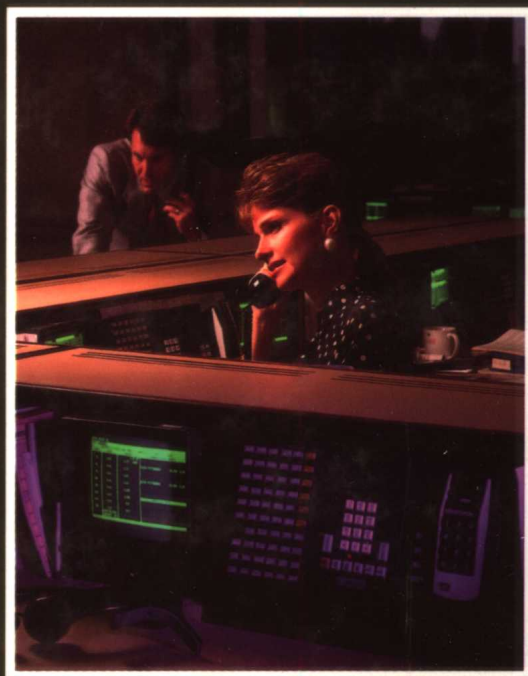


FUNDAMENTALS OF CORPORATE FINANCE

Richard A. Brealey, Stewart C. Myers, and Alan J. Marcus



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Richard A. Brealey

LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL

Stewart C. Myers

SLOAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Alan J. Marcus

WALLACE E. CARROLL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

BOSTON COLLEGE

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About the Authors

RICHARD A. BREALEY

London Business School, Tokai Bank Professor of Finance. Past President of European Finance Association and Director of the American Finance Association. Current research interests include portfolio theory and international finance. Member of editorial board of *Journal of Applied Corporate Finance*. Other books include *Introduction to Risk and Return from Common Stocks*. Formerly with Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada and Keystone Custodian Funds of Boston.

STEWART C. MYERS

Gordon Y. Billard Professor of Finance at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management. Director of MIT's International Financial Services Research Center. He is past President and Director of the American Finance Association and co-author of the leading graduate-level textbook on corporate finance. His research is primarily concerned with the valuation of real and financial assets, corporate financial policy, and financial aspects of government regulation of business. He is currently a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and is active as a financial consultant.

ALAN J. MARCUS

Professor of Finance at Boston College's Wallace E. Carroll School of Management. His main research interests are in asset valuation, particularly in futures and options markets. Other books include *Investments*. Formerly with the Financial Research department at the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac).

Preface

This book is about corporate finance. It focuses on how companies raise capital and how they invest it.

Financial management is important, interesting, and challenging. It is important because today's capital investment decisions may determine the businesses the firm is in 10, 20, or more years ahead. A firm's success or failure depends in large part on its financial decisions and planning.

Finance is interesting for several reasons. The financial community is international and fast moving, with some colorful heroes and (unfortunately) a sprinkling of unpleasant villains. Financial decisions often involve huge sums of money. For example, large investments or acquisitions may involve billions of dollars.

Finance is challenging. Financial decisions are rarely cut and dried, and the financial markets in which companies operate are changing rapidly. Good managers can cope with routine problems; the best managers can also respond to change. It is also why you need more than rules of thumb to be a truly successful manager. You need to know *why* companies and financial markets behave as they do and when common practice may not be the best practice. Once you have a consistent framework for making financial decisions, complex problems become more manageable.

This book seeks to provide that framework. It is not an encyclopedia of finance. It focuses instead on setting out the basic *principles* of financial management and applying them to the main decisions faced by the financial manager. It explains why value maximization provides a coherent framework for making financial decisions, and it looks at how companies can make investment and financing decisions that add value. It also describes the main features of financial markets and the various securities that companies may issue.

Since this text is intended for use in a first course in corporate finance, we assume little in the way of background knowledge. While most users will have had an introductory accounting course, we review the concepts from accounting that are important to the financial manager in Chapter 2.

Fundamentals and Principles of Corporate Finance

This book is derived in part from its sister text *Principles of Corporate Finance*. The spirit of the two books is similar. Both apply modern finance—that is, finance organized by the principle of value maximization—to give students a working ability to make complex and interesting financial decisions. However, there are also substantial differences between the two books.

Fundamentals is geared more toward the financial novice. We envision the typical reader as an undergraduate with little or no business experience, and

therefore we simplify the discussion along several dimensions. First, we provide a much more detailed discussion of the principles and mechanics of the time value of money. This material underlies almost all of the rest of the text, and we spend two lengthy chapters providing extensive practice with this key concept. Since most readers will be more familiar with their own financial affairs than with the big leagues of finance, we motivate our discussion of the time value of money by looking first at some personal financial decisions.

Second, we use numerical examples in this text to a greater degree than in *Principles*. Each chapter presents several detailed numerical examples to help the reader become familiar and comfortable with the material.

Third, we have streamlined the treatment of most topics. Whereas *Principles* has 36 chapters, *Fundamentals* has only 26. The relative brevity of *Fundamentals* necessitates a broader-brush coverage of some topics, but we feel that this is an advantage for a beginning audience.

Principles is known for its relaxed and informal writing style, and we continue this tradition in *Fundamentals*. In addition, we use as little mathematical notation as possible. Even when we present an equation, we usually write it using words rather than mathematical notation. This approach has two advantages. First, it is less intimidating. Second, it focuses attention on the underlying concept rather than the formula.

