



14e

Contemporary Financial Management

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Contemporary Financial Management

FOURTEENTH EDITION

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**Contemporary Financial
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To Sally, Craig, and Laura
RCM

To Claire
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To Uma, Anil, and Nikhil
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Preface

The financial management field continues to experience exciting change and growth. Financial practitioners are increasingly employing new financial management techniques, sophisticated computer resources, and mega databases to aid in their decision making. “Financial engineers” continue to create new derivative financial instruments and transactions, including options, financial futures contracts, options on futures contracts, foreign currency swaps, and interest rate swaps, to help managers deal with risk and enhance shareholder wealth. Many industries have been restructured because of the pressures of global competition. Leveraged buyout transactions from sophisticated investors have forced managers to make more careful use of their firms’ resources. The growing private equity market has added another dimension to the focus on sound management of a firm’s resources. Corporate reformers have focused attention on the structure of corporate governance relationships and the impact of alternative managerial compensation packages on firm performance. The Internet has transformed the way securities are bought and sold and the way companies access new capital. At the same time, financial researchers have made important advances in the areas of valuation, cost of capital, capital structure theory and practice, option valuation (including “real” options associated with capital investments), risk management, and dividend policy. Access to and content of the Internet have greatly expanded, making timely financial information increasingly available to customers, investors, and financial managers.

The financial crisis and recession that began in late 2007 and continued into 2010 had a major impact on the financial marketplace and the practice of financial management. This crisis in the financial markets identified structural weaknesses in many financial institutions, including commercial banks, quasi-governmental financial entities, regulatory practices, and various aspects of risk management. The lessons from this experience will have long-lasting impacts on financial markets and the strategies employed by financial managers and investors. This 14th Edition of *Contemporary Financial Management* addresses the cause of this crisis and its impacts on the practice of finance.

The future promises to be a more exciting time for finance professionals. Financial managers have refocused their attention on the core objective of maximizing shareholder wealth. Managers who act contrary to the interests of shareholders face the prospect of an unfriendly takeover, a corporate restructuring, pressure from domestic and foreign competitors, pressure from private equity investors, or pressures from shareholder groups and institutional investors. Firms increasingly must find operating savings necessary to remain competitive, as managers continue to struggle to find the optimal capital structure for their firm. The central importance of cash flows in the financial management of a firm has never been more apparent. The European economic and monetary unification and the near collapse of that union in the wake of the financial crisis of 2008–2010, and the growing importance of countries such as China and India, all require contemporary financial managers to possess greater knowledge of doing business in an international marketplace. Recent turmoil in the commodity, currency, and interest rate markets highlight the importance of financial risk management tools. In addition, the standards of ethical behavior adopted by managers of business enterprises become even more important.

Contemporary Financial Management, 14th Edition, incorporates these changes—the increased focus on shareholder wealth maximization and cash flow management, an

emphasis on the international aspects of financial management, a concern for the ethical behavior of managers, the role of private equity investors, and the lessons learned in the financial crisis that impacted all aspects of risk management—into a text designed primarily for an introductory course in financial management. The book is also suitable for management development programs and as a reference aid to practicing finance professionals.

The 13th Edition of *CFM* was well received by our many adopters. In the 14th Edition we retain the core features of that edition. We appreciate the many users and adopters who continue to offer suggestions for content additions and enhancements. As in the past, we have incorporated many of these suggestions into this edition. This edition has been extensively updated throughout, including the addition of numerous contemporary examples and references.

We recognize that students enter this course with a wide variety of backgrounds in mathematics, economics, accounting, and statistics. The only presumption we make regarding prior preparation is that all student users have had one course in financial accounting.

Organization of the Text

This text provides an introduction to both analytical tools and descriptive materials that are useful in financial management. Because this is an introductory-level text, however, it does *not* attempt to make the reader an expert in every aspect of financial decision making. Instead, it is intended to do the following:

- Acquaint the reader with the types of decisions faced by financial managers
- Develop a framework for analyzing these decisions in a systematic manner
- Provide the reader with the background necessary to pursue more advanced readings and courses in financial management

Although the subject matter in this text is divided into distinct parts, in reality and practice, the various types of financial decisions are interrelated and should not be considered in isolation from one another.

Each chapter begins with a summary preview of the key concepts from the chapter. This is followed by a financial challenge faced by a real firm(s) and related to the material in the chapter. Next, Learning Objectives are identified for each chapter. At the end of each chapter is a point-by-point summary of the chapter and extensive sets of discussion questions and problems, including “Self-Test Problems” with detailed solutions that you can use to test your understanding of the text material. A glossary of key terms is provided at the end of the book. Some chapters also have more complex, integrative case problems. Where appropriate, special international financial management issues and entrepreneurial finance issues are discussed. The book also has “Ethical Issues” sections integrated throughout. “Check” answers to selected problems appear at the end of the book. You will find an overview of the *CFM* Excel templates that are available for solving many of the complex chapter problems and cases at the book’s Web site (www.cengagebrain.com).

Parts of the Text

Part One, Introduction. Chapter 1 discusses the role and objectives of financial management, introduces the various forms of business organization, discusses the importance of ethical business practices, and reviews the structure of the financial management function. Chapter 2 reviews the major elements of the U.S. and international financial marketplace. It includes a discussion of the structure of the U.S. financial system and the role

of stock exchanges. Also included are introductions to various types of derivative securities and international financial management. Chapter 2 also contains an extensive discussion of the causes and impacts of the financial crisis beginning in late 2007. Chapter 3 considers the financial statements and ratios that can be used to evaluate the financial performance of a firm. Chapter 4 presents various techniques for analyzing cash flows and forecasting future financial performance.

Part Two, Determinants of Valuation. Valuation is a central theme of the book. Chapter 5 develops the concept of the time value of money. This concept is used in the valuation of securities and the evaluation of investment projects expected to provide benefits over a number of years. The present value rule is also introduced. Chapter 6 applies the basic valuation model to fixed income securities, such as bonds and preferred stock. Chapter 7 deals with the valuation of common stock and the role of investment bankers. Chapter 8 provides a comprehensive introduction to the concept of risk in finance and the relationship between risk, required return, and the shareholder wealth maximization goal of the firm.

Part Three, The Capital Investment Decision. This portion of the text focuses on capital expenditures—that is, investments in long-term assets. Chapters 9 and 10 present the fundamentals of capital budgeting, namely, the process of investing in long-term assets. Chapter 9 deals with the measurement of the cash flows (benefits and costs) associated with long-term investment projects. Chapter 10 considers various decision-making criteria that can be used when choosing projects that will maximize the value of the firm. Chapter 11 extends the concepts developed in Chapter 10 by considering some of the decision-making techniques that attempt to deal with the problem of the risk associated with a specific project's cash flows.

Part Four, The Cost of Capital, Capital Structure, and Dividend Policy. Chapter 12 illustrates the principles of measuring a firm's cost of capital. The cost of funds to a firm is an important input in the capital budgeting process. Chapters 13 and 14 address the relationship of the cost of capital to the firm's capital structure. Chapter 15 discusses the factors that influence the choice of a dividend policy and the impact of various dividend policies on the value of a firm.

Part Five, Working Capital Management. Chapters 16 through 18 examine the management of a firm's current asset and liability accounts—that is, net working capital. Chapter 16 provides an overview of working capital management, with emphasis on the risk-return trade-offs involved in working capital decision making. Chapter 16 also covers the management of secured and unsecured short-term credit. Chapter 17 deals with the management of cash and marketable securities, and Chapter 18 focuses on the management of accounts receivable and inventories.

Part Six, Additional Topics in Contemporary Financial Management. Chapter 19 deals with lease financing and intermediate-term credit. Chapter 20 focuses on option-related funding alternatives, i.e., derivative securities, including convertible securities, and warrants. Chapter 21 examines various techniques for managing risk, including the use of derivative securities. Chapter 22 discusses the factors that affect exchange rates and foreign exchange risk. Chapter 23 examines corporate restructuring decisions, including mergers and acquisitions, the role of private equity investors, bankruptcy, and reorganization.

Distinctive Features

In this 14th Edition, we continue our commitment to provide a comprehensive, correct, and well-written introduction to the field of financial management. The current edition

reflects the many refinements that have been made over the years in previous editions. In addition, we have created a text package that fully reflects contemporary financial management developments in the book's pedagogical aids, organizational design, and ancillary materials.

Pedagogical Features

CFM has been carefully designed to assist the student in learning and to stimulate student interest.

