

**Department/School:**

**Department of Economics and Finance**

**Vision:**

Align with higher education missions of VCOBE and UTRGV.

**Mission:**

The Department of Economics and Finance at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley promotes excellence in teaching, research and service. We provide our undergraduate and graduate students a variety of degree programs, which emphasize experiential learning and practical analytical tools required to compete in local, national and international labor markets. Our research in both economics and finance advances theoretical and applied knowledge by largely (but not exclusively) taking into account issues related to the economic and the financial development of the U.S.-Mexico border region and Latin America. The department hosts a variety of programs and seminars for our community on financial literacy and border economic development and entrepreneurship.

**PROFILE**

**Majors:**

BA in Economics  
BBA in Economics  
BBA in Finance

**Graduate Programs:**

The Department offers several courses in MBA and Ph.D. programs of the College of Business (VCOBE). The MBA degree is a general Masters in Business Administration, in which a Financial Planning concentration is offered. The Ph.D. degree is in Business Administration, in which the Dept. offers a concentration in Finance.

**Students**

- Number of Students: 441 as of Spring 2019: 88 in Economics and 353 in Finance. Source: CBM001, Certified Files, SAIR, UTRGV.
- Characteristics: 441 undergraduate students in our undergraduate Majors. There are also 11 students in Ph.D Business Administration (Finance concentration) and 28 students in MBA Financial Planning concentration (accelerated online format) and 16 students in MBA Financial Planning concentration (traditional format). Source: Ph.D. and MBA program office, VCOBE, as of Spring 2020.

**Faculty**

- Number of Faculty: 23
- Ranks: Professors   2   Associate Prof.   4   Assistant Prof.  12  Lecturers   5

**Campus Program Offering**

100\_\_% of program/courses are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, or ITV*)

100\_\_% of program/courses in the first 2 years of study per major map are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

100\_\_% of program/courses in the upper division are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

100\_\_% of graduate program/courses are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

*Note: You may include details of availability by campus and any other related information that would be helpful.*

**Stats & Highlights:**

Spring 2019: 63 sections offered: 54 undergraduate sections; 6 MBA sections; and 3 Ph.D. seminars in Economics and Finance; and

Fall 2018: 62 undergraduate sections; 7 MBA sections; and 3 Ph.D. seminars in Economics and Finance.

**Success Stories/"Bragging":**

The Department of Economics and Finance has faculty strongly committed to teaching, research and service in several areas.

Economics Society (Econ Society) is the student organization with students from Economics and Finance, advised by Dr. Jorge Vidal. Some of the members of the Econ Society attend Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas annual conference in spring. Some of these students also serve as volunteers in our yearly conference on economic topics: Border Economic Development & Entrepreneurship Symposium (BEDES), supported by FRB of Dallas. In January of 2019 the Dept. also offered the Forecasting Conference on Economic Trends, organized by Dr. Salvador Contreras, director of the Center for Border Economic Studies (C-BEST).

With regards to community service, the Department of Economics and Finance is committed to partner with external constituencies to broaden the scope and content of our service programs.

Three UTRGV undergraduate students won the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Trading Challenge from CME Group in spring of 2018. Dr. Bruno Arthur served as faculty advisor to this team of students who won the Trading Challenge. This competition involved hundreds of student teams from many institutions of higher education.

The Department has a very good record of faculty publications in high-quality and professional journals.

Department faculty members attend major conferences in their fields of expertise, in which they present and disseminate their professional work.

**Traditions:**

Department faculty members have been organizing regular workshops (normally on Fridays), in which faculty, Ph.D. students and external speakers present their work and exchange ideas on Economics, Finance, and interdisciplinary topics.

**Mantra/Slogan:**