FINA 7349
Capstone in Personal Financial Planning
Fall 2024

Instructor: Nick Johnson
Office Hours: by Appointment
Contact: Via Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a case-based course modeled under the Certified Financial Planning Board of Standards Principal Topics in which students develop comprehensive financial plans by exploring topics studied in the required courses in the MS Finance-Financial Planning and Wealth Management program.

Textbook:

Kaplan Personal Financial Planning Series: Cases and Applications, 12th Edition

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Working in a team, students will be able to analyze a client's personal financial situation in detail and make appropriate observations and recommendations on how this client would obtain their stated financial objectives by:

1. Demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the content found within the Personal Financial Planning curriculum and applying this information in the formulation of a financial plan.
2. Effectively communicating the financial plan, both orally and in writing.
3. Collecting all necessary and relevant qualitative and quantitative information required to develop a financial plan.
4. Analyzing personal financial situations, evaluating clients' objectives, needs, and values.

5. Demonstrating logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to a specific problem.
6. Evaluating the impact of economic, political, and regulatory issues.
7. Applying the CFP® Board Financial Planning Practice Standards to the financial planning process.

Topics reviewed and applied will include:

General Principles of Financial Planning;
Professional Conduct and Fiduciary Responsibility;
Interpersonal Communication;
Psychology of Financial Planning;
Insurance Planning;
Investment Planning;
Income Tax Planning;
Retirement Planning;
Estate Planning.

WRITTEN FINANCIAL PLANS:
For each case, each team will write a comprehensive financial plan analyzing the client's personal financial situation, evaluate the objectives and needs of the client and develop and recommend a strategy to meet the client's goals utilizing and applying the topics in the Financial Planning curriculum.

TEAM PRESENTATIONS:
For each case there will be a team of students who will present recommendations based on the fact patterns of the case. Your team may be asked to present more than one case.

eMoney Certification:
eMoney is financial planning software which is the industry leader. A large percentage of companies developing financial plans utilize eMoney as their software platform.

Students will attain eMoney certification by completing a self-guided, online training program to understand how to use specific functionality within the eMoney platform. This 12-hour online training is divided into sections, and students are quizzed after each section to ensure proficiency. Upon completion of the online training, students receive an official certificate from eMoney that is printable and can be added to their resumes.

PRE-SEMESTER ACTIVITIES:

When in the classroom, please have a name tent showing the name you wish to be called on the desk in front of you. Make it professional.

GRADING:

Rubrics will be used to grade the components of Written Financial Plans and Team Presentations. The grading rubrics are available in Canvas Rubrics Section.

Grading will consist of the following elements:
Written Financial Plans – 45%
Team Presentations – 45%
eMoney Certification – 10%

Grading Scale:

90%+ = A
85%+ = B+
80%+ = B
75%+ = C+
70%+ = C
65%+ = D+
60%+ = D
<60% = F