

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

FIN 1521 Personal Finance Applications

Credit Hours: 1

Lecture Hours: 1

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces students to the importance of responsible money management both today and in the future. Specific topics include financial goal setting, budgeting, responsible use of credit, risk management, as well as savings and investing. Personal accountability in the education financing process is also addressed.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Formulate SMART financial goals.
2. Construct a household budget.
3. Describe the importance of saving.
4. List steps required to start/increase saving.
5. Evaluate saving alternatives.
6. Identify factors that affect good credit scores.
7. Evaluate short-term borrowing options.
8. Discuss common investment options.
9. Compare/assess insurance needs.
10. Discuss the education financing process and importance of avoiding student loan Default.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Read and comprehend information, express ideas effectively in written and spoken form as they relate to personal financial decisions.

Ethical Decision Making

Students must be able to think critically to recognize ethical issues in personal financial practices.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills - Students will apply critical thinking as they reflect on financial decisions and how decisions/results might change in the future.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Setting personal financial goals
- B. Establishing financial credibility and accountability
- C. Determining financial needs and establishing a budget
- D. Credit ratings and the proper use of credit
- E. Financial literacy
- F. Financial decision making processes
- G. Education financing
- H. Developing a plan for personal financial management