From:	Smith, Randy
To:	Mittendorf, Brian; Pinteris, George
Cc:	Williams, Valarie; Smith, Randy; Griffiths, Rob; Reed, Katie; Miriti, Maria; Duffy, Lisa; Hunt, Ryan; Minton, Bernadette; Croxton, Keely; Chandrasekaran, Aravind
Subject:	Proposal to establish a combined Bachelor of Science in Business Administration / Specialized Master in Business-Finance degree program
Date:	Friday, September 18, 2026 11:52:13 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Brian and George:

The proposal from the Department of Finance to establish a combined Bachelor of Science in Business Administration / Specialized Master in Business-Finance degree program was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on September 16, 2026. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal review/approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2027).

The Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Val Williams (.1415), or me.

I wish you success with this important program development.

Randy

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Vice Provost for Academic Programs
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TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: June 26, 2026

RE: Proposal to establish a combined Bachelor of Arts/Science and Specialized Master's in Business with a specialization in Finance degree program

The Fisher College of Business is proposing to establish a combined Bachelor of Arts/Science and Specialized Master's in Business with a specialization in Finance

The proposal was reviewed by the Graduate School on April 1, 2026. The combined

GS/CAA subcommittee was generally supportive of the proposal but asked for minor revisions and clarification. The Fisher College of Business provided minor revisions and clarification on June 5, 2026, and upon review by the Graduate School, the revisions and clarifications were sufficiently met. GS/CAA supports its review by the Council on Academic Affairs.

June 5, 2026

Prof. Maria Miriti

Associate Dean for Academic Excellence

Graduate School

The Ohio State University

Dear Maria,

I am writing in response to your request for revisions to the proposal by Fisher College of Business to establish a BSBA/Specialized Master in Business-Finance Combined Degree Program. We greatly appreciate the constructive feedback. The academic director of the program, the finance department chair, and their teams have updated the combined degree proposal to incorporate all of the suggested changes. We are optimistic that these revisions have yielded a proposal that can be a very helpful resource in serving our students. The revised proposal is attached. Below, we summarize the changes made in response to your feedback (specific feedback from the committee is provided in italics):

1. *Please share a list of electives with their credit hours to make it clear how the 36 credit requirement is met.*

   Point 9 in the revised draft now lists all of the available electives and corresponding credit hours for each. While there is no guarantee each is offered each semester, the college will schedule sufficient sections to make sure there are plenty of options for students to meet the 36 credit hour requirement.

2. *The subcommittee was concerned about the courseload of 6 graduate level courses during Fall Semester of their first year, especially that there is only one course required in the spring.*

   Our apologies, the table in the last page of the proposal showing a sample BSBA/SMF course structure had accidentally included all possible courses available to BSBA/SMF students in that semester and not the typical courseload. In actuality, we expect most BSBA/SMF students will carry only 13.5 credit hours in the fall semester of the 4th year (note also that all but one of the courses listed are now clarified as being 1.5-credit hour half-semester courses, so the fall of 4th year is effectively 4.5 graduate level classes). UG academic advisors will guide these students to receive the 9 credit hours of overlap credits through the core SMF courses listed in points 10a-10c in the proposal. SMF students typically join the program straight out of UG and have not encountered problems managing these credit hours in the 15 years of the program.

   For those BSBA/SMF students that end up carrying more than 13.5 credit hours, the SMF Program Academic Director and the SMF Academic Advisor will closely monitor their academic progress to provide guidance and support as needed. Prior to the SMF program's conversion to a three-semester curriculum starting with Fall 2025, SMF students typically carried 15-16.5 credit hours in the fall semester and were all able to manage their course load without any problems.

3. *A minor observation in point 4e is that, given the 9 credit overlap, the minimum courseload 148 not 157.*

   Thank you for catching this. We have removed that statement and have clarified the 148 credit hour minimum in the proposal.

