

**NYU****ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

CORE-GP 1021

Financial Management

Summer 2021

Course Description

In this introductory core course in financial management, students will learn the fundamentals of budgeting and accounting for public, health, and not-for-profit organizations. Through readings, lectures, real-world case studies, and assignments, students will gain an understanding of how to use financial information in organizational planning, implementation, control, reporting, and analysis. In addition, students will develop their spreadsheet skills by using Microsoft Excel to perform financial calculations and create financial documents.

The first half of the course focuses on **managerial accounting**, a set of tools used by managers for internal planning, implementation, and control. Topics in this portion of the course include operating budgets, cash budgets, break-even analysis, cost allocation, variance analysis, the time value of money, capital budgeting, and long-term financing.

The second half of the course focuses on **financial accounting**, a set of tools used by managers and external observers for reporting on and analyzing an organization's financial position and performance. Topics in this portion of the course include the preparation and analysis of financial statements (balance sheet, activity statement, and cash flow statement), ethics in financial management, government accounting, and government financial condition analysis.

Professor

Name	Email	Net ID	Office Hours
Mike West	msw224@nyu.edu	msw224	By Appointment: Email to Schedule

Teaching Colleagues (TC)

Name	Email	Will Lead
Chee Kong	cyk332@nyu.edu	Discussion Sessions 1 – 6
Noah Branman	noah.branman@nyu.edu	Discussion Sessions 8 – 14

Tutor

Name	Email	Location	Days and Time
Mahima Sharda	mss12238@nyu.edu	Zoom link in the NYU LMS (Brightspace)	Wednesdays: 5:30 – 7:30pm Saturdays: 9:30 – 11:30am* <i>*Tutoring will not be held on Saturday, May 29, June 19, or July 3</i>

Course Prerequisites

The only prerequisite for this course is a basic familiarity with Excel. If you have limited or no experience using Excel, it is strongly recommended that you use an online resources such as [Microsoft Support](#) or YouTube ([Excel Tutorial – Beginners Level 1](#) and [Excel Tutorial – Beginners Level 2](#)). Please note that it is up to students to determine whether or not they are familiar with Excel. NYU students are eligible to download Excel for free as part of [Office 365 Education](#).

Course Objectives

By the conclusion of the semester, students will learn to:

1. Prepare organizational budgets on the accrual and cash bases of accounting.
2. Make resource allocation and pricing decisions using break-even analysis, the time value of money, cost allocation, and variance analysis.
3. Prepare balance sheets, activity statements, and cash flow statements using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for not-for-profit and healthcare organizations and analyze these statements.
4. Interpret and analyze governmental financial statements that have been prepared on the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting.
5. Use Microsoft Excel to prepare financial statements and perform financial analyses.

Learning Assessment Table

Corresponding Course Learning Objective	Corresponding Assignments
#1	HW # 1-3, Midterm
#2	HW # 2-5, Midterm
#3	HW # 6-11, Final
#4	HW # 12, Final
#5	HW # 1-12, Midterm, Final

Course Materials

The textbook for this course is: Finkler et al., **Financial Management for Public, Health, and Not-for-Profit Organizations**, Sixth Edition (2019), CQ Press/Sage Publishing, ISBN: 150639681X. Please note that this course is participating in the Follett Access program. This is an NYU Bookstore initiative that delivers required course materials digitally. Under this program the textbook will be delivered to you digitally, and you will receive an email the week before classes giving you the link to access the material. The cost of renting the book is \$62.25, which will be added as a “book charge” to your bursar bill. If you would prefer to opt out, you should log in to the student portal (<https://includedcp.follett.com/2015>), access your bookshelf, and remove yourself from the program. (Your username is your school email address). If you wish to purchase the hard copy instead, it is available at the NYU Bookstore and on Amazon.com. There course materials are also on reserve at Bobst Library. Students who plan to take additional finance courses should retain this book as a reference.

Course Website

The course website can be found on NYU Learning Management System (“NYU LMS” or “Brightspace”), accessible via the “Academics” tab on [NYU Global Home](http://globalhome.nyu.edu) (<http://globalhome.nyu.edu>). Throughout the semester, documents such as lecture slides, homework solutions, and practice exams will be posted to this site. In addition, we will occasionally send emails about course logistics to your NYU email account. Therefore, you should check both the course website and your NYU email account on a regular basis.

