finance Challenge every September. The presentations are judged by corporate sponsors from a variety of energy companies.

#### MBA EMPLOYER RELATIONS

Our team within MBA Career Management is focused on enhancing your recruiting experiences at McCombs. We can help create a customized, efficient and effective recruiting strategy to meet your recruiting needs.



**Bill Fleming**  
Director  
MBA Employer Relations



**Michelle Hardy**  
Senior Associate Director  
MBA Employer Relations



**Yvette Brown**  
Program Coordinator  
MBA Employer Relations

#### CONTACT THEM AT

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