Distinctive pedagogical features include:

1. **Financial Challenges.** Each chapter begins with an illustration of a financial management problem faced by a firm or individual. These exciting lead-ins come from real-firm situations, including Medtronic, Lexus, Hertz, Apple Inc., Ford Motor, Twitter, Facebook, Boeing, Novo Nordisk, Source Gas Distribution, ExxonMobil, Sears, Procter & Gamble, Berkshire Hathaway, Verizon, and JPMorgan Chase. These examples focus on financial problems in the topic area of the chapter and highlight the importance of learning sound financial management principles. The “Financial Challenges” have been extensively revised and updated from the 13th Edition, including numerous totally new examples.
2. **Foundation Concepts.** These concepts are introduced early in the text. Their central importance in the study of finance is highlighted by specially designated icons indicating that these are “Foundation Concepts” and hence worthy of extra attention by the student. Important foundation concepts are identified throughout the book, including the determinants of the return on equity, the valuation of assets, the valuation of common stock, cash flow estimation principles, capital budgeting decision models, business risk, financial risk, and the weighted cost of capital.
3. **International Issues.** To emphasize and reinforce the global nature of financial decision making, we have included “International Issues” sections throughout the book to illustrate the global issues associated with making financial decisions. By covering international finance in two chapters—and throughout, with the “International Issues” features—we ensure that all students will be exposed to important international dimensions of financial management decisions, and we provide an opportunity for in-depth coverage of some of the more important international finance topics.
4. **Ethical Issues.** “Ethical Issues” sections are integrated throughout to present some of the ethical dilemmas facing financial managers. These sections raise sensitivities to ethical issues and usually conclude with questions and issues for further classroom discussion.
5. **Entrepreneurial Issues.** In recognition of the important and growing role of small and medium-sized firms in the American business environment, we have included “Entrepreneurial Issues” sections that appear in appropriate places throughout the book and emphasize unique finance-related problems and concerns of entrepreneurs.
6. **Extensive and Fully Integrated Examples of the Financial Policies and Problems That Face Real Firms.** Throughout the book, we have illustrated financial management concepts by using problems facing real firms. By minimizing the number of hypothetical firm situations and using data and situations facing actual firms that students will recognize and relate to, *CFM* has further enhanced the realism and excitement of the field of finance.
7. **Calculator Application Illustrations.** Many chapters have easy-to-follow, step-by-step calculator keystrokes to solve many of the time value of money examples developed in the text. These “Calculator Applications” sections are set up in a generic calculator format and can be used with virtually any financial calculator.

8. **Spreadsheet Strategies.** Many chapters have illustrative examples of how spreadsheet software (Microsoft Excel) can be used to solve finance problems, including time value of money problems, stock and bond valuation, and capital budgeting.
9. **Intuitive Use of Notation.** Notation in the text is simplified and intuitive to aid student learning. Inside the front cover, we have provided a handy summary of the key notation used throughout the book.
10. **Internet Applications.** This edition provides numerous references to interesting Internet applications. The applications provide students with handy references that can be used to explore the Internet for additional information and data dealing with chapter topics.
11. **Extensive Problem Sets.** Many of the end-of-chapter problems contain a surfeit of information, forcing students to identify the relevant material needed to solve the problem. The problem sets provide students and instructors with a greater breadth of problem coverage than in many other texts. In addition, the problems have been identified with a difficulty rating ranging from basic to intermediate to challenging. In several finance textbooks, problems are labeled to indicate the type of problem to be solved. We have specifically chosen not to include this information because we believe that recognition of the problem type is an important part of the learning process. However, we understand the differing needs and goals of instructors, and thus have provided these categories in Appendix A of the Instructors' Resource Manual, so that it can be easily shared with students if desired. Selected check answers to some of the end-of-chapter problems appear at the end of the text.
12. **Self-Test Problems.** Each chapter includes end-of-chapter "Self-Test Problems," with detailed solutions at the end of the text that students can use for further practice and enhanced understanding of the concepts developed in the chapter.
13. **Integrative Cases.** At the end of appropriate chapters, an expanded set of comprehensive "Integrative Cases" are provided. Many of these cases can be used in conjunction with the Excel models, available on the Moyer Student Companion Web site, to demonstrate the power of computers in performing sensitivity analysis.
14. **ExcelTM Problems.** Throughout the text, problems that can be solved using Excel are highlighted with an Excel icon. To help solve these problems, more than 20 user-friendly, flexible, downloadable Excel models are available at www.cengagebrain.com and require no prior knowledge of Excel.

Organizational Design

Contemporary Financial Management is organized around the objective of maximizing the value of the firm for its shareholders. This objective is introduced early in the book, and each major financial decision is linked to the impact it has on the value of the firm. The distinctive content features are designed to complement this objective:

1. **Emphasis on the fundamental concepts of cash flow, net present value, risk-return relationships, and market efficiency.** There are four concepts that are central to a complete understanding of most financial management decisions:
 - a. The importance of cash flows as the relevant source of value to a firm
 - b. The significance of the net present value rule for valuing cash flows
 - c. The relationship between risk and return in the valuation process
 - d. The efficiency of the capital markets
2. **Unique treatment of problems of international financial management.** In a business world that is increasingly global, it is important that finance students be aware of the most important dimensions of international finance. Some texts provide a single chapter dealing with a potpourri of international issues, but due to time

constraints, many instructors have difficulty in covering this material. Other texts use a series of short international topic sections scattered throughout the book, but this approach does not provide the in-depth coverage needed for some international finance topics, such as hedging exchange rate risk. In the 14th Edition of *CFM*, important international finance relationships, including the operation of foreign currency markets, exchange rate determination, and the role of multinational firms in the global economy, are covered in Chapter 2 (“The Domestic and International Financial Marketplace”). More advanced international topics, such as international parity relationships and the management of foreign exchange risk, are introduced in Chapter 22, “International Financial Management.” In addition, international viewpoints are covered in other chapters where appropriate.

3. **Comprehensive and integrated coverage of ethical issues facing financial managers.** Financial managers seeking to maximize shareholder wealth must also confront difficult ethical dilemmas. “Ethical Issues” sections are integrated throughout and present some of the ethical dilemmas facing financial managers. This treatment of the ethical dimensions of financial management is consistent with the AACSB’s recommendations for coverage of these issues.
4. **Early coverage of institutional characteristics and valuation models for financial instruments.** We have provided separate chapters (Chapters 6 and 7) dealing with the valuation of fixed income securities and common stock. These chapters also define all of the important characteristics of each of these security types and cover the institutional aspects of the markets for these securities, including the reading and understanding of security transaction information from sources such as *The Wall Street Journal*. This structure provides students with both an institutional understanding of bonds, preferred stock, and common stock and an understanding of the valuation process for securities in the financial marketplace.
5. **Early coverage of time value of money concepts.** Time value of money concepts are covered in depth in Chapter 5. This treatment provides students with the exposure needed to fully understand the valuation process that is central to the goal of shareholder wealth maximization. In addition, this coverage of the time value of money involves students in useful practical applications early on in the course, setting an early tone of relevance for the course.
6. **The importance of cash flow analysis is introduced early and reemphasized throughout the text.** Chapter 1 introduces students to the importance of the cash flow concept. This concept is then applied extensively in the context of financial planning and forecasting (Chapter 4), valuation (Chapters 6 and 7), capital budgeting (Chapters 9, 10, and 11), dividend policy (Chapter 15), working capital management (Chapter 16), and corporate restructuring (Chapter 23).
7. **Attention to unique problems of financial management in entrepreneurial finance.** In recognition of the important and growing role of small and medium-sized firms in the American business environment, we have included “Entrepreneurial Issues” sections, which appear in appropriate places throughout the book and emphasize unique finance-related problems and concerns of entrepreneurs (small businesses).
8. **Extensive development of the cash flow estimation process in capital budgeting.** Perhaps the most important step in the capital budgeting process is the estimation of cash flows for potential projects. *CFM* devotes an entire chapter (Chapter 9) to this topic, with a chapter appendix detailing alternative depreciation methods and their tax consequences.
9. **A detailed discussion of real options that are embedded in many capital investment projects.** Finance scholars and practitioners have increasingly focused

attention on “embedded options” in capital investment projects, such as the option to abandon, the option to expand, and the option to defer investments. These options add value to an investment project above that normally identified in a net present value calculation. Chapter 10 includes an extensive intuitive discussion of real options in capital budgeting.

- 10. Coverage of modern financial analysis and performance appraisal concepts.** The increased attention given to the objective of shareholder wealth maximization has brought about the development of new performance appraisal models that can be used to judge a firm’s performance and motivate managers to create value. The “Market Value Added” and “Economic Value Added” concepts, developed by Stern-Stewart, are covered in Chapter 3 (“Evaluation of Financial Performance”).
- 11. Broad, integrated treatment of working capital management.** For many small and medium-sized companies, the management of working capital can present more challenges than any other area of financial management. A thorough and up-to-date three-chapter section on working capital management is included.
- 12. Introduction to new financial instruments and strategies.** Financial futures contracts, options, interest rate swaps, corporate restructuring, and leveraged buyouts (LBOs), to name but a few, have become increasingly important to contemporary financial managers. These topics are introduced to the student in an applied context that illustrates their value to financial managers.
- 13. Frequent coverage of the impact of agency relationships in financial management.** The impact of principal-agent relationships on decisions in the areas of goal setting, valuation, capital structure, dividend policy, and corporate restructuring are presented throughout the book.
- 14. Extensive coverage of the impact of the financial crisis that began in late 2007.** The 14th Edition of *CFM* provides extensive coverage of the impact of the financial crisis (that began in 2007–2008 and continued into 2010) on the practice of financial management. In addition to an in-depth and intuitive presentation in Chapter 2, it is also referenced many times in the following chapters.

