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Essentials of Managerial Finance

Fourth Edition



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Essentials of Managerial Finance fourth edition



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Preface

Financial management continues to reflect important new developments. Strong inflationary pressures have pushed interest rates to unprecedented heights, and the resulting high cost of capital has led to profound changes in corporate financial policies and practices. Academic researchers have made significant advances, especially in the areas of capital budgeting and the cost of capital. At the same time, business practitioners are making increasing use of financial theory, and feedback from the "real world" has led to revisions in financial theory. To a large extent, these trends dictated the revisions made in this Fourth Edition of Essentials of Managerial Finance.

In addition to containing new materials, the revision reflects our experience, and that of others, in teaching business finance. Organizational changes have been made to provide for smoother flow and greater continuity; points that proved troublesome to students have been clarified; a few outright errors have been corrected; and, of course, descriptive materials have been updated. Moreover, the end-of-chapter questions, problems, and references have been clarified and strengthened.

Much of the specific content of the book is the result of our experience in executive development programs over a number of years. This experience, in addition to our consulting with business firms on financial problems and policies, has helped us to identify the most significant responsibilities of financial managers, the most fundamental problems facing firms, and the most feasible approaches to practical decision-making. Some topics are conceptually difficult, but so are the issues faced by financial managers. Business managers must be prepared to handle complex problems, and finding solutions to these problems necessarily involves the use of advanced tools and techniques.

We have not sought to avoid the many unresolved areas of business financial theory and practice. Although we could have simplified the text in many places by avoiding the difficult issues, we preferred to provide a basic framework based on the "received doctrine," then to go on to present materials on a number of important but controversial issues. It is hoped that our presentation will stimulate the reader to further inquiry.

We acknowledge that the level and difficulty of the material is somewhat uneven. Certain sections are simply descriptions of the institutional features of the financial environment and, as such, are not difficult to understand. Other parts—notably the material on capital budgeting, uncertainty, and the cost of capital—are by nature rather abstract, and, as such, are difficult for those not used to thinking in abstract terms. In some of the more complex sections, we simply outline procedures in the text, then refer the interested reader to more advanced works.

CHANGES IN THE FOURTH EDITION

The Fourth Edition of *Essentials* differs from the Third in several key respects. Some of the more significant alterations are itemized below.

- Updating. Finance is a highly dynamic subject, and many changes have occurred since the Third Edition came out in 1973. Important theoretical advances have been made; and important shifts have occurred in the level and structure of interest rates, stock prices, and money and capital markets in general. These changes have been reflected in this edition.
- 2. Risk analysis. We have continued to emphasize the importance of risk analysis in financial decision-making. Although some new materials on risk are introduced, our major thrust in this revision has been to clarify and better illustrate the more analytical sections.
- 3. Modifications in cost of capital presentation. Students generally have more difficulty understanding valuation and cost of capital concepts than any other aspects of finance. We have made a major effort to clarify these concepts, as well as their relationship to the capital budgeting process. Based on class testing of the prepublication manuscript, we achieved larger gains in the students' benefits-received/time-spent ratio here than in any other section of the book.
- Modifications in capital budgeting presentation. The chapters on capital budgeting under certainty and uncertainty have both been clarified significantly.
- 5. End-of-chapter questions and problems. The questions and problems have been thoroughly revised to emphasize and illustrate the major points raised in the text chapters, and to remove ambiguities. At the urging of our students, we have also provided suggested numerical answers to se-

- lected problems. After working a problem, students were sometimes not sure if they had the correct answer. The suggested answers will help resolve such uncertainty.
- Particular attention was given to the glossary and index. The completeness of these two items will ease problems that might otherwise be encountered if an instructor assigns chapters out of sequence.

Ancillary Materials

Several items are available to supplement *Essentials*. First, there are two casebooks, *Cases in Managerial Finance, 3rd Edition* and *Decisions in Financial Management: Cases*, by Eugene F. Brigham et al., designed specifically to accompany *Essentials*. Second, there are a number of readings books which can be used to supplement the text. One book in particular, *Issues in Managerial Finance*, edited by E. F. Brigham and R. E. Johnson, was prepared specifically to supplement *Essentials*. Finally, many students will find the *Study Guide* useful. The *Study Guide* highlights the key points in the text and presents a comprehensive set of problems similar to those at the end of each chapter. Each problem is solved in detail, so a student who has difficulty working the end-of-chapter problems can be aided by reviewing the *Study Guide*.

