

Carnegie Mellon

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February 10, 2009

Dear Students:

I would like to invite you to an Informational Meeting regarding the Computational Finance program at CMU. This meeting will be held on Monday, February 16 at 7:00pm in Doherty Hall 2315. Computational Finance is a cross disciplinary major, involving faculty from the Heinz School, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Mellon College of Science, and the Tepper School of Business.

Carnegie Mellon has been granting Bachelor of Science degrees in Computational Finance since 2003. Thirty-four students have received this degree. Graduates have joined leading financial institutions, including Bank of America, Citadel, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, D.E. Shaw, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, and UBS, or have gone to graduate school. Nearly all positions taken at banks were on the trading floor.

The Computational Finance major is a rigorous program including substantial mathematics, and majors take graduate courses in the Tepper and Heinz Schools in the senior year. There is also a Computational Finance minor, which is similar to the major but does not include the graduate courses. Information about computational finance and the specifics of the Computational Finance Major can be found at the BSCF Website:

www.math.cmu.edu/~bscf/.

Due to the rigorous nature of the Computational Finance major and the fact that the graduate schools will accept only 10 Computational Finance majors into their classes, admission is determined by an application process. Applications are reviewed each semester. Students in any year of study may apply, but it is unusual for first-year students to gain admission. Students who fail to gain admission may reapply in later semesters.

To apply to the program, students must submit the following items:

1. A one-page essay describing why the applicant wants to enter the B.S. program in Computational Finance. This should explain how computational finance fits with the student's career goals. This essay should demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in a business environment. The essay is an important part of the application.
2. A resume, including volunteer activities, honors and achievements, computer skills, work experience, and any additional material of note.

The deadline for application the Spring 2009 semester is Monday March 2. Applications should be submitted to:

Stella Andreoletti
Student Programs Coordinator

Department of Mathematical Sciences
Wean Hall 6116

Electronic submissions (pdf format only, please) may be sent to

bscf@andrew.cmu.edu

The Admissions Committee will review the applications and the applicants' academic records. Based on this information, they will determine whom to interview. These interviews will be conducted and admissions decisions made in time for fall registration.

Candidates for the minor need not submit a formal application. Students must satisfy one of the following two requirements in order to declare a minor:

1. Completion of 21-270 with an A grade and an overall QPA of at least 3.2.
2. Completion of 21-270 and 21-370 with an average grade of B in these two courses and an overall QPA of at least 3.0.

Students declare a minor by notifying Stella Andreoletti.

Each fall a Computational Finance resume book is prepared and distributed to potential employers. This serves to help find internships for non-graduating students as well as full-time employment for graduating students. All Computational Finance majors and minors may submit resumes. Invitations to join the resume book are issued at the beginning of the fall semester.

Computational Finance is available as a primary major to students enrolled in either the Mellon College of Science or the Tepper School of Business. The core curriculum is the same for students in either college, but the general education requirements may vary. In particular, Computational Finance students enrolled in the Tepper School will follow the general education requirements for Business Administration. Students enrolled in MCS will follow the general education requirements of the MCS curriculum, slightly modified for the computational finance degree. Students who choose Computational Finance as a secondary major will follow the general education requirements of the primary major.

I hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about the Computational Finance programs.

Sincerely yours,

David Handron
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