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Go to www.cengagebrain.com to access the Web site that supports *Contemporary Financial Management*, Fourteenth Edition. The site provides a link to Thomson ONE—Business School Edition, Internet application links, links to relevant finance sites, Key Terms, and the following features:

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Introduction

CHAPTER 1

The Role and Objective of Financial Management

CHAPTER 2

The Domestic and International Financial Marketplace

CHAPTER 3

Evaluation of Financial Performance

CHAPTER 4

Financial Planning and Forecasting

Part One provides an overview of the field of financial management. Chapter 1 considers the goal of the firm, discusses the role of financial management in the firm, and describes the alternative forms of business organizations. The determinants of value are also introduced. The chapter also considers the organization of the financial management function, the relationship between finance and other business disciplines, and various careers that are available in finance. Chapter 2 presents key elements of the U.S. financial marketplace, including the structure of the U.S. financial system and the role of stock exchanges. Also included is an introduction to the various types of financial derivative securities. The causes and consequences of the financial market and economic crisis of 2008–2009 are discussed. The last part of the chapter contains an introduction to international financial management, including multinational enterprises and the foreign currency markets and exchange rates. Chapter 3 deals with the use of financial ratios to evaluate a firm's financial performance. Chapter 4 examines various financial planning and forecasting techniques, including percentage of sales forecasting methods and cash budgets.

The Role and Objective of Financial Management

KEY CHAPTER CONCEPTS

1. *Shareholder wealth* is defined as the present value of the expected future returns to the owners of the firm. It is measured by the market value of the shareholders' common stock holdings.
2. The primary normative goal of the firm is to make the most efficient use of the firm's resources and thereby to maximize shareholder wealth.
3. Achievement of the shareholder wealth maximization goal is constrained by social responsibility concerns and problems arising out of agency relationships.
4. The market value of a firm's stock is determined by the magnitude, timing, and risk of the cash flows the firm is expected to generate. Managers can take a variety of actions to influence the magnitude, timing, and risk of the firm's cash flows. These actions are often classified as investment, financing, and dividend decisions.
5. Ethical standards of performance frame the bounds of decision making by leaders, managers, and other employees.
6. The most important forms of business organization are the:
 - a. Sole proprietorship
 - b. Partnership—both limited and general
 - c. Corporation
7. Corporations have the advantages of limited liability for owners, potentially perpetual life, and the ability to raise large amounts of capital. Even though they account for less than 18 percent of U.S. firms, corporations account for 81 percent of U.S. business revenues.
8. The finance function is usually headed by a chief financial officer.
 - a. Financial management responsibilities are often divided between the controller and treasurer.
 - b. The controller normally has responsibility for all activities related to accounting.
 - c. The treasurer is normally concerned with the acquisition, custody, and expenditure of funds.

FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

Issues Confronting Financial Managers

- In September 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disclosed that it had discovered that Volkswagen (VW) was using software designed to deceive regulators about the true amount of emissions being expelled by its diesel-powered cars sold in the United States. Subsequently it was learned that the scope of this deception also included cars sold in Europe and other parts of the world. Between September and late November 2015, the market value of VW declined by a whopping 37 percent. VW set aside \$10 billion to pay for the consequences of this deception. The CEO of VW and other top managers of the company resigned. Now VW's management team is faced with the challenge of determining how this fraud was allowed to occur for so many years, how to reassure customers that the company can be trusted in the future, how to reassure regulators that this type of fraud will never happen again, and how to pay for the fines and costs associated with correcting the emissions problems. In late November 2015, the management team began a series of meetings to determine how they can cut their budgets going forward to pay the multibillion-dollar costs. Undoubtedly the company will have to cancel or limit many desirable capital projects in the coming years, further reducing the long-term value of the firm.¹ Ethical breaches such as this one can have short-term positive impacts on revenues and profits, but disastrous long-term impacts on firm value. The importance of ethical behavior by a company's managers is a key element in achieving the goal of shareholder wealth maximization.
- The global financial collapse of 2008–2009 had wide-ranging impacts in the United States and internationally. Iceland, a beautiful island nation of just over 300,000 inhabitants, had long been known for its rich fishing industry. Icelanders pride themselves for their reputation as confident, risk-taking adventurers. Because of its extensive geothermal and hydroelectric power sources, the country has been able to attract a growing aluminum industry. In the 1990s a new generation of Icelandic bankers set the goal of transforming Iceland into a global financial powerhouse. Commercial banks expanded their business to include hedge fund investments, investment banking, and private equity. Soon the financial sector was worth more than the country's entire gross domestic product. This growth could be supported only by debt provided by the international wholesale credit markets. As its economy grew, retail investors were attracted to the high rates of return offered by Icelandic banks and hedge funds, and by the appreciation in the country's currency, the krona. In October 2008, just after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, a major U.S. investment bank, the Icelandic financial system collapsed. Each of the major banks went into receivership, local companies declared bankruptcy, and the country's currency dropped in value from 63 krona to the dollar to 130 krona to the dollar.² The story of Iceland is another tale of uncontrolled risk, overoptimistic return expectations, and hubris. In this course you will learn about important elements of the international financial system and ways to manage financial risk.
- In July 2015 Apple announced that the cash on its balance sheet totaled \$203 billion, making it the first company in history to have more than \$200 billion in cash. In July 2014 Apple's cash balances stood at \$164.5 billion. Strong operating cash flows over the previous year account for



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¹For more detail on the VW fraud case and its implications, see, for example, W. Boston and M. Spector, "VW Draws Regulators' Ire," *The Wall Street Journal*, November 19, 2015, pp. B1–B2.

²For a detailed account of the Iceland dilemma, see Asgeir Jonsson, *Why Iceland?* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009).

FINANCIAL CHALLENGE — CONTINUED

the rapid growth in its cash position. This growing cash balance was achieved even though the company paid out \$3.1 billion in dividends and repurchased \$4 billion in stock during the previous quarter. What do managers plan to do with this huge cash hoard? Nearly 90 percent of the cash is held offshore in its overseas subsidiaries. If the cash were brought back to the United States, Apple would face a monstrous tax bill. That is why Apple also borrowed \$10 billion during the last quarter to help meet dividend and share buyback commitments, and to fund operations. Like many other large firms, Apple is waiting for an improvement in the tax treatment of offshore cash balances. In the meantime, its board and management need to plan for capital investments, new product development costs, and make decisions regarding how to compensate shareholders through dividends and share buybacks.

The situations described here provide a small taste of the important questions regularly facing financial managers. The financial concepts and tools needed to deal with these types of problems are the subject matter of this book.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this chapter, you should have a clear understanding of the following topics:

1. The primary goal of the firm
2. The determinants of the value of a firm
3. The meaning and implications of agency problems in a corporation
4. The importance of ethics in running a business organization
5. The major types of business organizations and their distinguishing features
6. The role and function of the financial manager
7. The relationship between finance and other business disciplines



HTTP:

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1-1 Introduction

Financial managers have the primary responsibility for acquiring funds (cash) needed by a firm and for directing those funds into projects that will maximize the value of the firm. The field of financial management³ is an exciting and a challenging one, with a wide range of rewarding career opportunities in the fields of corporate financial management, investment banking, investment analysis and management, portfolio management, commercial banking, real estate, insurance, risk management, wealth management, and the public sector.

Articles appear regularly in the major business periodicals, such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *Fortune*, *Forbes*, and *The Financial Times*, describing

³The terms *financial management*, *managerial finance*, *corporate finance*, and *business finance* are virtually synonymous and are used interchangeably. Most financial managers, however, seem to prefer either *financial management* or *managerial finance*.

financial managers' involvement in important and challenging tasks. Consider, for example, the options facing Ford Motor's management in 2009 when it was deciding whether to accept U.S. government loan assistance. Imagine the challenges faced by U.S.-based capital goods manufacturers like Boeing, Caterpillar, Cummins, and Lockheed as they face competition in 2015 and beyond from European firms. Between 2011 and late 2015, the value of the euro had declined from \$1.48/euro to \$1.06/euro. A decrease in the value of the euro (which is the same as an increase in the value of the dollar) makes imports from European companies much cheaper for U.S. companies and consumers, while exports from the U.S. become much more expensive for European firms and consumers.

Imagine being a portfolio manager who invested \$10 million, on behalf of her clients, in Apple, Inc. in July 2014. At that time Apple's stock was trading at \$95 per share. By November 2015 the stock had risen to over \$117 per share, an increase of approximately 23 percent. Was this the time to take profits for her client, or should she continue to hold the Apple stock? In November some analysts, such as those from Goldman Sachs, predicted an additional 43 percent increase in value over the coming year, while others believed that the stock was fully valued, or even overvalued, at the current price.

