

CUNY School of Professional Studies

**Course Name and Number:**

FIN 180: Consumer and Personal Finance

Type of Course:

Online

Number of Credits:

3 undergraduate credits

Prerequisite(s):

None

Course Description:

This course prepares students to understand the fundamentals of managing personal finances and how the principles, concepts and application impact personal and work lives. Students will also consider higher education choices and career paths. Topics covered will include: goal setting, budgeting, banking and basic financial transactions, building, maintaining and repairing credit, credit report and scores, home ownership current regulations and practices governing consumer financial transactions including consumer protection laws, fair credit and collection, bankruptcy, banking services and products, insurance and investment, planning for education, retirement and basic investments.

Learning Objectives:

In this course students will:

- Understand the basics of career planning and earning potential
- Understand the options for paying for post-secondary education
- Understand, analyze and apply basic financial management concepts and tools for financial decisions
- Apply quantitative skills in use of financial decision making tools such as computing: a household budget, rates of return on investment or savings such as interest earnings; the actual costs of purchase/leasing options, costs of using credit over time, and calculating retirement needs.
- Identify strategies for achieving personal financial goals
- Understand credit and its uses
- Understand the sources and types of financial consumer protection laws and regulations
- Understand the basics of insurance
- Understand the fundamentals of investments
- Understand the home ownership process and financing a home purchase

Course Grading:

1. Class participation –15%
2. Homework assignments, including quizzes – 25%
3. Midterm project – 30%
4. Final exam– 30%

Letter Grade	GPA Index	Grade Range
A	4.00	93.0-100
A-	3.70	90.0-92.9
B+	3.30	87.0-89.9
B	3.00	83.0-86.9
B-	2.70	80.0-82.9

C+	2.30	77.0-79.9
C	2.00	73.0-76.9
C-	1.70	70.0-72.9
D	1.00	60.0-69.9
F	0.00	<59.0

The undergraduate grading policy for the CUNY School of Professional Studies is located online at: <https://sps.cuny.edu/academics/academic-and-student-policies/grading-policies-undergraduate>

Required Readings:

Required readings are available from within the online course site. Click on “Syllabus, Coursepack, Rubrics.”

Course Schedule, Objectives, and Lesson Activities

Getting Started

Visit the online courses site in order to access the introductory materials for the course. Contained within you will find:

- Information about important downloads to have on your computer prior to beginning the course
- An overview of online learning at the CUNY School of Professional Studies, including a "must see" video about how to submit your assignments using Adobe Reader
- An introduction to the overall course
- **The forum for your first community post is also contained within this folder.**

CHECKLIST	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Upload a photo of you/your avatar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Introduction: Community Post

Lesson 1: Introduction to Goal Setting
September 17 – September 23, 2018

Objectives:

- Understand the fundamentals of goal setting
- Understand the need for personal financial planning
- Understand how financial planning is tied to your goals

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #2
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 1 Quiz
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #3
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 1 Community Post	
Flocabulary Video	

Lesson 2: Money Management – Part A
September 24 – September 30, 2018

Objectives:

- Analyze your personal financial decision-making process
- Understand the relationship between various financial planning tools

- Develop a personal income and expense statement
- Construct and implement a personal monthly budget
- Understand the concept of cash flow and timing

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesson 2, Part A Community Post
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity #1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity #2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading #1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesson 2A Quiz
Flocabulary Video	

Lesson 2: Money Management – Part B
October 1 – October 7, 2018

Objectives:

- Analyze your personal financial decision-making process
- Understand the relationship between various financial planning tools
- Develop a personal income and expense statement
- Construct and implement a personal monthly budget
- Understand the concept of cash flow and timing

CHECKLIST	
Content Folder 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesson 2, Part B Community Post
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity #3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity #4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity #5

Lesson 3: Career Paths
October 8 – October 14, 2018

Objectives:

- Learn the basics of career planning
- Assess your personal interests and strengths
- Learn about the investment in required career education: trades and apprenticeships, proprietary schools, two year vs. 4 year colleges, part-time vs. full-time, private vs. public institutions
- Learn more about choosing a major or career training
- Understand your earning potential

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #2
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 3 Quiz
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #3
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 3 Community Post	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #4
Flocabulary Video	

Lesson 4: Paying for Post-Secondary Education

October 15 – October 21, 2018

Objectives:

- Review personal budgets
- Project income and expenses including costs of education, student loan repayments while in school and after completion
- Learn about saving for college
- Learn about:
 - Scholarships
 - Basics of financial aid
 - Grants and work study
 - Student loans
 - Understand the types of student loans available
 - Understand strategies for managing student loan repayments
 - Understand how student loan repayment strategies are tied to career choices
 - Other options for paying for your education

CHECKLIST		
Introductory Video		
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2	Content Folder 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #3
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1	<input type="checkbox"/> FAFSA videos	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #4
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 4 Quiz	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 4 Community Post
		<input type="checkbox"/> Download midterm project instructions
Flocabulary Video		

