

EDITION INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL MANAGENENT

INTRODUCTION TO

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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PREFACE

In this third edition our primary goal is again to provide students with a thorough foundation in finance. For many students the introductory course is the only exposure to finance, and we cover all the material that we believe is essential to a comprehensive understanding of financial management. Although the text covers a wide range of topics and issues, we have treated the material at an introductory level in all cases. Our method has been to explain the main issues very carefully in order to provide the student with an intuitive understanding of finance concepts and an appreciation of the way those concepts are applied in practice.

The text does not neglect students who will be taking additional courses in finance. Basic principles, techniques, and institutional aspects needed for effective analysis of business finance cases are well covered. A foundation for more advanced theoretical courses is provided in the chapter appendixes and in Chapter 6. Throughout we have tried to ensure that our approach here is consistent with current theory. Students completing a course of study using this book should be well prepared for courses in investments because of our stress on risk and return in the financial markets and our coverage of the basic characteristics of securities and markets.

The book is designed for undergraduate one-quarter or one-semester courses, although it is unlikely that all chapters can be assigned in a single course. If supplemented by cases and readings, it will be suitable as the primary text for courses extending two quarters or more. Instructors using this text for an introductory course for MBA students will find that Chapter 6 and the appendixes to Chapters 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10 enable them to approach basic finance on a more advanced level.

We have made a special effort to provide an integrated discussion of the topics covered. Nevertheless, the book has been designed to offer great flexibility in choosing the order of presentation of most chapters. Furthermore, many chapters have one or more sections that can be deleted without any loss of continuity. Appendixes in several chapters explore major concepts in greater depth. These are intended as supplements to the basic coverage in the text and are designed for use by well-prepared undergraduate and beginning graduate students.

The first six chapters provide an introduction to the book and an introduction to finance in general. In Part 1 we examine the general nature of financial management, the financial system, taxes, the choice of business organization, compound-interest calculations, risk, and the principles of market valuation.

Parts 2 through 4 cover the basic concepts and techniques of financial management. Part 2 is concerned with long-term decisions involving investments and financing, including dividend policy. Part 3 explores techniques of financial analysis, including ratio analysis, funds flow, break-even analysis, and forecasting. Part 4 deals with the problems of managing the firm's current assets and current liabilities. The discussion in Part 4 is unusual in that the firm's working capital decisions are explicitly linked to the discussion of long-term investment and financing decisions in Part 2.

Parts 5 and 6 provide supplementary material that is often not covered in an introductory course. Part 5 offers a detailed discussion of the characteristics of the different securities issued by business firms and the procedures for issuing securities. Part 6 covers special topics including mergers and acquisitions, international financial management, and business bankruptcy.

CHANGES IN THE	This edition reflects several improvements over previous editions. They
THIRD EDITION	 include: 1. An increase in clarity and addition of new explanatory material. The entire text was examined and changes were made to increase clarity of presentation. Some sections were substantially reduced in size or eliminated. New sections were added wherever we felt that they would significantly further the student's understanding of the subject. Major changes have been made in Chapters 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 19, and 23. 2. Expanded use of beta as a measure of risk. We have added an intuitive description of beta as a risk measure in Chapter 5, showed how a firm's stock beta can be used to estimate the stock rate in Chapter 7, and discussed how financial leverage affects a stock's beta in Chapter 10. Although the sections on beta relate directly to the chapter topics, these sections can be deleted entirely without any loss of continuity since the chapters do not depend on or require the capital asset pricing model or the beta concept.
xvi	3. Added coverage of advanced topics in valuation. Chapter 6 is new and brings together discussions of the efficient market hypothesis, the term structure of interest rates, and the capital asset pricing model. Some of

this material was included in appendixes and in interchapter essays in the second edition. We have expanded the development of these topics and have brought them together in a single coherent treatment.

- 4. Totally revised presentation of risk in capital budgeting. (Chapter 8 in the second edition, Chapter 9 in the new edition). Chapter 9 is a completely new treatment of this topic that should be much clearer to students. It incorporates both an application of a multi-period capital asset pricing model and descriptions of various methods used in practice.
- 5. *Revised problems*. All problems are either new or revised for this edition.
- 6. New interchapter essays. About half the essays are new to this edition and the remaining ones have been revised.
- 7. General updating. The text reflects more recent data, laws, and management practices.