Any business has important financial concerns, and its success or failure depends in a large part on the quality of its financial decisions. Every key decision made by a firm's managers has important financial implications. Managers daily face questions like the following:

- Will a particular investment be successful?
- Where will the funds come from to finance the investment?
- Does the firm have adequate cash or access to cash—through bank borrowing agreements, for example—to meet its daily operating needs?
- Which customers should be offered credit, and how much should they be offered?
- How much inventory should be held?
- Is a merger or an acquisition advisable?
- How should cash flows be used or distributed? That is, what is the optimal dividend policy? Or should shares be repurchased?
- In trying to arrive at the best financial management decisions, how should risk and return be balanced?
- Are there “intangible” benefits (for example, real option aspects) from an investment project that the firm is considering that will affect the accept/reject decision emerging from traditional quantitative analysis procedures?

This text presents an introduction to the theory, institutional background, and analytical tools essential for proper decision making in these and related areas. As a prospective manager, you will be introduced to the financial management process of typical firms. By learning how the financial management process works, you will establish a key building block for a successful management career.

1-2 The Goal of Shareholder Wealth Maximization



Foundation Concept

Shareholder wealth

Effective financial decision making requires an understanding of the goal(s) of the firm. What objective(s) *should* guide business decision making—that is, what should management try to achieve for the owners of the firm? The most widely accepted objective of the firm is to make the most efficient use of the firm's resources and thereby maximize the value of the firm for its owners; that is, to *maximize shareholder wealth*. **Shareholder wealth** is represented by the market price of a firm's common stock.

Warren Buffett, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, an outspoken advocate of the shareholder wealth maximization objective, and a premier “value investor,” says it this way:

Our long-term economic goal ... is to maximize the average annual rate of gain in intrinsic business value on a per-share basis. We do not measure the economic significance or performance of Berkshire by its size; we measure by per-share progress.⁴

	The shareholder wealth maximization goal states that management should seek to maximize the present value of the expected future returns to the owners (that is, shareholders) of the firm. These returns can take the form of periodic dividend payments or proceeds from the sale of the common stock. Present value is defined as the value today of some future payment or stream of payments, evaluated at an appropriate discount rate. The
Present value	
discount rate	discount rate takes into account the returns that are available from alternative investment opportunities during a specific (future) time period. As we shall see in Chapter 5, the longer it takes to receive a benefit, such as a cash dividend or price appreciation of the firm's stock, the lower the value investors place on that benefit. In addition, the greater
risk	the risk associated with receiving a future benefit, the lower the value investors place on that benefit. Stock prices, the measure of shareholder wealth, reflect the <i>magnitude</i> , <i>timing</i> , and <i>risk</i> associated with future benefits expected to be received by stockholders.
Market value	Shareholder wealth is measured by the market value of the shareholders' common stock holdings. Market value is defined as the price at which the stock trades in the marketplace, such as on the New York Stock Exchange. Thus, total shareholder wealth equals the number of shares outstanding times the market price per share.

(1.1) $\text{Shareholder wealth} = \text{Number of shares outstanding} \times \text{Market price per share}$

The objective of shareholder wealth maximization has a number of distinct advantages. First, this objective explicitly considers the timing and the risk of the benefits expected to be received from stock ownership. Similarly, managers must consider the elements of timing and risk as they make important financial decisions, such as capital expenditures. In this way, managers can make decisions that will contribute to increasing shareholder wealth.

Second, it is conceptually possible to determine whether a particular financial decision is consistent with this objective. Stock prices provide a direct measure of the success of decisions made by a firm's managers.

Third, shareholder wealth maximization is an impersonal objective. Stockholders who object to a firm's policies are free to sell their shares *under more favorable terms* (that is, at a higher price) *than are available under any other strategy* and invest their funds elsewhere. If an investor has a consumption pattern or risk preference that is not accommodated by the investment, financing, and dividend decisions of that firm, the investor will be able to sell his or her shares in that firm at the best price, and purchase shares in companies that more closely meet the investor's needs.

For these reasons, the shareholder wealth maximization is the key performance metric in financial management. However, concerns for the social responsibilities of business, the existence of other objectives pursued by some managers, and problems that arise from agency relationships may cause some departures from pure wealth-maximizing behavior by owners and managers. (These problems are discussed later.) Nevertheless, the shareholder wealth maximization goal provides the standard against which actual decisions can be judged and, as such, is the objective assumed in financial management analysis.

1-2a Stakeholder Concerns

stakeholders	Most firms recognize the importance of the interests of all their constituent groups, or stakeholders —customers, employees, suppliers, and the communities in which they
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⁴Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., *Annual Report* (2001). More recently (*Annual Report*, 2010), Buffett adds that their goal is to increase the intrinsic value at a rate of growth in excess of the *Standard & Poor's 500* Stock Price Index (S&P 500), thus providing an objective standard against which success can be measured. (See Chapter 2 for more information on the S&P stock index.)

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operate—and not just the interests of stockholders. For example, firms normally recognize responsibilities to various constituencies, such as:

- To sustain an optimum return on investment for *stockholders*
- To be perceived by *customers* as a provider of quality service
- To demonstrate that *employees* are the firm's most valuable resource
- To provide corporate leadership in the *communities* it serves
- To operate compatibly with environmental standards and initiate programs that are sensitive to environmental issues [*community*]

A diversity of opinion exists regarding what stakeholder concerns should be addressed by private companies. The concept is somewhat subjective and is neither perceived nor applied uniformly by all firms. In most instances, a manager who takes an appropriate long-term perspective in decision making, rather than focusing only on short-term accounting profits, will recognize responsibility to all of a firm's constituencies and will help lead the company to the maximization of value for shareholders, while balancing concerns of other stakeholders. In essence, concern for the interests of stakeholders can be viewed as the *means* to the *end* of maximizing long-term shareholder wealth.

1-2b Divergent Objectives

The goal of shareholder wealth maximization specifies how financial decisions should be made. In practice, however, not all management decisions are consistent with this objective. For example, Joel Stern and Bennett Stewart have developed an index of managerial performance that measures the success of managers in achieving a goal of shareholder wealth maximization.⁵ Their performance measure, called *Economic Value Added*, is the difference between a firm's annual after-tax operating profit and its total annual cost of capital. Many highly regarded major corporations, including Coca-Cola, AT&T, Quaker Oats, Briggs & Stratton, and CSX, have used the concept. The poor performances of other firms may be due, in part, to a lack of attention to stockholder interests and the pursuit of goals more in the interests of managers.

In other words, there often may be a divergence between the shareholder wealth maximization goal and the *actual* goals pursued by management. The primary reason for this divergence has been attributed to *separation of ownership and control* (management) in corporations.

Separation of ownership and control has permitted managers to pursue goals more consistent with their own self-interests as long as they satisfy shareholders sufficiently to maintain control of the corporation. Instead of seeking to maximize some objective (such as shareholder wealth), managers may “satisfice,” or seek acceptable levels of performance, while maximizing their own welfare.

Maximization of their own personal welfare (or utility) may lead managers to be concerned with long-run survival (job security). The concern for long-run survival may lead managers to minimize (or limit) the amount of risk incurred by the firm, since unfavorable outcomes can lead to their dismissal or possible bankruptcy for the firm. Likewise, the desire for job security is cited as one reason why management often opposes takeover offers (mergers) by other companies. Giving senior managers “golden parachute” contracts to compensate them if they lose their positions as the result of a merger is one approach designed to ensure that they will act in the interests of shareholders in merger decisions, rather than in their own interests.

Other firms expect top managers and directors to have a significant ownership stake in the firm. When they do, it is more likely that they will be thinking about ways to increase that stock price every day they go to work.

⁵J. M. Stern, J. S. Shiely, and I. Ross, *The EVA Challenge* (New York: Wiley, 2001). This performance measure is discussed more fully in Chapter 3. Copyright 2018 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved. May not be copied, scanned, or duplicated, in whole or in part. WCN 02-200-208

Agency relationships principals agent

1-2c Agency Problems

The existence of divergent objectives between owners and managers is one example of a class of problems arising from agency relationships. **Agency relationships** occur when one or more individuals (the **principals**) hire another individual (the **agent**) to perform a service on behalf of the principals.⁶ In an agency relationship, principals often delegate decision-making authority to the agent. In the context of finance, two of the most important agency relationships are the relationship between stockholders and creditors and the relationship between stockholders (owners) and managers.

