

The University of Mississippi and the CFA Institute

The University of Mississippi participates in the [CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program](#), which helps students who are interested in earning the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. The CFA designation is widely respected in the areas of security analysis and portfolio management.

To earn the CFA designation, an individual must pass the three levels of the CFA exam and meet a work experience requirement. To be included in the University Affiliation Program, the faculty at the University of Mississippi's School of Business needed to demonstrate that the coursework for the Finance major covers at least 70% of the material on the CFA Level 1 Exam.

A second benefit of being in the CFA's University of Affiliation Program is that the CFA Institute provides scholarships to students who register for a CFA exam. The scholarships allow students to take the exam at a reduced rate.

CFA Institute Research Challenge

The CFA Institute sponsors the CFA Research Challenge. The CFA Research Challenge is an annual, global competition that provides university students (both undergraduate and graduate) with hands-on mentoring and intensive training in financial analysis and professional ethics. More than 5,000 students from over 1,000 universities and 90+ countries around the world take part in the challenge every year.

The competition tests each team on their analytical, valuation, report writing, and presentation skills. Students gain real-world experience as they assume the role of a research analyst, conduct an in-depth analysis of a company and its industry, and produce an equity research report with a buy, hold, or sell recommendation.

The CFA Society of Memphis hosts the first round of the competition for Ole Miss students. The winning university team from each local competition advances to the sub-regional competition and then a regional competition. Regional winners advance to the Global Final, where one team emerges as the global champion.

For more information, please visit the [CFA Research Challenge Website](#)



*Ole Miss CFA Research Challenge Team, 2019, 2nd Place in Local Competition.
Faculty advisor: Dr. Ivonne Liebenberg.*

Women in Investment Management Scholarship

The CFA Institute also sponsors the Women in Investment Management Scholarship through the CFA Society of Mississippi. One of our students, Ms. Astha Kandel, received the award in 2018. In addition, the finance faculty and students are invited to the CFA Society of Mississippi's Annual Forecast Dinner every year, where one of our students receives a scholarship for excellence in the area of finance.



*CFA Society of Mississippi's Annual Forecast Dinner, 2019.
Faculty advisor: Dr. Ivonne Liebenberg.*



*CFA Society of Mississippi's Annual Forecast Dinner, 2018.
Women in Investment Management Scholarship winner: Ms. Astha Kandel.
Faculty advisors: Dr. M. Mark Walker, CFA, and Dr. Ivonne Liebenberg.*