COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Kent State University’s College of Business Administration offers a baccalaureate program called the Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degree. Students with a career interest in the financial industry including financial management, investments, banking/financial institutions, insurance or risk management should consider a B.B.A. degree with a major in finance.

THE DEGREE PROGRAMS
In addition to taking advantage of the undergraduate programs, students wanting to expand their knowledge even further can pursue graduate business programs at Kent State leading to the Master of Business Administration (MBA), the Master of Arts in economics, the Master of Science in accounting or the Ph.D. in business administration.

ACCREDITATION
Kent State’s College of Business Administration is accredited by AACSB International — the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Kent State’s College of Business Administration is one of only 5 percent of business schools in the world to be accredited by AACSB. Less than one-third of the business schools in the nation meet this organization’s rigorous accreditation standards. Kent State’s College of Business Administration is an elite group, being one of only 178 universities worldwide to achieve dual accreditation in both business and accounting. To receive accounting accreditation, an institution must first earn or maintain AACSB business accreditation.

Accreditation is important to students because it suggests certain standards of excellence are met. These standards include the credentials of faculty who teach business courses, the resources that are made available to business students (such as computers, software, study areas within the university’s buildings, library holdings, etc.), the types of courses that students take for the B.B.A. degree and the finance major and admission requirements to the College of Business Administration.

THE B.B.A. DEGREE PROGRAM
All qualified students (based on Kent State admission requirements) are admitted directly to a business major (i.e., accounting, business management, computer information systems, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, managerial marketing and marketing). Students who are undecided about a business major should choose “Business-undeclared.” During the freshman year, students are introduced to the world of business with a course called Exploring Business.

During the freshman and sophomore years, all business majors take an introductory course in each of the basic areas of business (financial and managerial accounting, microeconomics and macroeconomics, computer applications, principles of management, legal and regulatory environment to business, principles of marketing and business statistics) along with the Kent Core (humanities, fine arts, social sciences, basic sciences). In the junior and senior years, students take additional core business courses (finance, operations management and business policies) and focus on their major. Business experiences as well as education abroad are all encouraged.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADVANCED BUSINESS PROGRAM
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
After completing 46 or more credit hours, students must have earned a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA in addition to earning a minimum C in the Business Finance course and a minimum C in English, communications and mathematics in order to progress in the finance major.

THE FINANCE MAJOR
The finance major prepares students for entry into a wide variety of interesting, exciting and challenging careers in corporate finance, commercial banking, investment banking, financial planning, money management, real estate, insurance and risk management. All students who major in finance take a core of courses covering financial management, financial systems, investments and international business finance. Depending on interests and career objectives, students also customize their major elective courses based on area of interest from the following areas — investments, bank management, risk and insurance, and accounting.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
The finance major gives students credentials for a wide variety of opportunities depending on the area of interest. Graduates with a major in finance might start a career in financial management involving forecasting, budgeting, planning and controlling the financial operations of a business in a variety of roles (e.g., financial analyst, securities broker, portfolio manager or investment banker).

Additionally banks, savings institutions, credit unions and finance companies make up a very large group of employers of finance graduates. They offer many career possibilities, including positions in bank management, loan analysis and management, and marketing financial products and business services.

Insurance, risk management and financial services are all growing areas with many career opportunities for finance majors and include roles as insurance agents, risk managers and personal financial advisors.
provides a broad spectrum of employment opportunities when combined with many different majors. It gives students the added edge in job hunting for sales related positions.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES
First-year students have the opportunity to enhance their college experience by participating in the Business Learning Community developed around the student’s academic interest in business. The Business Learning Community is located in Prentice Hall. Students living on campus reside in Prentice Hall (unless in honors housing) and commuters are welcome to join as well. The Business Learning Community immerses the student in an environment that supports academic and professional success. The Business Learning Community provides a format that brings business student peers and faculty members into smaller groups creating academic and social support networks. Learning Communities provide unique opportunities to:
• Connect students with their peers quickly and develop lifelong friendships.
• Develop leadership skills by taking a principles course introducing students to leadership basics and further develop their potential through practical experience.
• Learn about the business world by participating in special lectures, seminars, guest speakers, industry visits and professional networking opportunities.

FINANCE

RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
Internships are available in finance for top students. It is possible to receive academic credit for an internship as long as the work experience is consistent with what is done in entry-level positions by college graduates. To build connections and to develop organizational and leadership skills, students are encouraged to join the Financial Management Association (FMA). FMA is a professional student organization which promotes extra-curricular activities in the field of finance. Students have the chance to interact with faculty and finance practitioners in informal settings. Another student organization that presents considerable appeal to any business major is Delta Sigma Pi; the professional business fraternity is open to all students.

RELATED ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES
Employers and educators recognize the importance of building a strong liberal arts background for business students. Students are encouraged to consider minors offered by Kent State's other colleges and schools. For example, a student may become the financial manager of a police department. A major in finance and a minor in justice studies are very helpful in achieving this goal. Another example is a finance major with a minor in theatre. This combination will prepare a student for a financial manager's position with a theatre company.

The College of Business Administration encourages finance majors to consider a minor in:
• Accounting
• Computer Information Systems
• Economics
• Entrepreneurship
• Healthcare Systems Management
• International Business
• Management
• Marketing

Additionally, the College of Business Administration offers the opportunity for students to pursue the Professional Sales Certificate. The Professional Sales Certificate provides a broad spectrum of employment experiences that will help students:
• Develop skills in the workplace before graduation.
• Interact in a professional setting to prepare students for the transition from an academic to a corporate environment.
• Understand the level of performance and professional behavior expected by employers.
• Develop a network of professional contacts that will become invaluable upon graduation.

The Career Services Office's goal is to continually expand partnerships and collaborations with firms locally, nationally and around the globe. Those alliances will provide the student with the opportunity for positive, enriching practical business opportunities that can equal future career placement.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
To assist students in funding their education, the College of Business Administration offers financial and merit-based scholarships. Scholarships are available to incoming freshmen through graduating seniors and vary from tuition and book awards to stipends. College of Business Administration scholarship information is available online to incoming students and can be found posted in various locations throughout the college for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Generally, to be considered for these scholarships, students need to apply early in the spring semester. An average GPA of 3.0 or higher is a typical academic qualifier for most scholarships, but students of all academic levels are encouraged to apply.

Other freshman scholarships are available through the Honors College at 330-672-2312 or the Student Financial Aid Office at 330-672-2972.