4. *Please include credit hours in the sample course structure, including the first year to improve detail of course requirements (including electives) for the accelerated pathway.*

   The table at the end of the proposal showing the sample BSBBA/SMF course structure now includes the credit hours by semester for the three-semester SMF curriculum (13.5, 13.5, and 9, respectively)

Please let me know if we can provide any additional information in support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Brian Mittendorf

BSBA/Specialized Masters in Business-Finance (SMF) Combined Degree Program

The Specialized Masters in Business-Finance (SMF) program at The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business established in autumn semester 2011, prepares students for lifelong learning and impactful careers in finance. The curriculum emphasizes fundamental finance concepts, theories, rigorous analytics and real-world application. In the program, graduates (1) build core competencies in accounting and financial analysis, valuation, statistics/data analysis, economics, and teamwork and leadership, (2) deepen finance expertise through exposure to leading-edge relevant research and practice with a global perspective, (3) apply core knowledge to solve problems with ethical awareness and critical thinking; and (4) demonstrate professional conduct and persuasive oral and written communication skills. The SMF program has been consistently ranked among the top 10 of its kind in the nation, earned STEM designation in 2018 and effective Autumn 2025, transitioned to an OAA approved three-semester 36 credit hour degree program.

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) program equips students to thrive in today's complex business environment through a blend of rigorous coursework and action-based learning. Finance specialization students gain exposure to cutting-edge research and its practical applications, while building a solid foundation in marketing, strategy, accounting, and operations. This comprehensive approach positions graduates for successful careers as finance professionals.

The BSBA/SMF combined program leverages the strengths of both degrees to let high-achieving undergraduates earn a BSBA and SMF in four and one-half (4.5) years. This accelerated pathway builds advanced analytical, technical and professional skills earlier in students' careers, positioning them for success and growth in finance roles.

Some of the benefits of choosing to complete the combined degree program are:

- *The ability to earn both a Bachelors and Masters degree in four and one-half years as opposed to the typical five and one-half years*.
- *The opportunity to take a broader range of courses in finance, professional development and leadership*
- *Continued access to leading world class faculty*
- *The ability to be more competitive in the finance job market*
- *Higher starting salaries*

Specific structure of BSBA/SMF requirements

1. GPA requirement to apply for the program. The Graduate School requires for all combined program applicants:
    a. must have cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher to be admitted. Students with cumulative GPA below 3.5 at the time of application will not be admitted <u>and</u>
    b. must have completed 90 credits or more at the time of application <u>and</u>
    c. must have completed 115 credits at the time of matriculation into the SMF program
2. GPA of 3.0 or higher to maintain status and graduate in the BSBA/SMF program
3. Interested students reach eligibility in the third year of undergraduate studies and apply before the end of the spring semester in the third year.
4. BSBA/SMF curriculum
    a. Students are required to take all undergraduate courses required for the BSBA degree.

    b. Students are required to take graduate courses required for the SMF degree.
    c. Graduate courses for the program can substitute for the BSBA degree. These “degree overlap” programs are listed later in the proposal.
    d. In no circumstances will any undergraduate courses other than those listed in point 7 below (double counted courses) can count towards the SMF degree.
    e. A maximum of 9 credit hours can overlap between the BSBA and SMF degrees.
    f. Any graduate credit hours used in overlap with the BSBA requirements must be taken in the first semester of the SMF curriculum.
    g. BSBA/SMF students will receive the BSBA degree at the end of the first fall semester in the combined program and the SMF degree at the end of the second fall semester in the combined program. BSBA/SMF students can opt to exit the combined degree by receiving the BSBA degree in the first semester (Fall I) of their studies.
    h. BSBA/SMF students are assessed undergraduate tuition in the first semester of their studies in the combined degree (Fall I) and graduate tuition in the second semester (Spring) and third semester (Fall II) in the combined degree.
5. Undergraduate courses that are required for the BSBA and will not count toward the SMF degree. These courses, in addition to the General Education and Business Foundation, must be completed prior to matriculation into the BSBA/SMF program if admitted.
    a. ACCTMIS 2200: Introduction to Accounting I (3 credit hours)
    b. ACCTMIS 2300: Introduction to Accounting II (3 credit hours)
    c. BUSOBA 2320: Decision Sciences: Statistical Techniques (3 credit hours)
    d. BUSOBA 2321: Business Analytics (3 credit hours)
    e. BUSMHR 2292: Business Skills & Environment (3 credit hours)
    f. BUSMHR 2000: Introduction to International Business (1.5 credit hours)
    g. BUSFIN 3500: legal Environment of Business (1.5 credit hours)
    h. BUSML: 3380: Logistics Management (1.5 credit hours)
    i. BUSFIN: 3230: Business Finance (3 credit hours)
    j. BUSML 3250: Marketing Management (3 credit hours)
    k. BUSMHR 3200: Organizational Behavior (3 credit hours)
    l. BUSMHR 4490: Strategic Management (3 credit hours)
6. Undergraduate courses that are *required core courses* for the finance specialization in the BSBA program (9 credit hours). These courses must be completed prior to matriculation into the BSBA/SMF program if admitted.
    a. BUSFIN 4211: Corporate Finance (3 credit hours)
    b. BUSFIN 4221: Investments (3 credit hours)
    c. BUSFIN 4201: Financial Data (1.5 credit hours)
    d. BUSFIN 4250: Global Finance (1.5 credit hours)
7. Finance specialization *required advanced course and required elective courses* that must be taken as part of the finance specialization in the BSBA program (12 credit hours). Up to 9 credits can overlap with the SMF (see #9)
    a. One Advanced Finance course (3 credit hours).
        i. 4219 Advanced Corporate Finance (3 credit hours)
        ii. 4229 Options & Futures (3 credit hours)
        iii. 4239 Risk Management (3 credit hours)
        iv. 4255 International Finance (3 credit hours)
    b. Approved Finance elective courses (9 credit hours)

