

MBA Student Investment Fund (SIF) 2025

Center for Investment Studies
USC Marshall School of Business

Application

2024-2025 Academic Year

Please email your completed application and attachments in ONE PDF file to investment@marshall.usc.edu by 5pm on Thursday, January 18, 2024

First Name _____

Last Name _____

USC Email Address _____

Current Address _____

Current Degree Program (MBA or MBA.PM) _____

Expected Graduation Date _____

Student ID# _____

Phone # _____

Major/Concentration _____

Cumulative GPA (min 3.0 GPA) _____

Finance, Economics & Accounting Courses Taken (Including current semester)

Course Name	Course Code	Date Completed	University (if not USC)	Grade Received
1. Accounting Concepts and Financial Reporting	GSBA510	_____	_____	_____
2. Corporate Finance	GSBA521ab/548	_____	_____	_____
3. Financial Analysis and Valuation	FBE529	_____	_____	_____
4. Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management	FBE555	_____	_____	_____

Two semester commitment: SIF is a two semester class (FBE 553a in Fall and FBE 553b in Spring. 3 units each). Students who enroll in the class are required to participate during both semesters. Can you commit to enrolling in both the Fall and Spring semesters? ☐ Yes

Additional commitments: Can you commit to all of the following: ☐ Yes

1. Attend special classes and fund meetings during the transition period from **February to end of March 2024** to receive training and preparation for assuming full fund management responsibilities as of April 1, 2024.

2. Upon assuming the fund manager's role, attend the classes and off-campus company visits (during business hours on Mondays and Fridays) and meet regularly outside of class with co-managers to manage your portfolio, carry out your primary fund role (trader, accountant, marketing or recruiting), and maintain at least a 3.3 GPA.

3. Attend and support the SIF 2024 Annual Meeting in May 2024, and participate in the SIF 2025 Annual Meeting.

Prerequisites: Prior to enrolling in SIF, students are required to have completed Financial Analysis and Valuation (FBE 529). Will you meet this requirement? ☐ Yes

Availabilities for Interview(s): Indicate your availability for all of the dates listed in the time frames below for potential interviews.

Round I: Jan 26, 2024 (8:00AM-12:00PM): _____

Round II: weeks of Jan 29 and Feb 5, 2024: _____

Read, sign and date the following statement:
I certify that the information provided herein is complete and accurate. I authorize the SIF instructors and members of the USC Student Investment Fund to make reasonable inquiry regarding my application. I understand that falsifying or withholding information in completing this application constitutes grounds for immediate withdrawal of my application from consideration, and cancellation of my enrollment in the course.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

Attachments (please submit the following along with your application; double-space your responses):

1. A copy of your resume.
2. A 2-page personal statement (750-word maximum). In Page 1, explain why you are interested in the SIF and how working as a SIF manager would contribute to your career objectives. In Page 2, explain your unique skill sets and how you can contribute to the SIF program.

Requirements:

To be eligible, students must currently be enrolled in either the USC Marshall MBA or the USC Marshall MBA.PM Program, be in good academic standing with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA at the time of application and plan to graduate in May 2025. All applicants are also required to have successfully completed GSBA 548. In addition, candidates must demonstrate the following qualities:

1. Serious commitment in the areas of asset management, investment banking, financial consulting and/or corporate finance.
2. High level of intellectual curiosity.
3. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
4. Outstanding leadership and teamwork skills.
5. Highly professional.

Selection Process:

The Recruiting Committee will review your application and make recommendations for first-round interviews (30 minutes), which will be conducted by the SIF 2024 managers on Friday, January 26, 2024. In this interview, **all applicants will be asked to give a 5-minute "pitch" of a stock or bond idea.** In the second round, the SIF instructor will meet with the final candidates for a 20-minute interview during the weeks of January 29 and Feb 5, 2024. The SIF instructor will consult with an ad hoc faculty committee before the final selection is made. The final class list will be announced by February 2024.

About USC Marshall Student Investment Fund

This course offers a year-long seminar in applied portfolio management. It is designed to give students rigorous exposure to contemporary investment and portfolio theory and practice. It also allows the students to learn the skills of investment managers. Analytical tools for the valuation of stocks, bonds, and options will be presented. The course will also cover risk management and portfolio optimization, behavioral finance, and performance attribution. Students will demonstrate and refine their ability to apply analytical concepts and techniques through fund management, sector reports, company research reports, investment research, and security pitches.

The purpose of this course is fivefold:

1. To provide a select group of up to 20 MBA students with experience in managing a portion of the University's equity endowment;
2. To provide an academic background for the appreciation of security analysis and portfolio management through assigned and self-selected readings;
3. To enhance the academic experience through interaction with individuals and institutions engaged in the money management business;
4. To produce and present an Annual Report which will provide description of the course experience and a record of achievement; and
5. To award the Guilford C. Babcock Endowed Scholarship, the First Pacific Advisors, Inc. Scholarship and the Provident Investment Counsel Endowed Scholarship.

The students are selected based on their genuine interest in pursuing a long-term career in asset management, investment banking, and/or corporate finance. The number of students allowed to enroll in this two-semester program is limited to 20 so that (a) each student may have direct experience in managing one of five portfolios and (b) the class as a group can visit with a variety of money managers. The class requires a daytime availability on Mondays and Fridays so that the student managers can meet with each other and make off-campus visits during normal business hours. The expected time commitment is 8-10 hours a week.

For the 2025 class, the student managers will assume fund management responsibilities as of April 1, 2024 and will relinquish this responsibility as of March 31, 2025.