Admissions to the Consumer Finance and Financial Planning BS have been suspended as of spring 2024 and will be discontinued as of summer 2032. If you have any questions, please contact the department (https://www.online.wisc.edu).

This program provides an opportunity for students to complete the BS Consumer Finance and Financial Planning degree at a distance. This option is ideal for returning students with some college credits who would like to complete the program in a flexible online format, with no on-campus attendance required. This program is interdisciplinary with an emphasis on financial management and the economic well-being of individuals and families. Topics include financial counseling, coaching, wealth management, financial product development, financial technology, and consumer behavior. Completion of the program and one additional elective course will make graduates eligible to sit for the Certified Financial Planner® (CFP) exam, which Human Ecology students pass well above the national average.

HOW TO GET IN

Admissions to the Consumer Finance and Financial Planning BS have been suspended as of spring 2024 and will be discontinued as of summer 2032. If you have any questions, please contact the department (https://www.online.wisc.edu).

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/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CONSUMER FINANCE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

Core requirements for the major are below. Students should follow the curriculum requirements in place at the time they entered the major. This requirement list should be used in combination with a DARS report. All students declared in the Bachelor of Science in Consumer Finance and Financial Planning major must only take online courses.

Excel Proficiency

Select one course from the following: 1-2

- GEN BUS 106 Foundational Skills for Business Analysis

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.
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.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This program is designed for transfer students, most of whom will enroll on a part-time basis. As such, there is not a four-year plan for this program. Please refer to the Requirements tab for more information about the curriculum and program plan.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Each UW–Madison Online student is assigned an academic and career (AC) advisor (https://online.wisc.edu/academic-career-coach/). The AC advisor will support the academic and personal success of each student by partnering with SoHE advisors in the Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office (SAA) to assist students as they identify and clarify their educational goals, develop meaningful academic plans, and pursue their own Wisconsin Experience. To find out about other ways UW–Madison’s campus supports online learners, visit the Academic Support Services page. (https://oss.wisc.edu/support-services/)

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 lifelong learner, professional, and global citizen. AC advisors (https://online.wisc.edu/academic-career-advisor/) help prepare students for life post-graduation through individual and group advising. The Office of Online Student Success (OSS) (https://oss.wisc.edu/) also provides a number of career resources (https://oss.wisc.edu/resumes/) for online learners.

PEOPLE

For more information, visit the School of Human Ecology Consumer Science faculty and staff directory (https://humanecology.wisc.edu/staff/sohe-department/consumer-science/).
CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

Completion of the BS in Consumer Finance and Financial Planning and one additional elective course will make graduates eligible to sit for the Certified Financial Planner® (CFP) exam.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE DISCLOSURE (NC-SARA)

The United States Department of Education (via 34 CFR Part 668 (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-VI/part-668/?toc=I)) requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure. The expectation is that institutions will determine whether each applicable academic program meets state professional licensure requirements and provide a general disclosure of such on an official university website.

Professional licensure requirements vary from state-to-state and can change year-to-year; they are established in a variety of state statutes, regulations, rules, and policies; and they center on a range of educational requirements, including degree type, specialized accreditation, total credits, specific courses, and examinations.

UW-Madison has taken reasonable efforts to determine whether this program satisfies the educational requirements for certification/licensure in states where prospective and enrolled students are located and is disclosing that information as follows.

Disclaimer: This information is based on the most recent annual review of state agency certification/licensure data and is subject to change. All students are strongly encouraged to consult with the individual/office listed in the Contact Information box on this page and with the applicable state agency for specific information.

The requirements of this program meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:

The requirements of this program do not meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:
Not applicable

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC ADVISING

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OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Grants and loans are available through the Office of Student Financial Aid (https://financialaid.wisc.edu/) (333 East Campus Mall; 608-262-3060).

Additional details on how to save (https://online.wisc.edu/apply/#details).