

Become a Leader in the Field of
FINANCE



PhD In Finance

Our program equips students to conduct original, cutting-edge research in financial markets and corporate finance. The full-time, four- to five-year program combines academic rigor and hands-on mentoring. Students gain exposure to the profession by networking with world-class scholars at our annual “Smokey” Mountain Finance Conference, engaging in department research seminars and Neel Corporate Governance Center workshops and presenting work at national and international conferences.

Our goal is to place graduates in tenure-track, academic positions. Toward that end, our faculty members mentor doctoral students as junior colleagues from day one. We typically admit two new students each academic year and maintain a research faculty-to-student ratio near one-to-one. The small program size facilitates close interaction with our faculty and fellow students, often leading to co-authored publications and ongoing relationships well beyond graduation.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville obtain comprehensive exposure to all areas in finance by taking six courses specifically designed for finance Ph.D. students.

- One database and research methods course designed to get incoming students up to speed on the most common databases and statistical programs used in finance research. Our goal is to get students involved in the research process from day one.
- One introductory research seminar that introduces students broadly to theoretical and empirical research in finance.
- Two asset pricing and financial markets research seminars that cover a range of topics, including asset pricing models, stock market anomalies, portfolio management, short selling, information networks and retail investors.
- Two corporate finance research topics that cover several areas, including liquidity management, capital structure, mergers and acquisitions, boards of directors, innovation and household finance.
- Students also take courses in econometrics, microeconomics and other electives.



ADMISSION INFORMATION



[Learn more about Admissions >](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Students are admitted once per year. Applications are accepted beginning September 1 and are due January 15 of the following year. New Ph.D. students begin the following fall semester.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants to the Ph.D. program must meet the following requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in any discipline
- Recommended grade point average of 3.5 or higher
- Recommended GMAT or GRE equivalent of 650 or higher
- Non-native English speakers must fulfill the University of Tennessee English language proficiency requirements

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

For full-time students, the estimated time to degree completion is four to five years, which includes coursework, a comprehensive exam and the dissertation.

FINANCIAL AID

- Annual stipend of about \$28,000 with assistantship (with Knoxville's cost of living index 15 percent below the national average, the stipend is very competitive)
- Free tuition
- Free health insurance
- Annual travel support

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN FINANCE CONFERENCE



OVERVIEW

Each spring, the finance department hosts the Smokey* Mountain Finance Conference (SMFC). Eight to ten speakers from prominent universities join our faculty and Ph.D. students for two days of research presentations in a unique Smoky Mountain venue. A typical day involves a catered breakfast, a group networking activity such as hiking, lunch, an afternoon of presentations, dinner and an evening group networking activity. The small and intimate nature of the retreat coupled with the mountain beauty offer an ideal setting for exchanging ideas and forging new relationships.

SPEAKERS

Students get the opportunity to interact with some of the most prominent researchers in the field, including journal editors.

Examples include:

- John Griffin — University of Texas at Austin
- John Graham — Duke University
- Michelle Lowry — Drexel University
- Andrew Karolyi — Cornell University
- Kai Li — University of British Columbia
- David Denis — University of Pittsburgh
- Lalitha Naveen — Temple University

[Learn more about the SMFC >](#)

FAQs

DATA RESOURCES

Conducting cutting-edge research requires access to data. The Haslam College of Business invests over \$350,000 annually to ensure that faculty and students have the data they need to succeed. Examples of data include:

- Stock return and other market information at the monthly and daily frequencies
- High-frequency stock trades recorded in nanoseconds
- Financial statement information
- Analyst forecasts
- Mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances
- Corporate governance
- Venture capital
- Corporate and municipal bonds
- Mutual fund holdings, returns and fees
- International companies



UNIVERSITY FACTS



Founded in 1794



30,559 students



1,586 full-time instructional faculty



Campus has 294 buildings spanning 910 acres

KNOXVILLE FACTS

- Ranked in top 50 of best places to live by USA Today
- Cost of living is 85.5 percent of national average
- Population of 178,874 in the city of Knoxville and 1,045,111 in the Knoxville metro area
- No state income tax
- 70 degrees Fahrenheit/49.2 degrees Fahrenheit (21.1 degrees Celsius/9.6 degrees Celsius) average high/low temperature
- 51.9 inches (131.9 centimeters) average annual precipitation

PLACEMENTS SINCE 2014

Washington State University

Ohio University

Austin College

University of Georgia

Xavier University

Mercer University

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Mississippi State University

Miami University (Ohio)

James Madison University

Fairfield University

California State University (San Bernardino)

[MEET OUR CURRENT STUDENTS >](#)

KEY FACULTY



ASHLEIGH ELDEMIRE-POINDEXTER
Assistant Professor

Ashleigh Eldemire-Poindexter's research interests include empirical corporate finance, capital structure and fixed income securities.



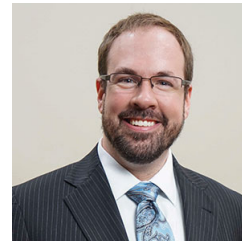
ERIC KELLEY
Finance Ph.D. Program Co-Director, Associate Professor, Goodner Professor

Eric Kelley's research focuses on issues in empirical asset pricing and market microstructure, with a particular emphasis on how information is incorporated into prices.



LARRY FAUVER
James F. Smith Jr. Professor in Financial Institutions, Neel Corporate Governance Research Fellow

Larry Fauver's research focuses on firm performance, corporate governance, corporate culture and corruption, in both a domestic and international environment.



DAVID MASLAR
Assistant Professor

David Maslar's research interests include investments, market microstructure and fixed income. His current research focuses on empirical asset pricing, bond mutual funds and illiquidity.



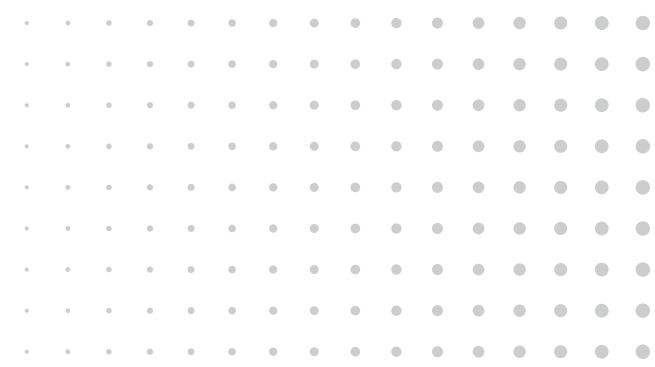
SCOTT GUERNSEY
Assistant Professor, Neel Corporate Governance Center Research Fellow

Scott Guernsey's research interests focus on empirical corporate finance, with a particular emphasis on capital structure, corporate governance, innovation, law and finance, and mergers and acquisitions.



ANDY PUCKETT
Professor, Paul and Beverly Castagna Professor in Investments

Andy Puckett's research interests are in the areas of institutional investing, analysts, taxes and market microstructure.



KEY FACULTY



MATTHEW SERFLING
Finance Ph.D. Program Co-Director, Associate Professor, Truist Professor, Neel Corporate Governance Research Fellow

Matthew Serfling's research focuses on issues in empirical corporate finance, with a particular emphasis on capital structure, corporate governance, labor and finance.



TRACIE WOIDTKE
Department Head, Sharp/Home Federal Bank of Tennessee Professor of Banking and Finance, Neel Corporate Governance Research Fellow

Tracie Woidtke's research focuses on issues related to corporate governance and public policy.



For more information, contact:

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