PERSONAL FINANCE, B.S.

The bachelor of science in personal finance looks at economics from a people perspective, developing financial experts who can help individuals and families live more secure lives. Graduates of personal finance are prepared to work in financial product development, financial technology, and consumer behavior.

Within the personal finance program, students may choose to complete the financial planning option. This financial planning option is registered with the Certified Financial Planner® Board of Standards. The coursework is interdisciplinary with an emphasis on financial management and the economic well-being of individuals and families. The financial planning option is the more traditional personal finance program leading to careers in counseling, coaching, and wealth management. Graduates of the financial planning option leave fully prepared to sit for the prestigious Certified Financial Planner® exam, which SoHE students pass well above the national average.

All personal finance majors complete a required internship before graduating, allowing them to pursue their own personal interests and to develop a strong portfolio of skills and references that will propel them to launch successful careers.

HOW TO GET IN

PROSPECTIVE UW–MADISON STUDENTS

All prospective UW–Madison students must apply through the central Office of Admissions and Recruitment (https://www.admissions.wisc.edu).

Students who indicate interest in the personal finance major on their UW–Madison application will be admitted to the personal finance major upon admittance to the university. In addition, students may indicate interest in personal finance when registering for Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR).

CURRENT UW–MADISON STUDENTS

First-year students in good academic standing and first-semester transfer students may declare the personal finance major upon request. All other students must apply through a competitive application process.

The best way for interested students to receive advising or additional information is by attending a Becoming a SoHE Student Workshop (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/becoming-sohe-student-workshops).

Visit On-campus Student Application (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/applying-human-ecology) for application information and the October and February deadlines.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) section of the Guide.

General Education
- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 112</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or higher (not MATH 130 or 141) unless exempt through placement exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 301</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC/</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC 360</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 371</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 210</td>
<td>Basic Statistics for Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 310</td>
<td>Statistics: Measurement in Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEG 360</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Geographical Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arts and Humanities
- Literature                                                | 3       |
- Humanities                                                 | 6       |

Social Science
- ECON 101 Principles of Microeconomics                      | 4       |
- ECON 102 Principles of Macroeconomics                      | 3-4     |
- Choose any designated Social Science breadth courses to bring total credits to 9 | |

Physical, Biological or Natural Science
- Human Ecology Breadth                                      | 9       |

Select one Human Ecology course from CSCS, DS, HDFS, or INTER-HE.

Total Credits                                                | 37-39   |
PERSONAL FINANCE REQUIREMENTS

A complete list of requirements is below. Students should follow the curriculum requirements in place at the time they entered the major. Curriculum checksheets from previous academic years are available online (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/advising/curriculum-checksheets). This requirement list should be used in combination with a DARS report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 201</td>
<td>Consumer Research &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 275</td>
<td>Consumer Finance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 355</td>
<td>Financial Coaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CNSR SCI 301</td>
<td>Advanced Consumer Analytics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT I S 100</td>
<td>Introductory Financial Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ACCT I S 300</td>
<td>Accounting Principles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consumer Science Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 477</td>
<td>The Consumer and the Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 555</td>
<td>Consumer Strategy &amp; Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 657</td>
<td>Consumer Behavior</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consumer Science Depth**

Select 6 credits from the course list below.

(Not also used in the Personal Finance Core category)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI/ RELIG ST 173</td>
<td>Consuming Happiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 255</td>
<td>Consumer Financial Services Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 273</td>
<td>Finances &amp; Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 301</td>
<td>Advanced Consumer Analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 340</td>
<td>Building Financial Assets and Capability for Vulnerable Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 355</td>
<td>Financial Coaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 360</td>
<td>Sustainable and Socially Just Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI/ HDFS 465</td>
<td>Families &amp; Poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 527</td>
<td>Consumer Spending and Saving Over the Lifecycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 575</td>
<td>Family Economics and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 579</td>
<td>Consumer Policy Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 251</td>
<td>Financial Services Leadership Symposium</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTER-HE 202</td>
<td>SoHE Career &amp; Leadership Development</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNSR SCI 601</td>
<td>Consumer Science Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select electives to bring degree credit total to 120

**Total Credits** 32

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**PERSONAL FINANCE: FINANCIAL PLANNING OPTION**


**UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Degree**

To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

**Residency**

Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. ”In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. ”In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

**Quality of Work**

Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Invoke interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to understand the interactions between individuals and their social and environmental contexts.

2. Demonstrate the ability to harness, analyze and interpret relevant data for making real world decisions.

3. Acquire professional and life skills related to workplace communication, teamwork, active listening and adapting to technology.

4. Demonstrate an understanding of consumer financial behavior and the role of income, savings, credit, planning and benefits.

**ADVISING AND CAREERS**

**STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

The Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office (SAA) fosters undergraduate students’ personal, academic, and professional development. Through advising, academic planning, and career education we support students as they navigate the college experience—from exploring our majors as prospective students to becoming SoHE alumni.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

Each SoHE student is assigned to an academic advisor in the Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office. SoHE academic advisors support academic and personal success by partnering with
current and prospective SoHE students as they identify and clarify their educational goals, develop meaningful academic plans, and pursue their own Wisconsin Experience.

To explore academic advising resources or schedule an appointment with a SoHE academic advisor, visit Advising in SoHE (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/advising).

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Active engagement in the career development process is a vital component of a student’s personal growth in college and future success as a life-long learner, professional, and global citizen. SoHE career advisors help prepare students for life post-graduation through individual and group advising and integration of career readiness throughout our curriculum.

To explore career development resources or schedule an appointment with a SoHE career advisor, visit Internship and Career Preparation (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/career-preparation).

PEOPLE

Professors Bartfeld, Shim, Wong; Associate Professors Collins, Robb; Assistant Professors Addo, Ashton, Warmath; Faculty Associates Lepe, Murray, O’Brien, Whelan

For more information, visit the School of Human Ecology faculty and staff directory (https://sohe.wisc.edu/connect/faculty-staff).

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

INTERNSHIPS

Internships are a vital part of student career development and a highly valued component of the undergraduate curriculum in the School of Human Ecology. High-quality internships foster student development by bringing theories and classroom-based learning to life in real-world settings. In addition, internships give students the opportunity to explore careers related to their major, gain relevant experience in their field(s) of interest, and develop a better understanding of what is expected in a workplace by performing the tasks of a professional in that field.

For SoHE majors, internships are a requirement of our undergraduate curriculum. Students must have at least a junior standing (54+ credits) in order to pursue a 3-credit internship and must complete a minimum of 150 hours at the internship site. To be eligible, an internship must be educational in nature, directly relate to a student’s major and career goals, and be approved by the Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/contact-us).

For more information, visit SoHE Internships (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/career-preparation/internships).

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

School of Human Ecology student organizations include:

- American Society of Interior Designers—Student Chapter (IDO)
- Apparel and Textile Association (ATA)
- Association of Fundraising Professionals—UW–Madison Chapter
- Community and Nonprofit Leaders (CNLUW)
- Financial Occupations Club for University Students (FOCUS)
- Phi Upsilon Omicron (National Honor Society in Family and Consumer Sciences)
- Students for Families and Children (SFC)
- Student Retail Association (SRA)

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The School of Human Ecology awards many merit and need-based scholarships each year. The deadline to apply for scholarships is typically late in the fall semester. To be eligible for these awards, scholarship recipients must be registered as full-time SoHE students.

Students who experience emergency financial situations may inquire about the availability of short-term loans through the Office of Student Financial Aid (https://financialaid.wisc.edu) (333 East Campus Mall; 608-262-3060).