8. The SMF degree requires completion of 36 credit hours composed of 17 credit hours of required coursework and 19 credit hours of approved graduate electives. The 17 credit hours of required coursework include:
    a. BUSFIN 6220: Financial Analysis and Valuation (3 credit hours)
    b. BUSFIN 6225: Professional Development (1.5 credit hours)
    c. BUSFIN 7200: Financial Software Applications (1.5 credit hours)
    d. BUSFIN 7220: Investment Theory and Practice (1.5. credit hours)
    e. BUSFIN 7221: Financial Modeling (1.5 credit hours)
    f. BUSFIN 7230: Derivatives Markets (1.5 credit hours)
    g. BUSFIN 6226: Finance Capstone Project (1.5 credit hours)
    h. BUSFIN 6221: Economics for Financial Analysts (1.5 credit hours)
    i. ACCTMIS 7200: Corporate Financial Reporting I (1.5 credit hours)
    j. BUSOBA 6221: Data Analysis for Financial Management (1.5 credit hours)
    k. BUSMHR 7263: Leadership for SMF students (1.5 credit hours)
9. SMF students are required to complete 19 credit hours from the following list of approved graduate electives:
    a. BUSFIN 5402: Real Estate Valuation (3 credit hours)
    b. BUSFIN 7210: Corporate Financing (1.5 credit hours)
    c. BUSFIN 7212: Mergers & Acquisitions (1.5 credit hours)
    d. BUSFIN 7213: Corporate Restructuring & Bankruptcy (1.5 credit hours)
    e. BUSFIN 7214: Capital Markets (1.5 credit hours)
    f. BUSFIN 7215: Shark Tank Finance: Angel Investing, Venture Capital and Startups (1.5 credit hours)
    g. BUSFIN 7216: Private Equity (1.5 credit hours)
    h. BUSFIN 7218: Debt Valuation Strategy (1.5 credit hours)
    i. BUSFIN 7224: Advanced Debt Valuation Strategy (1.5 credit hours)
    j. BUSFIN 7223: Quantitative Portfolio Management (1.5 credit hours)
    k. BUSFIN 7224: Trading and Markets (1.5 credit hours)
    l. BUSFIN 7225: Student Stock Market Investment Management (3 credit hours)
    m. BUSFIN 7226: Behavioral Finance (1.5 credit hours)
    n. BUSFIN 7232: Derivatives Valuation and Application (1.5 credit hours)
    o. BUSFIN 7234: FinTech (1.5 credit hours)
    p. BUSFIN 7235: Applied Fundamental Investing (1.5 credit hours)
    q. BUSFIN 7240: Principles of Real Estate (1.5 credit hours)
    r. BUSFIN 7241: Real Estate Finance (1.5 credit hours)
    s. BUSFIN 7250: International Finance (1.5 credit hours)
    t. BUSFIN 7252: Investment Strategies and Philosophies (1.5 credit hours)
    u. BUSFIN 7260: Financial Institutions (1.5 credit hours)
    v. BUSFIN 7290: Risk Management I (1.5 credit hours)
    w. ACCTMIS 7220: Financial Statement Analysis I (1.5 credit hours)
    x. BUSMHR 7244: Negotiations (3 credit hours)
    y. BUSOBA 7256: Tools for Data Analysis (1.5 credit hours)
    z. BUSOBA 7247: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (3 credit hours)
    aa. BUSMHR 7420: Mergers, Acquisitions, and Corporate Development (1.5 credit hours)
10. BSBA/SMF students can opt to apply a combination of the following for up to 9 credits hours of overlap:
    a. BUSFIN 6220 (3 credit hours) can count towards BUSFIN 4219 (3 credit hours) and will meet the Advanced Finance course requirement

