

Financial Technology Option (FTO) Graduate Certificate Program



FAQ



What is the Financial Technology Option (FTO)?

The FTO is formal program of study that allows MIT graduate students the opportunity to gain an understanding of and training in both technology and finance. The program was established in 2000, with generous support from the Merrill Lynch/MIT Partnership, as a joint effort between the Sloan School of Management and the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. We are pleased to announce the support of State Street Global Advisors beginning in October, 2004.

Who is eligible to enroll?

Only currently enrolled MIT graduate students (S.M. or Ph.D. students) may apply to the FTO program.

What are the required subjects?

A total of six courses -- two in Technology and four in Finance -- are required in order to earn the FTO Certificate.

Required Finance Core courses include:

- 15.407 Finance Theory
- 15.408 Quantitative Investment Management
- 15.437 Options and Futures Markets

Plus one Finance Elective course from:

- 15.434 Advanced Corporate Finance
- 15.440 Advanced Financial Economics I
- 15.442 Advanced Financial Economics III
- 15.451 Proseminar in Financial Engineering

In addition, at least two finance-related Technology subjects are required. Examples of acceptable courses may be found under the Requirements listing of the FTO website, or a hard copy listing may be obtained from the FTO Office (E56-390). The list includes a variety of courses from the following areas: Algorithms, Optimization, Numerical, Probability/Statistics, Computer Systems, and Mathematical/Engineering Modeling. Other courses may be acceptable by petition.

How do I petition for approval of course substitutions?

On the FTO application, list the subjects you wish to take to satisfy the FTO requirements. The Admissions Committee will review your proposed plan and notify you of the outcome of the review in your admission decision letter. To request course changes after you are formally enrolled in the program, please contact the FTO Assistant Director.

I plan to take some of the FTO subjects as part of my graduate degree program; may these also be counted towards the FTO?

Yes, you are permitted to count certain subjects towards both your degree and towards your FTO requirements.

What happens when I complete the FTO requirements?

You will be awarded a formal Certificate of Participation and invited to attend the FTO Graduation ceremony.

What are the advantages of being enrolled in the FTO?

Students in the FTO program are eligible to attend special seminars, career workshops and various cohort activities, and to participate in the annual FTO Resume Book. In addition, those enrolled in the program may be invited to apply for January or summer externships and internships that have been designed specifically for FTO students.

How do I enroll in the FTO Program?

The FTO application may be found at <http://web.mit.edu/fto/application.html>. Complete both pages and obtain your advisor's signature of approval before sending the application, along with an official MIT transcript (including Spring term grades), to the FTO Assistant Director, room E56-390c at the end of Spring term, but no later than June 15th.

What are the criteria for admission?

S.M. or Ph.D. students from any field may apply provided they have earned a GPA of at least 4.3, and can demonstrate, via a brief written statement, a solid interest in financial technology. A minimum grade of B- must be earned in any course used to satisfy an FTO requirement.

Are M.Eng. students eligible to apply?

M.Eng. students are generally not eligible to apply to the FTO program.

When will I hear about the outcome of my application?

The FTO Committee evaluates applications during the Summer. In most cases, decisions are announced in early August.

Where can I get more information about the FTO program?

Please visit our website at <http://mit.edu/fto> or contact the Assistant Director's office at fto@mit.edu.