Although this book has been written to offer substantial latitude in selecting which chapters to cover and their order or presentation, we suggest that certain chapters be taught in a given order. Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 15 are prerequisites for certain other chapters. Specifically, Chapter 4 should precede Chapter 5, and Chapters 4 and 5 should precede all of Part 2 (Chapters 7 through 11). We recommend that the chapters in Part 2 be taught in sequence. However, these chapters can be partially rearranged to suit the needs of the individual instructor. A complete discussion of the possibilities for alternative sequences is included in the Instructor's Manual for the text. Many instructors may choose to assign Chapters 12, 13, and 14-which cover financial statement analysis, break-even analysis, and forecasting, respectively—early in the course. This can be done with no difficulty, although the discussion of financial leverage in Chapter 13 is most effectively taught if it is presented after Chapter 10. A sequence that we find quite workable in one quarter consists of Chapters 1 through 5, 7 through 10, 12, 14 through 17, and one or more of Chapters 18, 19, and 23; other chapters can be intermingled with these.

Students come to the basic finance course with a wide range of prior preparation in accounting, mathematics, and economics. We have assumed minimal background in these areas, but we do expect that students have had at least one quarter of accounting shortly before taking the class. Able students should be capable of mastering the material almost without regard to their previous formal course work. We have tried to make the book as self-contained as possible and, through extensive use of examples, to make it suitable for self-study.

As an aid to students, many instructors recommend a study guide when such is available. The *Study Guide* written by Thomas E. Stitzel serves as an excellent review and supplement to this book. It contains additional TEXT ORGANIZATION AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS solved problems as well as questions in a programmed learning format. We believe that many students will find this supplement helpful.

The *Instructor's Manual* includes a substantial amount of supplementary teaching material, as well as recommended course outlines, a test bank, transparency masters, and answers to text questions and problems.

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> Lawrence D. Schall Charles W. Haley

PREFACE

xv

PART 1 The Environment of Financial Decisions

CHAPTER 1	
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOALS	3
The Corporate Objective	3
The Key Role of Finance	9
Finance as a Discipline	11
The Organization of This Book	12
Summary	12
CHAPTER 2	
THE AMERICAN FINANCIAL SYSTEM: AN OVERVIEW	15
Services Provided by the Financial System	15
Financial Institutions	21
Financial Markets and Securities	28
Interest Rates	35
Summary	38
Questions	39
Project	40
CHAPTER 3 TAXES AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATION	41
Business Organization	41
The Federal Income Tax	43

V

Summary	55
Questions	56
Project	57
Problems	57
Appendix 3a: Depreciation Methods	59
A History of Finance	61
CHAPTER 4 THE TIME VALUE OF MONEY	67
Why Money Has Time Value	67
Basic Concepts	68
Solving Problems When the Interest Rate Is Known	81
Finding an Unknown Interest Rate	88
Summary	96
Questions	97
Project	98
Problems	98
Appendix 4a: Formulas and Computational Methods	104
CHAPTER 5 RISK AND VALUE	111
	111
Prices and Present Values	112
What Is Risk?	115
Measuring Risk	116
The Impact of Risk on Value	125
Summary Questions	138
Projects	139
Problems	140 140
Appendix 5a: Diversification and Correlation	140
	145
Inflation and Innovation in the Financial Markets	149
CHAPTER 6	
RISK AND VALUE: ADVANCED TOPICS	155
The Efficient Markets Hypothesis	155
The Term Structure of Interest Rates	162
Portfolio Theory and the CAPM	168
Summary	184
Questions	185
Project	186
Problems	186

vi

PART 2 The Firm's Investment, Financing, and Dividend Decisions

CHAPTER 7	
THE COST OF CAPITAL	191
Basic Concepts	191
Determining the Cost Rates	194
Determining the Proportions	202
Calculation of a Firm's Cost of Capital	203
Summary	205
Questions	206
Project	207
Problems	207
CHAPTER 8	
FUNDAMENTALS OF CAPITAL BUDGETING	213
The Capital Budgeting Process	213
Cash Flow from an Investment	215
Evaluation Techniques	218
Industry Use of Capital Budgeting Techniques	233
Example Problems	233
Special Problems in Investment Analysis	239
Capital Rationing	248
Summary	252
Questions	253
Project	255
Problems	255
Appendix 8a: Why an Investment's Net Present Value Equals	
Its Benefit to Current Stockholders	270
Appendix 8b: Choices between Mutually Exclusive	
Investments: Internal Rate of Return versus Present Value	274
Investing Where It Counts: Rates of Return on Alternative	
Investments	281
CHAPTER 9	
RISK ANALYSIS AND CAPITAL BUDGETING	285
Problems in Evaluating Risky Investments	285
Informal Methods of Risk Analysis	286
Sensitivity Analysis	289
Risk and Probability Distributions	291

vii

Risk and Project Evaluation Project Analysis Using the CAPM Summary Questions Project Problems Appendix 9a: Certainty Equivalents and Risk-Adjusted Discount Rates	297 300 303 304 305 305 310
CHAPTER 10 FINANCING DECISIONS AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE	315
Characteristics of Financing Methods	315
Analyzing External Financing Methods	320
Retained Earnings and Internal Funds	341
The Impact of Financing on Investment	343
Summary	348
Questions	349
Project Problems	349
	350
Appendix 10a: The Modigliani-Miller Analysis of Capital Structure and Value	254
Structure and Value	354
Controlling Risk	361
CHAPTER 11	
DIVIDEND POLICY AND RETAINED EARNINGS	365
The Dividend Payment Procedure	366
Factors Affecting the Dividend Decision	367
The Firm's Dividend Policy	371
Dividend Reinvestment and Other Benefit Plans	380
Stock Dividends and Stock Splits	381
Summary	384
Questions	385
Projects	386
Problems	386