Stockholders and Creditors A potential agency conflict arises from the relationship between a company's owners and its creditors. Creditors have a fixed financial claim on the company's resources in the form of long-term debt, bank loans, commercial paper, leases, accounts payable, wages payable, taxes payable, and so on. Because the returns offered to creditors are fixed whereas the returns to stockholders are variable, conflicts may arise between creditors and owners. For example, owners may attempt to increase the riskiness of the company's investments in hopes of receiving greater returns. When this occurs, bondholders suffer because they do not have an opportunity to share in these higher returns. For example, when RJR Nabisco (RJR) was acquired by KKR, the debt of RJR increased from 38 percent of total capital to nearly 90 percent of total capital. This unexpected increase in financial risk caused the value of RJR's bonds to decline by nearly 20 percent. In response to this loss of value, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and other large bondholders sued RJR for violating the bondholders' rights and protections under the bond covenants. RJR and Metropolitan ultimately settled the suit to the benefit of Metropolitan. Similar concerns arose in several large financial firms, including Wachovia, AIG, Merrill Lynch, and Lehman Brothers, during the economic crisis of 2008–2009. The issue of bondholder rights remains controversial, however.

In order to protect their interests, creditors often insist on certain protective covenants in a company's bond indentures.⁷ These covenants take many forms, such as limitations on dividend payments, limitations on the type of investments (and divestitures) the company can undertake, poison puts,⁸ and limitations on the issuance of new debt. The constraints on the owner-managers may reduce the potential market value of the firm. In addition to these constraints, bondholders may also demand a higher fixed return to compensate for risks not adequately covered by bond indenture restrictions.

Stockholders and Managers Inefficiencies that arise because of agency relationships have been called *agency problems*. These problems occur because each party to a transaction is assumed to act in a manner consistent with maximizing his or her own utility (welfare). The example cited earlier—the concern by management for long-run survival (job security) rather than shareholder wealth maximization—is an agency problem. Another example is the consumption of on-the-job perquisites (such as the use of company airplanes, limousines, and luxurious offices) by managers who have no (or only a partial) ownership interest in the firm. Shirking by managers is also an agency-related problem.

In May 2012, JPMorgan Chase called a surprise news conference call to announce a loss of at least \$2 billion because of trading in risky credit default swaps that were made in the office of the chief investment officer, Ina Drew. The trades that led to the massive losses

⁶See Amir Barnea, R. Haugen, and L. Senbet, *Agency Problems and Financial Contracting* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1985) for an overview of the agency problem issue. See also Jean-Jacques Laffont and David Martimort, *The Theory of Incentives: The Principal-Agent Model* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001).

⁷Protective covenants are discussed in greater detail in Chapters 6 and 19.

⁸A "poison put" is an option contained in a bond indenture that permits the bondholder to sell the bond back to the issuing company at face value under certain circumstances, such as a leveraged buyout that raises the risk for existing debt holders.

were managed by a trader in the firm's London offices. These trades occurred because of a conflict of incentives between the traders and the risk-management profile desired by JPMorgan's CEO, Jamie Dimon. Seven employees lost their jobs, the market value of JPMorgan's stock declined by nearly \$39 billion in the two months following the announcement of the trading losses, and the reputations of JPMorgan and its CEO were severely damaged.

agency costs

These agency problems give rise to a number of **agency costs**, which are incurred by shareholders to minimize agency problems. Examples of agency costs include:

1. Expenditures to structure the organization in such a way as to minimize the incentives for management to take actions contrary to shareholder interests
2. Expenditures to monitor management's actions, such as paying for audits of managerial performance and internal audits of the firm's expenditures
3. Bonding expenditures to protect the owners from managerial dishonesty
4. The opportunity cost of lost profits arising from complex organizational structures that prevent management from making timely responses to opportunities

A number of different mechanisms are available to reduce the agency conflicts between shareholders and managers. These include corporate governance, managerial compensation, and the threat of takeovers.

Corporate Governance As a result of accounting scandals and the increased perception of excessive executive compensation (relative to company performance), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the securities exchanges (NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ), The Conference Board (a business research organization), and other experts have made various proposals concerning how best to deal with the issues of corporate governance.

First, the board of directors of a corporation should have a majority of independent directors. Independent directors are individuals who are not current or former employees of the company and who have no significant business ties to the company. Additionally, the committee responsible for nominating members of the board of directors must be composed only of independent directors. Furthermore, the post of chairman of the board of directors should be split from the CEO position; or, alternatively, an independent lead, or presiding, director should chair board meetings. Also, all members of the audit and compensation committees must be independent directors. Finally, the company must disclose whether it has adopted a code of ethics for the CEO and senior financial officers and, if not, explain why it has not done so.

Many of these proposals have been implemented by public companies. In addition to these proposed changes in how corporations govern themselves, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, passed by Congress in 2002, mandated various changes in the processes used by corporations to report their financial results.

Managerial Compensation Properly designed compensation contracts can help to align shareholder-management conflicts. For example, providing part of the compensation in the form of stock or options to purchase stock can reduce agency conflicts. Stock options granted to managers entitle them to buy shares of the company at a particular price (**exercise price**). Typically, the options are set at an exercise price greater than the price of the stock at the time options are granted and can be exercised only after a certain period of time has elapsed. These conditions are imposed so that managers won't be tempted to cash in their options immediately and leave the company. More important to stock value, this is an attempt to align their interests more closely with those of the shareholders. Many firms, including Disney and Home Depot, provide key executives with significant stock options that increase in value with improvements in the firm's stock price. Two of the largest payoffs from the exercise of options were the \$706 million

exercise price

received in 2001 by Lawrence Ellison, chairman and CEO of Oracle, and the \$570 million paid in 1998 to Michael Eisner, chairman and CEO of Disney. In 2012 Apple's new CEO, Tim Cook, received a compensation package totaling \$378 million.

Some critics have argued that stock options tend to distort executive decisions by emphasizing short-term performance and giving them incentives to engage in accounting tricks to inflate the company's stock price. As a result, some firms have adopted alternative incentive compensation policies. One plan is to offer "restricted stock" to company executives. Such stock cannot be sold unless the manager remains with the company for a stated period of time. Microsoft, for example, stopped issuing stock options in 2003 and instead began offering restricted stock to its executives (and all other employees). For Microsoft managers, the restricted shares vest, or can be sold, over a five-year period. Another approach is to offer executives "performance shares," which are stock grants based on the company meeting specific performance targets. For example, in 2003 General Electric (GE) stopped issuing stock options to its CEO and instead offered 250,000 performance share units. Each performance share unit was equal to one share of common stock. Half of the performance share units will vest in five years if GE's cash flow increases at an average rate of 10 percent or more per year. The other half of the performance share units will vest in five years if GE's shareholder return meets or exceeds the cumulative five-year return of companies in the *Standard & Poor's 500* Stock Price Index (S&P 500).⁹ The potential value of these performance share units at the time of issue was approximately \$7.5 million, which was more than half of the CEO's total compensation package.

Threat of Takeovers Takeovers also can serve as an important deterrent to shareholder-management conflicts. The argument goes as follows: If managers act in their self-interest, then share values will be depressed, providing an incentive for someone to take over the company at a depressed level. The acquirer can then benefit from instituting policies that are consistent with shareholder wealth maximization, such as eliminating underperforming units and cutting overhead.

In addition to these mechanisms, we will learn in later chapters that certain corporate financial policies, such as dividends and capital structure, can also serve to control agency conflicts. Remaining agency problems give rise to costs that show up as a reduction in the value of the firm's shares in the marketplace.

1-3 Maximization of Shareholder Wealth: Managerial Strategies

If the managers of a firm accept the goal of maximizing shareholder wealth, how should they achieve this objective? One might be tempted to argue that managers will maximize shareholder wealth if they maximize the profits of the firm. After all, profit maximization is the predominant objective that emerges from static microeconomic models of the firm. Unfortunately, the profit maximization objective has too many shortcomings to provide consistent guidance to the practicing manager.

Before discussing some of these shortcomings, it is useful to highlight one important managerial decision rule that emerges from the microeconomic profit maximization model. To maximize profits, we learned in microeconomics that a firm should expand output to the point where the marginal (additional) cost (MC) of the last unit produced and sold just equals the marginal revenue (MR) received. To move beyond that output level will result in greater additional costs than additional revenues and hence lower profits. To fail to produce up to the point where $MC = MR$ results in a lower level of

total profits than is possible by following the rule. This fundamental rule, that an economic action should be continued up to the point where the marginal revenue (benefit) just equals the marginal cost, offers excellent guidance for financial managers dealing with a wide range of problems. For example, we shall see that the basic capital expenditure analysis model is simply an adaptation of the $MC = MR$ rule. Other applications appear in the working capital management and capital structure areas.

