

Become a Leader in the Field of
FINANCE



Ph.D. In Finance

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Haslam College of Business is a leader in business higher education. With several highly ranked programs and expert faculty, the college prepares students to meet the demands of the business world.

Haslam's finance Ph.D. program prepares 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 faculty and fellow students, often leading to co-authored publications and ongoing relationships well beyond graduation.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Haslam finance Ph.D. students obtain comprehensive exposure to all areas of finance by taking six courses designed specifically for the doctoral program, including:

- A database and research methods course designed to involve students in research by familiarizing them with the most common databases and statistical programs used in finance research
- An 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
- Additional electives, including econometrics and microeconomics



ADMISSION INFORMATION



[Learn more about Admissions >](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Finance Ph.D. 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 dissertation.

FINANCIAL AID

Haslam finance Ph.D. students receive an annual stipend of approximately \$31,522. Knoxville's cost of living index is 14.5 percent below the national average, so the stipend is very competitive. Finance Ph.D. students also receive:

- 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, lunch, an afternoon of presentations, dinner and an evening group networking. 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.

Past speakers have included:

- 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. Haslam 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



36,304 students



1,700+ full-time instructional faculty



Campus has 257 buildings spanning 920 acres

KNOXVILLE FACTS

- Ranked 29th among the best places to live by U.S. News & World Report for 2024-25
- Cost of living is 85.5 percent of national average
- Population of 198,162 in the city of Knoxville and 932,245 in the Knoxville metro area
- No state income tax
- More than 6,000 acres of public parks and 200 miles of greenways and walking trails in Knox County.
- 51.9 inches (131.9 centimeters) average annual precipitation

PLACEMENTS SINCE 2014

Mercer University

Central University of Finance and Economics (Beijing)

University of Georgia

East Carolina University

Loyola University (Maryland)

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Mississippi State University

Citi Bank

Wofford College

Western Kentucky University

Xavier University

Austin College

Miami University (Ohio)

James Madison University

Washington State University

California State University (San Bernardino)

Ohio University

Fairfield University

[MEET OUR CURRENT STUDENTS >](#)

KEY FACULTY



ASHLEIGH ELDEMIRE

Assistant Professor

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



LARRY FAUVER

Litfin Family Finance Faculty Fellow, 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.



SCOTT GUERNSEY

Acree Family Faculty Fellow, Neel Corporate Governance Center Research Fellow, Assistant Professor

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.



MATTHEW HENRIKSSON

Assistant Professor

Matthew Henriksson's research interests include investments, behavioral finance, politics in finance, FinTech and applications of textual analysis.

KEY FACULTY



ERIC KELLEY

James Ernest Goodner Professorship in Banking, Finance Ph.D. Program Co-Director, Associate 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.



TINGTING LIU

Finance Ph.D. Program Co-Director

Tingting Liu's research focuses on corporate finance with interests in corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, boards of directors, behavioral finance and corporate disclosure.



ANDY PUCKETT

Paul & Beverly Castagna Professor in Investments, Charles & Dorothy Duggan Faculty Research Fellow, Professor

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



MATTHEW SERFLING

Finance Ph.D. Program Co-Director, Associate Professor, Clayton Homes Chair of Excellence in Finance, 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.

KEY FACULTY



AUSTIN STARKWEATHER

Assistant Professor

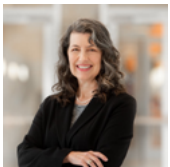
Austin Starkweather's research centers around corporate governance, with a focus on executive compensation and the relationship between corporations and their investors.



DANIEL WEAGLEY

Associate Professor

Daniel Weagley conducts research on the role of financial frictions in climate finance, individual and institutional investor decision-making and labor finance.



TRACIE WOIDTKE

Department Head, David E. Sharp-Home Federal Bank of Tennessee Professor in Banking and Finance, Neel Corporate Governance Research Fellow

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



ZIHAN YE

Assistant Professor

Zihan Ye is an empiricist conducting research in the areas of municipal finance and healthcare finance.

For more information, contact:
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