PART 3 Financial Analysis and Forecasting

CHAPTER 12 FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS	395
Financial Statements	395
Ratio Analysis	396

441

497

Du Pont System	417
Sources of Information on Firm and Industry Ratios	419
The Purposes of Ratio Analysis	420
Funds Flow Analysis	421
Summary	427
Questions	428
Project	430
Problems	430

CHAPTER 13 BREAK-EVEN ANALYSIS AND THE MEASUREMENT OF LEVERAGE

Break-Even Analysis	441
The Concept of Leverage	451
Summary	457
Questions	459
Project	460
Problems	460

Are Financial Statements Meaningful? 464

CHAPTER 14 FINANCIAL FORECASTING AND PLANNING	469
Forecasting Single Financial Variables	470
Financial Forecasting	474
Financial Plans and Budgets	484
Summary	486
Questions	487
Project	487
Problems	487

PART 4 Working Capital Management

CHAPTER 15 CURRENT ASSET MANAGEMENT

Principles of Current Asset Investment	498
Inventory	500
Managing Accounts Receivable	515
Cash Management	522
Summary	530
Questions	530
Projects	533

Problems	533
Appendix 15a: The Economic Order Quantity Model	540
Electronic Banking	542
CHAPTER 16 SHORT-TERM FINANCING	545
Major Sources of Short-Term Financing	545
Secured Borrowing	555
Summary	549
Questions	560
Project	561
Problems	561
CHAPTER 17 WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT	565
Working Capital: Definitions	565
The Working Capital Decision	566
Working Capital and Business Expansion	573
Summary	575
Questions	576
Project	577
Problems	577

PART 5 Sources of Long-Term Capital

CHAPTER 18 RAISING INTERMEDIATE- AND LONG-TERM FUNDS	585
General Decisions in Raising Funds	585
Public Securities Issues and Investment Banking	587
Private Placement	594
Summary	600
Questions	601
Project	602
Problems	602
Venture Capital	605
CHAPTER 19 LEASING	607
Who Provides Leases?	607
Types of Leases	608

Defining a Lease for Tax and Accounting Purposes	610
Lease or Buy Analysis	614
Considerations in the Leasing Decision	619
Summary	623
Questions	624
Projects	625
Problems	625
Appendix 19a: Lease or Purchase Analysis When Leasing and	
Firm Debt Are Interdependent	629
Appendix 19b: Net Advantage to Leasing	634

CHAPTER 20 COMMON STOCK

639

Rights and Privileges of Stockholders	639
Stockholder Voting	643
Issuing New Shares	646
Repurchasing Stock	653
The Listing of Stock	656
Summary	657
Questions	658
Projects	659
Problems	659

CHAPTER 21 LONG-TERM DEBT AND PREFERRED STOCK

LONG-TERM DEBT AND PREFERRED STOCK	663
Long-Term Debt	663
Some Novel Forms of Debt	673
Preferred Stock	676
The Refunding Decision	681
Summary	685
Questions	686
Project	686
Problems	686
	080

CHAPTER 22 CONVERTIBLES AND WARRANTS

	000
Convertibles	689
Warrants	
	696
Summary	701
Questions	
	702
Project	
	702
Problems	703
	703

Options

706

689

PART 6 Special Topics

CHAPTER 23 HOLDING COMPANIES, MERGERS, AND CONSOLIDATIONS	711
Holding Companies, Mergers, Consolidations, and Divestit Merger Procedure Merger Trends Reasons for Merger Do Mergers Produce Gains? Analyzing an Acquisition Accounting Treatment of Mergers Summary	ure 711 712 717 718 722 723 728 730
Questions Project	731 732
Problems	732
The Merger Game	735
CHAPTER 24 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	739
Currencies and Exchange Rates Financing International Trade The Multinational Company Summary Questions Projects Problems	739 744 749 759 760 761 761
CHAPTER 25 FIRM FAILURE, REORGANIZATION, AND LIQUIDATIO)N 765
Definition of Failure Frequency and Causes of Failure Voluntary Remedies for Financial Distress Business Reorganization Plans Liquidation Summary Questions Project	765 766 767 768 772 776 777 777
Problems	777

xii