Course Rules and Requirements

1. **To do well in this course, most students need to devote a minimum of eight hours per class** (1 hour of asynch lecture, 1.5 hours of synchronous class time, 1 hour of discussion session, and about 4.5 hours of reading, studying, and working on assignments). Please keep in mind that the material presented in the course builds cumulatively. Do not fall behind. Students who fall behind find it very hard to catch up.

2. **You are expected to participate in each class with your Zoom audio and video on** (unless circumstances prevent it). Please review Wagner's [Zoom in the Classroom](#) series about classroom etiquette, participation, and more. Students may not share the Zoom classroom recordings. The recordings are kept within the NYU LMS (Brightspace) site and are for students enrolled in this course only.
3. **There are no extra credit assignments and no make-up exams.** Please note the dates of the midterm and final exams on the following page; if you have a conflict do not enroll in the course at this time. NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify your instructor in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with exams to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.
4. **If you have a logistical question, please check the syllabus and website.** You can find the answer to most questions there. For any remaining questions, please contact the TC.
5. **The Wagner School has a strict policy regarding incompletes.** The grade of "Incomplete Pass" will only be available in extreme circumstances such as serious medical emergencies. Students may withdraw from the course up until the date set by the Registrar. Students who withdraw will receive a grade of "W" and will have to pay for the course again when they retake it.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner's Academic Code](#). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Every student is expected to maintain academic integrity and is expected to report violations to their instructor. If you are unsure about what is expected of you, you should ask.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

1. Pre-Class Quizzes – 10%
2. Homework Assignments - 20%
3. Midterm Examination - 35%
4. Final Examination - 35%

Pre-Class Quizzes

There are a total of **12 pre-class quizzes**, each worth 0.5% to 1% of your course grade. The pre-class quizzes will consist of 5 multiple choice questions based on the asynchronous lecture content. You are **required to watch the asynch videos and complete the pre-class quiz prior to lecture**. The quizzes can be submitted via the NYU LMS (Brightspace).

Homework Assignments

There are a total of **12 assignments**, each worth 1% to 2% of your course grade. **Assignments are graded on the basis of completeness rather than accuracy.** If you complete the entire assignment, you will receive full credit even if your work contains errors. If you do not complete the entire assignment, you will not receive full credit. **Assignments are to be submitted online via the NYU LMS (Brightspace) before lecture.** Assignments and templates (when applicable) can be found on the NYU LMS (Brightspace). **Assignments will not be accepted by email, nor will they be accepted during or after lecture.** Late assignments will not receive any credit except in extreme circumstances, such as serious medical emergencies.

You must complete the quantitative parts of your assignments in Excel and the written parts in Excel or Word. Templates will be provided for some assignments (posted on the NYU LMS). **Each student must write and submit his or her own assignments.** We encourage you to work on the assignments in small groups, but two or more students turning in identical homework assignments constitutes cheating and will be reported to the administration.

Exams

The midterm and final exam will each last two hours and thirty minutes. Students will begin the exams at the start of their normal class time and submit them via the NYU LMS (Brightspace). These are open book tests; however, students will find it useful to prepare notes for use during each exam. During each exam, your professor will be available to answer clarifying questions via Google Hangouts or via email. More detailed instructions will be discussed closer to each exam.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\) website](#) and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD at (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations should contact both your professor and the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester.

NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#) states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify your instructor in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with exams to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.

Lectures and Discussion Sessions

Lectures will meet on the dates listed below. In addition to the lectures, there is an optional one-hour discussion sessions led by the Teaching Colleague (TC). Discussion sessions are designed to help prepare you for the homework assignments.

	Lecture	Discussion Session
Time	5:30 – 7:10pm	7:30 – 8:30pm
Exam Times	5:30 – 8:00pm	N/A
Location	Online	Online
Class 1	May 24 (Monday)	May 24 (Monday)
Class 2	May 27 (Thursday)	May 27 (Thursday)
Class 3	June 3 (Thursday)	June 3 (Thursday)
Class 4	June 7 (Monday)	June 7 (Monday)
Class 5	June 10 (Thursday)	June 10 (Thursday)
Class 6	June 14 (Monday)	June 14 (Monday)
Class 7 – Midterm Exam	June 17 (Thursday)	N/A
Class 8	June 21 (Monday)	June 21 (Monday)
Class 9	June 24 (Thursday)	June 24 (Thursday)
Class 10	June 28 (Monday)	June 28 (Monday)
Class 11	July 1 (Thursday)	July 1 (Thursday)
Class 12	July 8 (Thursday)	July 8 (Thursday)
Class 13	July 12 (Monday)	July 12 (Monday)
Class 14	July 15 (Thursday)	July 15 (Thursday)
Class 15 – Final Exam	July 19 (Monday)	N/A

Course Outline

Reading assignments must be completed before each lecture. (Note that you have a reading assignment for the first class!) You are not required to read the chapter appendices unless specifically noted below. Handout readings can be found on the course website.