Lesson 5: Banking Relationships and Basic Financial Transactions

October 22 – October 28, 2018

Objectives:

- Understand the tools available to help manage money and achieve your goals
- Learn and understand the different types of depository financial institutions
- Learn and understand the types of financial products offered
- Understand fringe financial services and how these differ from financial institution services
- Compare the costs and benefits of financial services offered
- Understand the different transactional, savings and payment accounts offered, and how to choose among them
- Understand how to calculate simple and compound interest, the rule of 72 and how your money multiplies

CHECKLIST		
Introductory Video		
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2	Content Folder 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #3	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #3
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 5 Community Post	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #4
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 5 Quiz
Flocabulary Video		

Midterm Project Week
October 29 – November 4, 2018

- **Midterm project due by 11:59 PM – November 4, 2018**

Lesson 6: Using Credit Wisely
November 5 – November 11, 2018

Objectives:

- Understand the concept of credit
- Understand the relationship between credit and personal financial, work and/or business goals
- Understand how mishandling credit, including student loans, can damage career opportunities and other goals for financial independence
- Understand the terms and features of credit cards and factors to consider in selecting a credit card
- Understand how to calculate the cost of credit
- Understand predatory lending and its consequences

CHECKLIST		
Introductory Video		
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2	Content Folder 3
□ Activity #1	□ Activity #2	□ Lesson 6 Quiz
□ Lesson 6 Community Post	□ Activity #3	□ Activity #4
□ Reading #1	□ Reading #2	
	□ Reading #3	
Flocabulary Video		

Lesson 7: Student Loan Management
November 12 – November 18, 2018

Objectives:

- Understand the impact of student loan delinquency or default
- Understand how to get back on track in cases of delinquency or default

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2
□ Reading #1	□ Reading #2
□ Activity #1	□ Lesson 7 Quiz
□ Video: Managing Student Debt	□ Activity #2
	□ Lesson 7 Community Post: Group Assignment 1
Flocabulary Video	

Lesson 8: Understanding a Credit Report and Your Credit Score
November 19 – November 25, 2018

Objectives:

- Understand the sources and use of credit cards
- Learn how to obtain and read a credit report

- Differentiate among the different types of credit such as revolving, installment, real estate and student loans
- Learn how to correct a credit report
- Learn how a credit score is determined
- Understand how identity theft occurs, how to avoid it, and what to do if it occurs

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #3
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 8 Quiz	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 8 Community Post: Group Assignment 2
Flocabulary Video	

Lesson 9: Consumer Protection & Debt and Bankruptcy
November 26– December 2, 2018

Objectives:

- Understand your rights/consumer credit protections
- Know the consumer protection laws governing debt collectors
- Understand that student loans is a special category of debt in which the creditor has strong rights
- Understand the role and jurisdiction of local, State and Federal agencies in consumer protection
- Assess when bankruptcy is appropriate and how to prepare for it
- Understand the different types of bankruptcy filings
- Understand that certain debts including student loans may not be discharged in bankruptcy

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 9 Quiz	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 9 Community Post: Group Assignment 3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Download final exam instructions
Flocabulary Video	

Lesson 10: Employment Related Benefits
December 3 – December 9, 2018

Objectives:

- Understand the basic benefits offered through employment
- Learn about basic health insurance plans
- Understand the purpose of life insurance and types of life insurance
- Understand retirement savings

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 10 Quiz	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 10 Community Post
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1	

Flocabulary Video

Lesson 11: Your Future: Finding a Home, Savings and Investments, and Future Planning **December 10 – December 16, 2018**

Objectives:

- Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of leasing vs. ownership
 - Understand how to determine the affordability of housing
 - Understand the role of credit in obtaining a rental or mortgage loan
- Understand the link between your goals and savings and investment decisions
 - Compare the different types of investment options available
- Understand the importance of planning for retirement

CHECKLIST	
Introductory Video	
Content Folder 1	Content Folder 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 11 Community Post
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #1
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading #3	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity #2
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 11 Quiz	
Flocabulary Video #1	
Flocabulary Video #2	

Final Week:

December 17 – December 21, 2018

- Final due by 11:59 PM – Friday, December 21, 2018**
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Accessibility and Accommodations

The CUNY School of Professional Studies is firmly committed to making higher education accessible to students with disabilities by removing architectural barriers and providing programs and support services necessary for them to benefit from the instruction and resources of the University. Early planning is essential for many of the resources and accommodations provided. Please see:

http://sps.cuny.edu/student_services/disabilityservices.html

Online Etiquette and Anti-Harassment Policy

The University strictly prohibits the use of University online resources or facilities, including Blackboard, for the purpose of harassment of any individual or for the posting of any material that is scandalous, libelous, offensive or otherwise against the University's policies. Please see:

<http://catalog.sps.cuny.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=205>

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the educational mission of the City University of New York and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Please see: <https://sps.cuny.edu/about/dean/policies/academic-and-student-policies/academic-integrity>

Student Support Services

If you need any additional help, please visit Student Support Services:

http://sps.cuny.edu/student_resources/