Despite the insights it offers financial managers, the profit maximization model is not useful as the central decision-making model for the firm for several reasons. First, the standard microeconomic model of profit maximization is *static*; that is, it lacks a time dimension. Profit maximization as a goal offers no explicit basis for comparing long-term and short-term profits. Major decisions made by financial managers *must* reflect the time dimension. For example, capital expenditure decisions, which are central to the finance function, have a long-term impact on the performance of the firm. Financial managers must make trade-offs between short-run and long-run returns in conjunction with capital investment decisions.

profit (or earnings or income)

The second limitation of the profit maximization objective has to do with the definition of **profit (or earnings or income)**. Generally accepted accounting principles (as discussed in Chapter 3) result in literally hundreds of definitions of profit for a firm because of the latitude permitted in recognizing and accounting for costs and revenues. For example, Carolina Power & Light Company (CPL) was forced to reduce its earnings by \$81.6 million because of an unfavorable regulatory treatment of its Harris nuclear plant. To offset this impact on the firm's earnings, CPL "changed its method of accounting for revenues to accrue unbilled revenues as of the date service is rendered, rather than when billed. The net effect of this accounting change was an increase in net income of \$77 million, or \$0.92 per share."¹⁰ This arbitrary accounting change had *no* impact on the cash flows or economic well-being of CPL and hence had no impact on its value.

Even if we could agree on the appropriate accounting definition of profit, it is not clear whether a firm should attempt to maximize total profit, the rate of profit, or earnings per share (EPS).

Consider Columbia Beverages Inc., a firm with 10 million shares outstanding that currently earns a profit of \$10 million after tax. If the firm sells an additional 1 million shares of stock and invests the proceeds to earn \$100,000 per year, the total profit of the firm will increase from \$10 million to \$10.1 million. However, are shareholders better off? Prior to the stock sale, earnings per share are \$1 (\$10 million profit divided by 10 million shares of stock). After the stock sale, EPS decline to \$0.92 (\$10.1 million in earnings divided by 11 million shares). Although total profit has increased, EPS have declined. Stockholders are not better off as a result of this action.

This example might lead one to conclude that managers should seek to maximize EPS (for a given number of shares outstanding). This, too, can result in misleading actions. For example, consider a firm with total assets at the start of the year of \$10 million. The firm is financed entirely with stock (1 million shares outstanding) and has no debt. After-tax earnings are \$1 million, resulting in a return on stockholders' equity of 10 percent (\$1 million in earnings divided by \$10 million in stockholders' equity), and EPS are \$1. The company decides to retain one-half of this year's earnings (increasing assets and equity to \$10.5 million) and pay out the balance in stockholders' dividends. Next year the company's earnings total \$1.029 million, resulting in EPS of \$1.029. Are shareholders better off because of the decision by managers to reinvest \$500,000 in the firm? In this example, a strong argument can be made that the position of shareholders has deteriorated. Although EPS increased from \$1 per share to \$1.029 per share, the realized return on stockholders' equity actually declined, from 10 percent to 9.8 percent (\$1.029 million

divided by \$10.5 million of stockholders' equity). In essence, the company's managers reinvested \$500,000 of stockholders' money to earn a return of only 5.8 percent (\$0.029 million of additional earnings divided by \$0.5 million of additional investment). This type of investment is not likely to result in maximum shareholder wealth. Shareholders could do better by investing in bonds yielding more than 5.8 percent.

The third major problem associated with the profit maximization objective is that it provides no direct way for financial managers to consider the risk associated with alternative decisions. For example, two projects generating identical future expected cash flows and requiring identical outlays may be vastly different with respect to the risk of the expected cash flows. Similarly, a firm can often increase its EPS by increasing the proportion of debt financing used in the firm's capital structure. However, leverage-induced increases in EPS come at the cost of increased financial risk. The financial marketplace will recognize the increased risk of financial distress that accompanies increases in debt financing and will value the resulting EPS accordingly.

1-3a Determinants of Value

book value

If the profit maximization objective does not provide the proper guidance to managers seeking to maximize shareholder wealth, what rules should these managers follow? First, it is important to recognize that the maximization of shareholder wealth is a market concept, not an accounting concept. Managers should attempt to maximize the market value of the company's shares, not the accounting or **book value** per share. The book value reflects the historic cost of assets, not the earning capacity of those assets. Also, the book value does not consider the risk associated with the assets.

Three major factors determine the market value of a company's shares of stock: the *amount of the cash flows expected to be generated for the benefit of stockholders*; the *timing of these cash flows*; and the *risk of the cash flows*.

Cash flow

Cash Flow Throughout the book, we stress the importance of cash flows in the practice of financial management. **Cash flow** relates to the actual cash generated or paid by the firm. Only cash can be used to acquire assets, and only cash can be used to make valuable distributions to investors. In contrast, the accounting system focuses primarily on a matching over time of the historic, cost-based revenues and expenses of a company, resulting in a bottom-line earnings figure. But accounting earnings are often misleading because they do not reflect the actual cash inflows and outflows of the firm. For example, an accountant records depreciation expense on an asset each period over the depreciable life of that asset. Depreciation is designed to reflect the decline in value of that asset over time. However, depreciation itself results in no cash outflow.¹¹ The entire cash outflow occurred when the asset was originally purchased.

Timing of Cash Flows The market value of a share of stock is influenced not only by the amount of the cash flows it is expected to produce, but also by the timing of those cash flows. If faced with the alternatives of receiving \$100 today or \$100 three years from today, you would surely choose the \$100 today because you could invest that \$100 for three years and accumulate the interest. Thus, financial managers must consider both the magnitude of the cash flows they expect to generate and the timing of these cash flows, because investors will reflect these dimensions of return in their valuation of the enterprise.

Risk Finally, the market value of a share of stock is influenced by the perceived risk of the cash flows it is expected to generate. The relationship between risk and required return is an important concept in financial management and is discussed in detail in Chapter 8. In general, *the greater the perceived risk associated with an expected cash*

¹¹Because depreciation is used in computing a firm's tax liability, it can affect *after-tax* cash flows. This concept is discussed further in

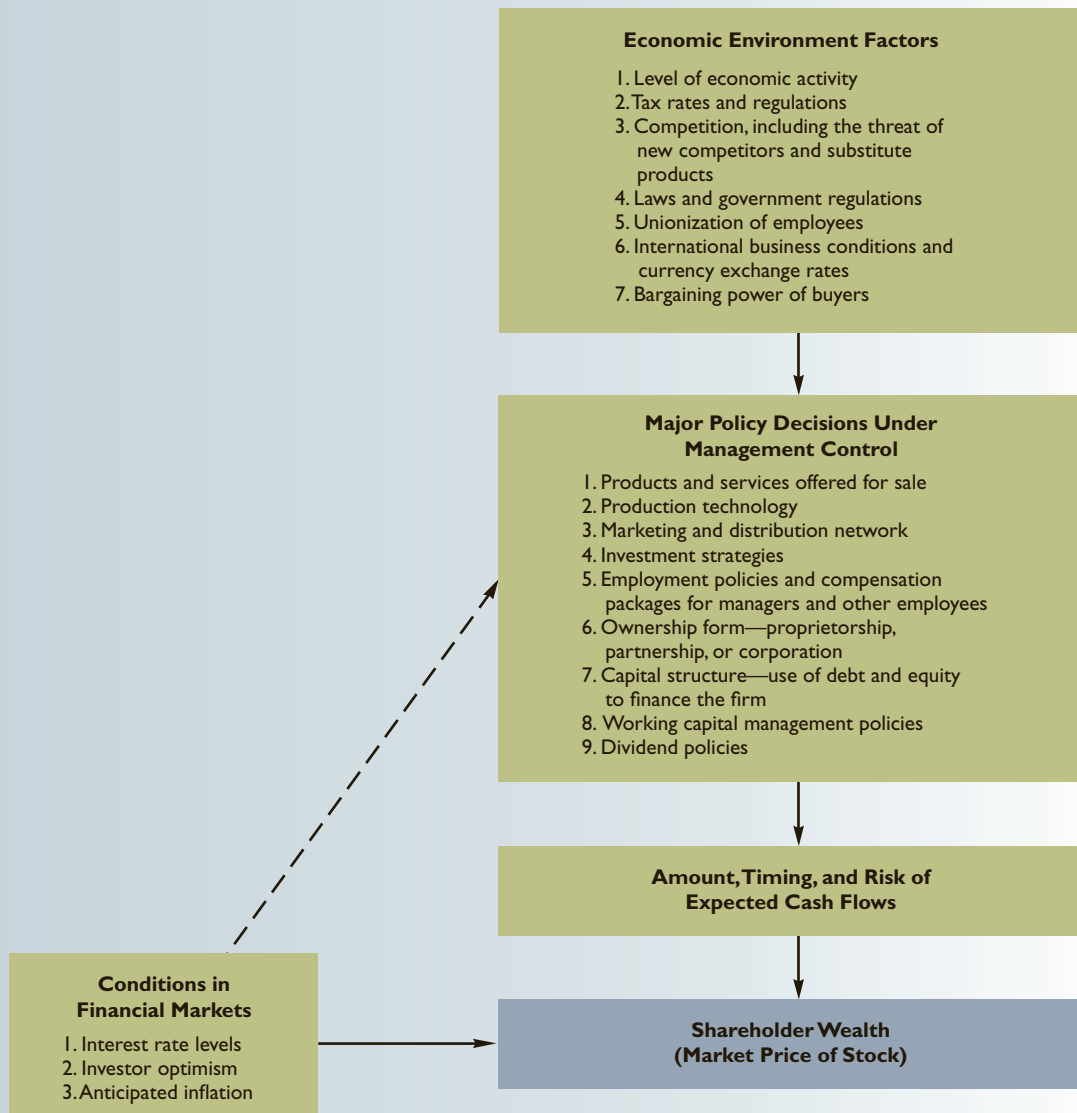
flow, the greater the rate of return required by investors and managers. Thus, financial managers must also consider the risk of the cash flows expected to be generated by the firm because investors will reflect this risk in their valuation of the enterprise.