Acknowledgments

In its several revisions, the book has been worked on and critically reviewed by numerous individuals, and we have received many detailed comments and suggestions from instructors (and students) using the book in our own schools and elsewhere. All this help has improved the quality of the book, and we are deeply indebted to the following individuals, and others, for their help: M. Adler, E. Altman, J. Andrews, R. Aubey, P. Bacon, W. Beranek, V. Brewer, W. Brueggeman, R. Carleson, S. Choudhury, P. Cooley, C. Cox. D. Fischer, R. Gray, J. Griggs, R. Haugen, S. Hawk, R. Hehre, J. Henry, A. Herrmann, G. Hettenhouse, R. Himes, C. Johnson, R. Jones, D. Kaplan, M. Kaufman, D. Knight, H. Krogh, R. LeClair, W. Lee, D. Longmore, J. Longstreet, H. Magee, P. Malone, R. Moore, T. Morton, T. Nantell, R. Nelson, R. Norgaard, J. Pappas, R. Pettit, R. Pettway, J. Pinkerton, G. Pogue, W. Regan, F. Reilly, R. Rentz, R. Richards, C. Rini, R. Roenfeldt, W. Sharpe, K. Smith, P. Smith, D. Sorenson, M. Tysseland, P. Vanderheiden, D. Woods, J. Yeakel, and D. Ziegenbein for their careful reviews of this and previous editions.

We owe special thanks to Roger Bey, Keith Johnson, and Ramon Johnson for providing us with a set of problems they had developed for their classes, and also for providing us with detailed reviews of the manuscript of

this book. We would like to thank C. Barngrover, S. Mansinghka, W. Eckardt, H. Rollins, H. Alwan, D. Wort, and J. Zumwalt for their assistance in helping us develop the acetate program. We would also like to express our appreciation to Bob LeClair and to The American College for their help in preparing transparencies and masters. (Note to instructors: a set of supplementary problems developed by Professors Bey, Johnson, and Johnson will be available to adoptors from The Dryden Press in the very near future. Transparencies and masters are also available from The Dryden Press.)

The Universities of California and Florida, and our colleagues on these campuses, provided us with intellectual support in bringing the book to completion. Finally, we are indebted to the Dryden Press staff—principally Mary Ellen Stocker and Martha Cobb—for their special efforts in getting the manuscript into production and for following through to the bound book.

The field of finance will continue to experience significant changes. It is stimulating to participate in these exciting developments, and we sincerely hope that *Essentials* will contribute to a better understanding of the theory and practice of finance.

Los Angeles, California Gainesville, Florida September 1976 J. Fred Weston Eugene F. Brigham

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Overview of Finance: Analysis. Planning. and Control

Part One

Part One consists of six chapters. The first describes the scope and nature of managerial finance and serves as an introduction to the book. Next, in Chapter 2, we examine the tax system; since a high percentage of business income is paid to the government, taxes are an important consideration in finance. In Chapter 3 we examine the construction and use of the basic ratios of financial analysis; through ratio analysis, the firm's strengths and weaknesses can be pinpointed. Chapter 4 explains two key tools used in financial planning: break-even analysis and the sources and uses of funds statement. In Chapter 5 we take up financial forecasting: given a projected increase in sales, how much money must the financial manager raise to support this level of sales? Finally, in Chapter 6, we consider the budget system through which management controls and coordinates the firm.

Finance deals, in the main, with very specific questions: Should we lease or buy the new machine? Should we expand capacity at the Hartford plant? Should we raise capital this year by long-term or short-term debt or by selling stock? Should we go along with the marketing department, which wants to expand inventories, or with the production department, which wants to reduce them? Specific questions such as these, which are

typical of the types of decisions facing the financial manager, are considered in the remainder of the book. But here in Part One we take an *overview* of the firm. Because all specific decisions are made within the context of the firm's overall position, this overview is critical to an understanding of any specific proposal.