FIN 490R/MBA 693R Individual Research
Marriott School of Business
Brigham Young University
Department of Finance

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This course is completely self-determined and self-guided. There are usually four flavors of the research.

1. An academic study. The idea would be to write a paper that could be published in a peer-reviewed journal.
2. A professional report. You pick a firm or industry and do practical research like what an analyst report would look like at a big bank.
3. Write a business plan for a start-up.
4. Self-study for SIE, Series 7, Series 66, CFA, GRE, CFP®, etc. exam.

The class works with an initial face-to-face meeting in my office (Tanner 620). During this meeting, usually a half hour, the student presents their idea and a plan is worked out.

After that, the student emails me their proposed week-by-week schedule for the individual study. I approve their proposal (some require tweaks). The student then works independently on their project and sends a weekly email to me as their report for that week.

I'm available to answer questions throughout the semester and link students up with other BYU resources to help them progress. Examples are the business librarian, other professors, Business Career Center, Bloomberg terminal, etc.

By the end of finals week, if you wrote a paper, it is due. If you did exam prep then a write-up of tips for the next person who will take that exam is due. Kind of a lessons learned.

FIN 490R is the undergrad version and MBA 693R is the graduate version. I expect more rigorous work on the graduate level. You can choose between 0.5-3.0 credit hours. Neither course counts as Finance Major credit.

If you are prepping for the CFP® exam here is a discount for Dalton Exam Prep: "Use discount code BYUREVIEW400 for $400."

If you are prepping for FINRA (and other exams) there should be some BYU discounts: "Here is the direct link to the Kaplan portal: https://home.kaplanlearn.com/portal/brighamyounguni - Students will need to create an account on the portal. Once logged in, they can browse the catalog and the approved discounts will automatically apply during checkout."

If you are prepping for the CFA exam, contact the Programs Office for the BYU discount on Kaplan Schweser Study materials.

We do not necessarily recommend using Dalton or Kaplan – use whatever resource you feel is best. We have just tried to secure discounts at some of the leading providers.

As long as the student works hard and sends weekly updates, they earn an A in the class.