If you’re interested in energy and environmental issues and devising new business strategies and solutions for the challenges they present, you’ll find this program a good fit. The Energy Business and Finance (EBF) major has many applications, from the economics behind the restructuring of electricity markets to the value of climate information and decision markets for weather.

Career Opportunities

Electricity deregulation and increased energy commodities training have created opportunities for people who understand the basic science of energy as well as the roles of financial markets. Employment opportunities exist in consulting firms, energy and resource companies, financial and governmental institutions, nonprofit organizations, and teaching and research. EBF graduates are qualified for careers in the non-renewable resource industries (petroleum, natural gas, coal) as well as in the alternative/renewable energy fields (solar, biodiesel, etc.)

“I’ve always wanted to work with energy because I could make a positive difference socially and environmentally. Energy Business and Finance has given me the opportunity to do that. I’ve helped design and construct solar and wind power systems in Jamaica and competed in the International Alberta Energy Challenge in Canada.”

- William Atcheson

The Academic Program

Energy Business and Finance has a highly innovative interdisciplinary curriculum, with core courses in energy and related fields; foundation courses in science and mathematics; and training in business, economics, and finance. The curriculum also provides a foundation for graduate study in business, economics, law, and social sciences.

The program offers broad coverage of the energy industries, as well as an option focusing on energy land management. The chosen option will dictate the courses required for the degree.

Program requirements include courses in the following areas:

- Economics (introductory and intermediate courses)
- Business (accounting, business law, insurance, international business)
- Earth sciences
- Energy markets and finance (a unique four-course sequence)

A minimum of 120 credits is required for the B.S. in Energy Business and Finance.

An internship with an energy-related company is strongly recommended. Many of these companies also recruit full-time employees from among our students.

eme.psu.edu/ebf
Research

Research areas include environmental and natural resource economics, financial risk management, industrial organization, energy demand forecasting, value of climate information, impact of electricity restructuring, and energy policy.

“I did an internship at the U.S. Department of Energy where I assisted in developing energy policy and determining which private energy projects should receive federal grants. My internship at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh allowed me to work on developing efficient oil extraction methods for processing algae into biodiesel and green gasoline.”
— Douglas Middleton

Scholarships

The Energy Business and Finance program has limited scholarship funds, which are awarded on the basis of academic achievement and merit. Students are also eligible for numerous scholarships through the University and the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

For More Information:

Dr. Zhen Lei
Program Chair, Energy Business and Finance
John and Willie Leone Family Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering
The Pennsylvania State University
125 Hosler Building
University Park, PA 16802-5000
814-863-0810
zlei@psu.edu
eme.psu.edu/ebf

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. This publication is available in alternative media on request.
U.Ed. EMS 17-09