In-Text Study Aids

To aid learning, each chapter contains the following features:

1. *Goals of the chapter.* The introduction to each chapter sets out the aims of the chapter and what it will enable the reader to do.
2. *Self test questions.* Throughout the chapter, we intersperse questions on the immediately preceding material. These questions do not simply require the student to regurgitate facts; they are designed to test understanding. We have placed these questions in the body of the chapter because we believe that it is useful to pause occasionally for reflection before moving on to new material. The solutions to these problems appear at the end of each chapter.
3. *Examples.* Each chapter contains several numbered examples which give the reader an opportunity to see how general principles may be applied to concrete problems.
4. *Chapter summary.* The conclusion of each chapter consists of a numbered summary of the major points. These summaries provide a further opportunity for readers to test their understanding, and they are useful when reviewing the material.
5. *End-of-chapter problems.* We believe in learning by doing. The more than 400 end-of-chapter problems provide plenty of opportunity for practice. The solutions to these problems may be found in the *Instructor's Manual* which accompanies the text.

Organization of the Text and Possible Alternatives

In the course of writing this book, we have spoken with many instructors. We recognize that there are several effective ways to organize a course in corporate finance. For this reason, we have designed the text to be extremely modular, so that the topics may be introduced in different sequences. Here we will describe our

rationale for the text's organization and present some feasible alternative strategies for using the book.

Part One is an introduction. Chapter 1 lays out the issues that are addressed in the rest of the text. It discusses business organization, the goals of the firm, agency and ethical issues, and the role of the financial manager. Chapter 2 reviews the accounting principles necessary for the financial manager. It describes the major financial statements and stresses the distinctions between cash flows and profits and between market and book values.

Part Two, on Value, explains the time value of money. We apply this concept to show how securities are valued and how to make capital investment decisions. We believe that it is useful to discuss principles of valuation *before* plunging into detailed financial statement analysis or issues of financial planning. Nevertheless, we recognize that many instructors will prefer to move directly from Chapter 2 to Chapter 17, Financial Statement Analysis, because this order provides a gentler transition from the typical prerequisite accounting course. There is no reason that one cannot use the text in this order: Part Six (Financial Planning) can easily follow Part One.

When we discuss project appraisal in Part Two, we frequently stress that the opportunity cost of capital for a project depends on project risk. But we do not discuss how to measure risk or how return and risk are linked until **Part Three**. This ordering can also easily be modified. The chapters on risk and return can be introduced before, after, or midway through the material on project valuation (for example, immediately following the chapters on the time value of money).

Part Three includes Chapter 11 on the cost of capital and weighted average cost of capital. We believe that the discussion of the distinction between equity risk and project risk follows naturally from the introduction to the cost of equity in Chapter 10. We review and develop the weighted average cost of capital more fully in the later chapter on debt policy.

Whereas Parts Two (Value) and Three (Risk) focus on the asset side of the firm's balance sheet, Parts Four and Five focus on the liability side. **Part Four** presents an overview of corporate financing, discusses the features of a wide variety of debt and equity instruments, and describes how firms issue securities. This part starts with a chapter on market efficiency. Few other introductory texts offer a full chapter on this topic. We believe that this is a mistake. Without a solid understanding of market efficiency, it is difficult to think through the issues that arise when firms issue securities or when they make capital structure and dividend decisions.

Part Five covers debt and dividend policy. We use the MM propositions to identify the issues that should *not* matter in these decisions, then examine the real-world complications that do influence optimal policy.

As we noted above, **Part Six** covers financial planning. We start with financial statement analysis, then move on to long-term and short-term planning models. We emphasize in each chapter both the uses and the limitations of these plans.

Part Seven discusses the management of short-term assets and liabilities. We cover working capital management, including inventory and cash management, as well as credit and receivable policies. An attractive and unusual feature of our coverage is the integrated treatment of cash and inventory management. We emphasize the essential similarity between the two tasks. This enables us both to

highlight the general principles involved and to cover the material more succinctly and with far less repetition than most other texts. We like to discuss working capital after the student is familiar with the basics of valuation and corporate financing, but we recognize that many instructors prefer to reverse our order, and there should be no difficulty in taking Part Seven out of sequence.

Part Eight covers several important but somewhat more advanced topics—mergers and acquisitions; *international finance*; *options*; and *risk management*. This is not the first time that we have visited some of these issues. For example, we introduce the idea of options in Chapter 8 when we show how companies build flexibility into capital projects and again in Chapter 13 when we describe warrants, convertible bonds, and other financing options. However, Chapter 24 generalizes this material and explains at a fairly elementary level how options are valued. International finance also is not confined to Chapter 23. Throughout the book we have taken examples from different countries and financial systems. However, there are some specific problems that arise when a corporation is confronted by different currencies, and we tackle these problems in Chapter 23.

Part Nine contains a concluding chapter, in which we review our list of the most important ideas covered in the text. We also introduce some interesting questions that either were unanswered in this text or are still puzzles to the finance profession. Thus, the last chapter is an introduction to future finance courses as well as a conclusion to this one.

Supplements The text is accompanied by a full ancillary program with items designed to complement your teaching efforts and your students' learning process. If you would like information and costs on the supplemental materials, please contact your local McGraw-Hill representative.

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*Richard A. Brealey
Steward C. Myers
Alan J. Marcus*

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