1-3b Managerial Actions to Influence Value

How can managers influence the magnitude, timing, and risk of the cash flows expected to be generated by the firm in order to maximize shareholder wealth? Many factors ultimately influence the magnitude, timing, and risk of a firm's cash flows and thus the price of the firm's stock. Some of these factors are related to the external economic environment and are largely outside the direct control of managers. Other factors can be directly manipulated by the managers. Figure 1.1 illustrates the factors affecting stock prices.

FIGURE 1.1

Factors Affecting Stock Prices



The top panel enumerates some of the factors in the economic environment that have an impact on the strategic decisions managers can make. Even though economic environment factors are largely outside the direct control of managers, managers must be aware of how these factors affect the policy decisions under the control of management.

In this context, it is useful to consider a competitive strategy framework developed initially by Michael E. Porter and developed further by Alfred Rappaport.^{12,13} Porter and Rappaport recommend that managers formulate an overall competitive strategy analyzing five competitive forces that can influence an industry's structure and can thereby ultimately affect the market prices of stocks of individual companies in a particular industry. The five competitive forces are:

1. The threat of new entrants
2. The threat of substitute products
3. The bargaining power of buyers
4. The bargaining power of suppliers
5. The rivalry among current competitors

By making policy decisions using such a competitive framework, managers can be in a position to create value for shareholders.

Accordingly, the focus of this book is on making financial decisions that can improve the amount, timing, or risk profile of a firm's cash flow stream, thus leading to increases in shareholder wealth and value. Financial managers are responsible not only for *measuring* value, but also for *creating* value.

1-4 Forms of Business Organization

Most businesses are organized as either a sole proprietorship, a partnership, or a corporation.

1-4a Sole Proprietorship

A **sole proprietorship** is a business owned by one person. One of the major advantages of the sole proprietorship business form is that it is easy and inexpensive to establish. A major disadvantage of a sole proprietorship is that the owner of the firm has *unlimited personal liability* for all debts and other obligations incurred by the firm.

Sole proprietorships have another disadvantage in that their owners often have difficulty raising funds to finance growth. Thus, sole proprietorships are generally small. Although approximately 72 percent of all businesses in the United States are of this type, their revenue amounts to only 4.1 percent of the total U.S. business revenue.¹⁴ Sole proprietorships are especially important in the retail trade, service, construction, and agriculture industries.

1-4b Partnership

A **partnership** is a business organization in which two or more co-owners form a business, normally with the intention of making a profit. Each partner agrees to provide a certain percentage of the funds necessary to run the business and/or agrees to do some

sole proprietorship



HTTP:

The Small Business Administration offers some very helpful tips and information on running a small business, including financial guidance, local resources, and disaster assistance.

www.sba.gov

partnership

¹²Michael E. Porter, *Competitive Advantage* (New York: Free Press, 1985), Chapter 1.

¹³Alfred Rappaport, *Creating Shareholder Value* (New York: Free Press, 1986), Chapter 4.

¹⁴Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics of Income*, www.irs.gov.

general partnership

portion of the necessary work. In return, the partners share in the profits (or losses) of the business.

Partnerships may be either general or limited. In a **general partnership**, each partner has unlimited liability for all of the obligations of the business. Thus, general partnerships have the same major disadvantage as sole proprietorships. Approximately 17 percent of all partnerships in the United States are of this type.

limited partnership

A **limited partnership** usually involves one or more general partners and one or more limited partners. Although the limited partners may limit their liability, the extent of this liability can vary and is set forth in the partnership agreement. Limited partnerships are common in real estate ventures.

Partnerships have been relatively important in the agriculture, mining, oil and gas, finance, insurance, real estate, and services industries. Overall, partnerships account for about 10 percent of all U.S. business firms and less than 15 percent of total business revenues.¹⁵

Partnerships are relatively easy to form, but they must be re-formed when there is a change in the makeup of the general partners. Partnerships have a greater capacity to raise capital than sole proprietorships, but they lack the tremendous capital attraction ability of corporations.

1-4c Corporation

corporation

HTTP:

Do you know who the 400 richest people in America are? Which are the 200 best-run small companies? The 500 largest private firms? *Forbes* magazine can tell you.

www.forbes.com

A **corporation** is a “legal person” composed of one or more actual individuals or legal entities. It is considered separate and distinct from those individuals or entities. Money contributed to start a corporation is called *capital stock* and is divided into shares; the owners of the corporation are called *stockholders* or *shareholders*.

Corporations account for less than 18 percent of all U.S. business firms but about 81 percent of U.S. business revenues and approximately 61 percent of U.S. business profits.¹⁶

The corporate form of business organization has four major advantages over both sole proprietorships and partnerships.

- **Limited liability.** Once stockholders have paid for their shares, they are not liable for any obligations or debts the corporation may incur. They are liable only to the extent of their investment in the shares.
- **Permanency.** The legal existence of a corporation is not affected by whether stockholders sell their shares, which makes it a more permanent form of business organization.
- **Flexibility.** A change of ownership within a corporation is easily accomplished when one individual merely sells shares to another. Even when shares of stock are sold, the corporation continues to exist in its original form.
- **Ability to raise capital.** Due to the limited liability of its owners and the easy marketability of its shares of ownership, a corporation is able to raise large amounts of capital, which makes large-scale growth possible.

However, the ability to raise capital comes with a cost. In the typical large corporation, ownership is separated from management. This gives rise to potential conflicts of goals and certain costs, called *agency costs*, which were discussed earlier. However, the ability to raise large amounts of capital at relatively low cost is such a large advantage of the corporate form over sole proprietorships and partnerships that a certain level of agency costs is tolerated.

As a “legal person,” a corporation can purchase and own assets, borrow money, sue, and be sued. Its officers are considered to be *agents* of the corporation and are authorized to act on the corporation’s behalf. For example, only an officer, such as the treasurer, can sign an agreement to repay a bank loan for the corporation.

¹⁵Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics of Income*, www.irs.gov.

¹⁶Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics of Income*, www.irs.gov.

ETHICAL ISSUES

The Practice of Financial Management

In recent years, interest in the ethical dimensions of business practice has exploded. Front-page stories of the stock trading scandals involving the use of insider information that led to the downfall of Dennis Levine, Ivan Boesky, Raj Rajaratnam (Galleon Group), the Treasury bond trading scandal at Salomon Brothers that severely damaged Salomon's reputation and resulted in its top managers being forced to resign, the billions of dollars of questionable loans made by savings and loan executives that caused the collapse of much of the savings and loan industry, and the collateralized mortgage obligation (CMO) debacle that played a crucial role in the 2008–2009 financial collapse have focused attention on the ethical practices followed by business and financial managers.

Webster's defines ethics as "the discipline dealing with what is good or bad, right or wrong, or with moral duty and obligation."^a John J. Casey defines business ethics as follows: "At its best, business ethics is excellence in management applied with fairness and dispatch. It involves hard-headed thought, not a sentimental reaction. It also involves articulate, effective communication to all parties...."^b Casey identifies a number of techniques that managers can keep in mind when addressing the ethical dimensions of a business problem:

- Clarify the parameters of the problem
- Involve the right team of participants at the outset
- Collect all the facts bearing on the problem
- Articulate the harm and benefit that may result from proposed actions
- Weigh the consequences of alternatives
- Seek equity for those who may be affected

Other action guidelines that have been suggested for managers include to:

- Ensure that personal interests do not conflict with business decisions being made
- Respect the confidentiality of information entrusted to you
- Make decisions based on rational, objective business analysis rather than on inappropriate factors, such as race, sex, or religion
- Act fairly in dealing with customers while protecting the legitimate interests of the business.^c

Ethical considerations impact all kinds of business and financial management decisions. Some financial decisions with important ethical dimensions, such as the collateralized mortgage obligations issued by large banks which led to the global financial collapse in 2008–2009, command national attention.

