



Course Prefix/Number/Title: **AGEC 246 Introduction to Agricultural Finance**

Number of Credits: 2 Lecture/1 Lab

Course Description: Introduction to agricultural finance; provides background in farm and agribusiness credit use and evaluation. Discussion of specific financial conditions on farms and in agribusiness. Topics include: financial statement preparation and analysis; capital structure (debt and equity); investment analysis; time value of money; interest rates; and credit markets and suppliers.

Pre-/Co-requisites: None

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to become better able to make effective financial decisions. Tools for financial decision making will be discussed. Coverage of subject matter will be broad enough to capture the “big picture” but detailed enough to provide you with useful tools to deal with the many types of problems you encounter in the future. Some of the specific differences in financing agricultural businesses will be discussed along with financial institutions that provide credit to agriculture.

Instructor: Linda Burbidge, PhD

Office: Molberg 20

Office Hours: MW 2:00pm – 3:00pm & TH 9:00am – 10am

Phone: 228-5442

Email: Linda.Burbidge@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule: Lecture 8:55am – 9:55am MW in Molberg 28

Lab F 8:55am – 10:55am in Molberg 28

Textbook(s): Barry, Ellinger, Hopkin, and Baker. Financial Management in Agriculture, 7th ed., Interstate Publishers.

Course Requirements: This is an introductory course. Students are expected to read the text and come to class prepared to listen and discuss during the lectures. Points will come from homework, lab assignments, a course project, quizzes, two exams, and a final exam. The breakdown will be as follows:

Homework = 10%
Professionalism = 15%
Lab Assignments = 25%
Course Project = 25%
Quizzes = 25%

Homework: There will be a combination of assigned readings, papers, and traditional assignments. Homework must be submitted on time to receive full credit. Late homework will be accepted with a deduction of 20%.

Professionalism: In an effort to prepare you for the real world, some of your class grade will be dependent upon professionalism. This means you will be graded on a combination of attendance, engagement in learning, and meeting deadlines.

Lab Assignments: We will work through 8 to 10 lab assignments over the course of the semester. These are to be done on a computer and turned in electronically. Many of these will be done in MS Excel. Late lab assignments will be accepted with a deduction of 20% per day late. **If you miss more than 2 Lab assignments, you will automatically receive a failing grade in the course.**

Quizzes: There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester. This will allow the instructor to identify gaps in lecture coverage and shortcomings in student learning.

Course Project: Each student will put together a portfolio of financial statements related to their desired agribusiness. Analyses will be done to answer a particular problem of question for the business. More information to follow.

Grading and Evaluation:

Total Point Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and ↑	A
80% - 89.99%	B
70% - 79.99%	C
60% - 69.99%	D
59.99% and ↓	F

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Segment	Topics	
Jan 12 – Jan 15	Financial Analysis, Planning, and Control	Lab: MS Excel Primer	Intro/Balance Sheets
Jan 18 – Jan 22		Lab: Balance Sheets	Balance Sheets
Jan 25 – Jan 29		Lab: Income Statements	Income Statements
Feb 1 – Feb 5		Lab: Income Statements	Income Statements/Depreciation
Feb 8 – Feb 12		Lab: Depreciation	Depreciation/Cash Flow
Feb 15 – Feb 19		Lab: Cash Flow Statements	Cash Flow Statements
Feb 22 – Feb 26	Long-term Decision Making	Lab: Credit and Interest	Time Value of Money
Mar 1 – Mar 5		Lab: NPV and FV	Capital Budgeting/Investing
Mar 8 – Mar 12		Lab: Lease vs. Buy option	Leasing/Cost of Financial Capital

Mar 15 – Mar 19		Spring Break Week	
Mar 22 – Mar 26	Capital Structure and Risk Management	Lab Final Report	Capital Structure
Mar 29 – Apr 2		Lab Final Report	Leverage/Liquidity
Apr 5 – Apr 9		Final Report Due	Credit/Risk

General Education Competency/Learning Outcome(s) OR CTE Competency/Department Learning Outcome(s): This course meets the CTE department learning outcome of employing industry-specific skills in preparation for workplace readiness by:

1. Expand critical thinking competence.
 - a. Discuss the importance of goal setting and financial planning in agricultural business.
 - b. Recognize the impact of policy on financial issues in agriculture.
 - c. Understand the cost of financial capital.

2. Demonstrate problem-solving aptitude.
 - a. Set up financial statements, including but not limited to cash flow, balance sheets, and income statements.
 - b. Calculate the time-value of money and net present values.
 - c. Compare different long-term investments.

Relationship to Campus Focus: This course supports the campus theme of “Nature, Technology and Beyond” by fostering the skills and knowledge necessary to utilize natural, human and technological resources successfully and confidently.

Classroom Policies: Be respectful of other students, instructors, and guests. Use of *cell phones* and other *electronic devices* is prohibited during exams. We will follow any COVID-19 classroom policies currently in force by the University system.

Student Email Policy:

Dakota College at Bottineau is increasingly dependent upon email as an official form of communication. A student’s campus-assigned email address will be the only one recognized by the Campus for official mailings. The liability for missing or not acting upon important information conveyed via campus email rests with the student.

Academic Integrity:

According to the DCB Student Handbook, students are responsible for submitting their own work. Students who cooperate on oral or written examinations or work without authorization share the responsibility for violation of academic principles, and the students are subject to disciplinary action even when one of the students is not enrolled in the course where the violation occurred. The Code detailed in the Academic Honesty/Dishonesty section of the Student Handbook will serve as the guideline for cases where cheating, plagiarism or other academic improprieties have occurred.

Disabilities or Special Needs:

Students with disabilities or special needs (academic or otherwise) are encouraged to contact the instructor and Disability Support Services.

Title IX:

Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the College as a whole. Please be aware that all DCB employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the College Title IX Coordinator. This means that if a student tells a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the College's Title IX Coordinator. Students wishing to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility can find a list of resources on the DCB Title IX webpage.