Homework assignments consist primarily of analytical problems based on the previous week's readings and lecture. All assignments can be found on the course website. Solutions will be posted each evening after lecture has met.

Discussion session practice problems are designed to help you prepare for the homework assignments. The problems are listed below in case you either want to start thinking about them in advance or you cannot make it to discussion session and want to solve the problems on your own. Most problems are from the textbook, but in a few cases, they are from handouts posted on the website.

CLASS 1

Topics Covered:

- Operating Budgets
- Cash Budgets

Read before class:

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- "Excel Tips, Part 1" handout

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: handout

CLASS 2:

Topics Covered:

- Flexible Budgets
- Break-Even Analysis

Read before class:

- Chapter 3 up to p. 89 (up to Performance Budgeting)
- Chapter 4 up to p. 144 (up to Cost Measurement)
- Appendix 4-A

Homework #1 due:

- Jobs University (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: 3-23, 4-41, handout

CLASS 3:

Topics Covered:

- Cost Allocation
- Variance Analysis

Read before class:

- Chapter 4 from p. 144-end (from Cost Measurement)
- Chapter 8 up to p. 294 (up to Ethics)

Homework #2 due:

- QwikShare (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: 8-27, 8-29, handout

CLASS 4:

Topics Covered:

- Time Value of Money

Read before class:

- Chapter 5 up to p. 186 (up to Capital Asset Investment Analysis)
- Appendix 5-B
- "Excel Tips, Part 2" handout
- "New York State Lottery" handout

Homework #3 due:

- Dearborn Center (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: 5-14 through 5-20

CLASS 5:

Topics Covered:

- Capital Budgeting
- Long-Term Financing

Read before class:

- Chapter 5 from p. 186-end (from Capital Asset Investment Analysis)
- Chapter 6

Homework #4 due:

- Investment Management (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: 5-32, 5-34, 5-36, 5-37, 6-21

CLASS 6:

Topics Covered:

- Midterm Exam Review
- Case Studies

Read before class:

- Case Study Handouts

Homework #5 due:

- Harper Hospital (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: handout

CLASS 7: MIDTERM EXAM**CLASS 8:**

Topics Covered:

- The Balance Sheet

Read before class:

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 9

Homework #6 due:

- City Cares (1% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: 9-28, 9-29, 9-30

CLASS 9:

Topics Covered:

- The Activity Statement

Read before class:

- Chapter 10 up to p. 365 (up to The Statement of Cash Flows)

Homework #7 due:

- Forever Friends Rescue (1% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: 10-16, 10-17 (balance sheet & activity statement), 10-19

CLASS 10:

Topics Covered:

- Accounting for Not-For-Profit and Health Organizations
- Ethics in Financial Management

Read before class:

- Chapter 11 and Chapter 8 from p. 294-end (from Ethics)

Homework #8 due:

- Child's Play, Part I (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: handout

CLASS 11:

Topics Covered:

- The Cash Flow Statement

Read before class:

- Chapter 10 from p. 365-end (from The Statement of Cash Flows)

Homework #9 due:

- Second Chance Bakery, Part I (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: cash flow statements for 10-17 and WPR Public Radio

CLASS 12:

Topics Covered:

- Financial Statement Analysis

Read before class:

- Chapter 14

Homework #10 due:

- Child's Play and Second Chance Bakery, Part II (1% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problem: 14-10

CLASS 13:

Topics Covered:

- Budgeting and Accounting for State and Local Governments
- Government Financial Condition Analysis

Read before class:

- Chapter 12
- Chapter 13
- Chapter 15 (including Appendix 15-A)

Homework #11 due:

- Do Something (2% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problem: handout

CLASS 14:

Topics Covered:

- Final Exam Review
- Case Study

Homework #12 due:

- Dennis City (1% of course grade)

Discussion session:

- Practice problems: handout

CLASS 15: FINAL EXAM