



FIN 530 (01W) – Fundamentals of Financial Planning Fall 2024

*Department of Accounting & Finance
College of Business
Texas A&M University-Commerce*

Course Syllabus: Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Geoffrey VanderPal

Office Location: Online (Monday and Friday 12 to 1 PM CST)

Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: VanderPalGeoffrey@tamuc.edu

Communication Response Time: 24 to 48 hours

Course Description and Objectives

This course addresses comprehensive financial planning, insurance, budgeting, credit, home ownership, savings, investment, estate planning, and tax problems. The course is designed so that students will not only be able to develop their financial plans but also for clients as well. It will assist individuals in following strategies based on the model of the Certified Financial Planners (CFP) Board of Standards. Prerequisites: FIN 304 or FIN 501. Cross-listed with: FIN 430.

Credit Hours: 3

Textbook

“Fundamentals of Financial Planning,” 6th edition, by: Michael Dalton, James Dalton, Joseph Gillice, and Thomas Langdon, *Money Education*, 2019, ISBN-13: 978-1-946711-64-9

Learning Outcomes:

1. Discuss the practice and the benefits of the personal financial planning process as detailed in the CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct and the strategic approach to financial planning analysis.
2. Analyze the client's psychology, background, preferred learning style and values (socially conscious investor, etc.) impact the financial planning process.
3. Explain homeowners and renters' insurance policies and compare appropriate financing strategies for purchasing a home.
4. Identify opportunities and challenges related to a client's cash inflows and outflows and importance of budgeting and the limitations of financial statement analysis including, estimating fair market value, inflation, hard to value assets, illiquidity of certain assets, and uncertain returns.
5. Discuss the tax implications and the unique characteristics of an insurance contract and the types of life insurance including term and permanent.
6. Discuss the sources of retirement income and the factors affecting retirement planning.
7. Identify the goals, objectives, process, and risks of estate planning.

Course Schedule:

WEEKS	CHAPTERS	Activity
WEEK 1 (Aug 26 - Sep 01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction (non-gradable activity)• Discussion #1• Quiz #1
WEEK 2 (Sep 02 - Sep 08)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 2: Interpersonal Communication, Behavioral Finance & Client Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment #1• Quiz #2
WEEK 3 (Sep 09 - Sep 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 3: Financial Planning Approaches: Analysis and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion #2• Quiz #3
WEEK 4 (Sep 16 - Sep 22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 4: Personal Financial Statements: Preparation and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment #2• Quiz #4

WEEK 5 (Sep 23 - Sep 29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5: Risk Management for the Individual Client 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion #3 Quiz #5
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WEEK 6 (Sep 30 - Oct 06)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Time Value of Money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment #3
WEEK 7 (Oct 07 - Oct 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8: Education and Education Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion #4 Quiz #6
WEEK 8 (Oct 14 - Oct 20)	<p>PREPARE FOR THE MID-TERM EXAM OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS 1- 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MID-TERM Assignment Quiz #7
WEEK 9 (Oct 21 - Oct 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9: Investments Chapter 11: Retirement Planning Accumulations and Distributions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion #5 Quiz #8
WEEK 10 (Oct 28 - Nov 03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12: Income Tax Planning Chapter 13: Business Entity Selection and Taxation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment #4 Quiz #9
WEEK 11 (Nov 04 - Nov 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 14: Estate Planning Chapter 15: Economics and the External Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion #6 Quiz #10
WEEK 12 (Nov 11 - Nov 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 16: Ethics & Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment #5 Quiz #11
WEEK 13 (Nov 18 - Nov 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 17: Planning for Special Circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion #7 Quiz #12
WEEK 14 (Nov 25 - Dec 01)	<p><i>Thanksgiving break</i> <i>(No classes)</i></p>	

WEEK 15 (Dec 02 - Dec 08)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PREPARE FOR THE FINAL EXAM OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS 1-17 SHORT WEEK (Mon – Fri) 	FINAL Assignment
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MARKS BREAKDOWN:

ACTIVITIES	POINTS
Discussion (1*30)	210 Points (7*30)
Quiz (1*20)	240 Points (12*20)
Assignment (1*50)	250 Points (5*50)
Mid Term Assignment (1*100)	100 Points (1*100)
Final Assignment (1*200)	200 Points (1*200)
Total	1000Points

Grading System

This chart shows final course grades given certain point values.

POINT VALUE	GRADE
90%-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

Quizzes

There will be online quizzes administered on D2L throughout the semester which will earn you 26% of the course grade. The quiz date and time will be announced before the quiz is administered on D2L.

Discussion Question Criteria:

All **initial responses** are due on Thursday of the assigned week for the discussion question per its due date. All responses to other students' posts must be submitted by Sunday midnight of the assigned week. To obtain credit for *participation* posts, an initial discussion question response must also be posted in the week. **Participation only will not be accepted.**

Note that points will be deducted if response posts are not substantive, or if posts do not adequately and comprehensively fulfill discussion topic requirements. *All parts to the discussion questions should contain at least 5-6 complete sentences reflecting substantive content.*

All students are expected to participate in the Discussion Board(s). Posts and replies must be submitted by the stated deadline and written professionally. Please avoid using text or Instant Message style. Posts and replies must be respectful in content and tone.

All communications will take place through TAMUC official website (D2L) or TAMUC email.

AI use policy:

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided, the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarize another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with

students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.