b. BUSFIN 7220 (1.5 credit hours) and BUSFIN 7230 (1.5 credit hours) can count towards BUSFIN 4229 (3 credit hours) and will meet 3 credits in the required finance electives
c. BUSFIN 7200 (1.5 credit hours) and BUSFIN 7221 (1.5 credit hours) can count towards BUSMHR 4490 (3 credit hours) and will meet 3 credits in the undergraduate courses required for the BSBA degree
d. Students who have completed the BUSMHR 4490 before matriculating to the SMF program (i.e., before the beginning of their 4th year) can also choose between these two options to meet an additional 3 credits to complete the 9 credit hours of double counting, for a total of 15.5 credit hours in the fall semester of their 4th year:
   - BUSFIN 7225 (3 credit hours) can count towards BUSFIN 4228 (3 credit hours) BUSFIN7224 (1.5 credit hours) can count towards BUSFIN 4227 (1.5 credit hours) &BUSFIN 7234 (1.5 credit hours) can count towards BUSFIN 4234 (1.5 credit hours**)**

11. The combined BSBA/SMF degree consists of 148 unique credit hours as follows:
    a. BSBA Degree Minimum Credit Hours (before double counting): 121
    b. SMF Degree Minimum Credit Hours (before double counting): 36
    c. Credit Hours with Double Counting toward BSBA and SMF Degree: 9
    d. Unique Combined Program Credit Hours: 148

Staffing of program:

The SMF Program is currently directed by George Pinteris, Associate Clinical Professor

The Undergraduate Programs Advising Office provides advising and administrative support for undergraduate students, and the Graduate Programs Advising Office provides advising and administrative support for the SMF students.

SAMPLE BSBA/SMF COURSE STRUCTURE
FISHER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2">Autumn Semester</td><td colspan="2">Spring Semester</td></tr>
<tr><td>2ND Year</td><td colspan="2">Business Foundations and Core</td><td colspan="2">BUSFIN 3220
Business Foundations and Core</td></tr>
<tr><td>3rd Year</td><td colspan="2">BUSFIN 4211
Corporate Finance

BUSFIN 4221
Investments

Business Core</td><td colspan="2">BUSFIN 4250
Global Finance

BUSFIN 4201
Financial Data and Tools

Finance Electives
Business Core</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">4th Year</td><td>Session 1</td><td>Session 2</td><td>Session 1</td><td>Session 2</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">SMF: Fall 1</td><td colspan="2">SMF: Spring 1</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">BUSFIN 6220 (3 CRH)
BUSFIN 6225 (1.5 CRH)
BUSOBA 6221 (1.5 CRH)
BUSFIN 7220 (1.5 CRH)
BUSFIN 7230 (1.5 CRH)
BUSFIN 7200 (1.5 CRH)
BUSFIN 7221 (1.5CRH)
ACCTMIS 7200 (1.5 CRH)</td><td colspan="2">BUSFIN 6226 (1.5 CRH)
and
Electives (12 CRH)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">5th Year</td><td colspan="2">SMF: Fall 2</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="3">BUSFIN 6221(1.5 CRH)
BUSMHR 7263 (1.5 CRH)
and
Electives (6 CRH)</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
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