

**MERRICK SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
OVERVIEW OF ASSURANCE OF LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

**For
M.S. in Finance**

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The Merrick School of Business is committed to the continuous improvement in our programs. We have developed a systematic, meaningful assurance of learning process to demonstrate accountability to students, employers and legislators that we are doing what we say we are doing. As such, assessment is used to (1) determine and revise degree program learning goals, (2) improve curricula to continuously improve programs, (2) demonstrate that program learning goals have been met, and (4) if learning goals have not been met, implement processes to improve learning.

Each of our programs is assessed twice in a five year cycle. The general expectations are that 70% of students will meet or exceed the performance criteria defined for each learning goal. Our online and face-to-face sections are assessed using the same learning goals and the same measurements (assignments and rubrics). During the assessment process, we compare online student performance versus face-to-face student performance where ever possible to help us determine how well our online students are performing versus our face-to-face students.

Major curricula changes for the most recent assessment cycle are provided below. The next phase of assessment is slated for academic year 2015-2016.

M.S. IN FINANCE: SUMMARY OF MAJOR CURRICULA CHANGES (2009-2014)

On-going direct assessment resulted in the continuous improvement of several core courses in the program:

Goal 1—Understand the Role of Financial Markets: Earlier assessment indicated need to expand coverage and use of case studies to enhance student understanding of the role of financial markets on the financial policies of a firm. Assessment results improved with 100 % of students meeting or exceeding standards.

Goal 2—Evaluate and Understand Company Performance: Earlier assessment indicated need to expand use of case studies focusing on the analysis of financial statements and ratios. Assessment results improved with 100% of students meeting or exceeding standards.

Goal 3—Value Business Entities: 87% meet or exceed standards. Curriculum will increase the focus on business valuation based on discounted cash flow methods and comparative multiple benchmarking metrics.

Goal 4—Assess the Risk and Value of Financial Securities: 89% meet or exceed standards. Curriculum will adopt more features of FTS and TREFIS software to improve students' knowledge of accessing SEC filing and XBRL data.

Goal 5—Understand, Assess and Manage and Interest Rate Risk: 91% meet or exceed standards.

Curriculum will continue to expanded coverage of more advanced topics such as Value at Risk (VaR) and exchange rate risk management in advanced finance course.