However, financial managers encounter day-to-day decisions that have important ethical dimensions. For example, as a new bank loan officer, should you recommend approval of a loan to a longtime friend, even though she does not quite meet the normal loan standards of the bank? As an account executive for a brokerage firm, should you recommend to your clients the securities of firms that have poor environmental management records or that deal in such products as alcohol and tobacco? Should you tell your father-in-law that your firm is likely to become a candidate for a takeover before this is publicly announced? As a division manager being evaluated in part on a return-on-assets calculation, should you lease assets to keep them out of the asset base for evaluation purposes and thereby enhance your apparent performance? When discussing the earnings performance of your company in quarterly and annual reports, should the discussion be limited to only GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) definitions of earnings, like Apple and Netflix do, or should you urge investors to focus on alternative definitions of earnings that make the company's performance appear to be better (as many other rapidly growing tech firms do)?

This brief sampling of the areas of business and financial-management decision making that possess important ethical dimensions provides a feel for the breadth of ethical issues facing financial managers. In most cases, the answers to these questions are not clear-cut. Actual decision making is very complex and involves many trade-offs among parties with competing interests. However, explicitly recognizing the costs and benefits associated with each of these decisions and making the decision in an atmosphere of balanced objectivity and fairness can help financial managers avoid apparent or real breaches of their ethical trust.

An important concern for financial managers, who are entrusted with the resources of stockholders and are expected to maximize the value of these

ETHICAL ISSUES — CONTINUED

resources, is: How does a concern for ethics in the practice of financial management impact the goal of shareholder wealth maximization? Firms that expect employees to act according to a code of ethics in their business dealings can expect to have reduced litigation and damages expenses. A recent survey concluded that some 90 percent of the *Fortune* 500 companies have adopted a published code of conduct for their managers and other employees. High ethical standards are respected by customers and valued by investors. One could argue that ethical business dealings build long-term value for investors, whereas breaches of standards of business ethics may provide

short-term gains at the expense of future returns and long-term value.

Throughout the text, we will highlight ethical issues that confront financial managers as they make important financial decisions. Our objective is to raise your consciousness of these issues, rather than to make moral judgments about what is right or wrong in each case. Those judgments are best left to you as topics of lively discussions with your classmates.

^aWebster's *Third New International Dictionary* (Chicago: Merriam Webster, 1981).

^bJohn J. Casey, "The New Urgency for Ethics in Banking," *The Banker* (March/April 1991): 44–50.

^c*Ibid.*, 48–49.

Corporate Organization and Governance In most corporations, the stockholders elect a *board of directors*, which, in theory, is responsible for overseeing the management of the corporation. In practice, however, the board of directors usually deals with broad policy matters, leaving the day-to-day operations of the business to the *officers*, who are selected by the board. Corporate officers normally include a *chairman of the board*, *chief executive officer (CEO)*, *chief operating officer (COO)*, *chief financial officer (CFO)*, *president*, *vice president(s)*, *treasurer*, and *secretary*. In some corporations, one person holds more than one office; for instance, many small corporations have a person who serves as secretary-treasurer. In most corporations, the president and various other officers are also members of the board of directors. These officers are called "inside" board members, whereas other board members are called "outside" or independent board members. A corporation's board of directors usually contains at least three members.

Corporate Securities In return for the use of their funds, investors in a corporation are issued certificates, or *securities*. Corporate securities represent claims against the assets and future earnings of the firm.



HTTP:

Most major corporations today maintain extensive Web sites, displaying their histories, products, services, financial statements, and much more. Check out the Web sites of Ford, GM, and Boeing, and explore a few of their many links.

www.ford.com

www.gm.com

www.boeing.com

There are two types of corporate securities. Investors who lend money to the corporation are issued *debt securities*; these investors expect periodic interest payments, as well as the eventual return of their principal. Owners of the corporation are issued *equity securities*. Equity securities take the form of either *common stock* or *preferred stock*. Common stock is a residual form of ownership; that is, the claims of common stockholders on the firm's earnings and assets are considered only after all other claims—such as those of the government, debt holders, and preferred stockholders—have been met. Common stockholders are considered to be true owners of the corporation. Common stockholders possess certain rights or claims, including dividend rights, asset rights, voting rights, and preemptive rights.¹⁷ In Chapters 6 and 7, we illustrate how to obtain information about a company's common stock and debt securities from such sources as *The Wall Street Journal* and *finance.yahoo.com*.

Preferred stockholders have priority over common stockholders with regard to the firm's earnings and assets. They are paid cash dividends before common stockholders. In

¹⁷Stockholder rights are discussed in greater detail in Chapter 7.

addition, if a corporation enters bankruptcy, is reorganized, or is dissolved, preferred stockholders have priority over common stockholders in the distribution of the corporation's assets. However, preferred stockholders are second in line behind the firm's creditors.

Because of the advantages of limited liability, permanency, and flexibility and because ownership shares in corporations tend to be more liquid (and hence relatively more valuable) than ownership interests in proprietorships and partnerships, it is easy to see why the majority of business conducted in the United States is done under the corporate form of organization.

1-4d Other Types of Business Organizations

Though sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations are the three basic forms of business organization, there are other types or organizations sometimes referred to as *hybrid organizations*, which have features of each of these basic forms.

The *subchapter S corporation* is one such example. The Internal Revenue Code permits companies with 100 or fewer domestic stockholders, and that meet certain other requirements, to register as an S corporation. With the S corporation, stockholders avoid the double taxation of earnings and pay taxes similar to partnerships. The S corporation, however, preserves the other benefits of the corporate setup, including limited liability. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of firms registering as S corporations for tax purposes.

An increasingly popular form of hybrid organization is the *limited liability company (LLC)*. Like the S corporation, the earnings of the LLC flow through to the owners (called *members*) and are taxed at the individual level. Also, like the corporation, the LLC members have the benefit of limited liability. The LLC has fewer restrictions than the S corporation in terms of who can qualify as owners and greater flexibility in terms of accounting requirements. For example, the members need not be domestic, and from an accounting perspective no annual reports need to be filed. Examples of an LLC include Domino's Pizza LLC as well as SourceGas LLC, a natural gas company headquartered in Denver. The LLC legal form of business organization is frequently used by early-stage start-up companies.

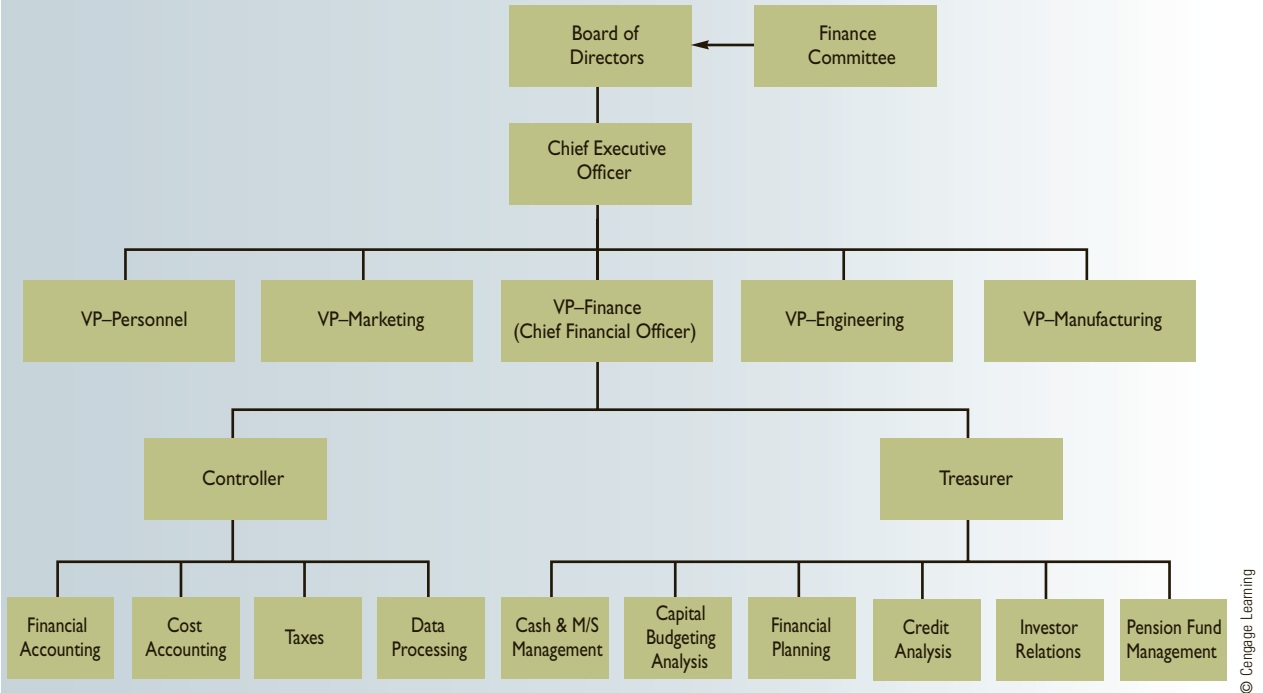
The *limited liability partnership (LLP)* is another type of business organization where all partners have limited liability. LLPs are taxed like any other partnership; thus, they share the tax advantage of regular partnerships and sole proprietorships. A form of LLP is the professional limited liability partnership (PLLP), which is a partnership formed to render specific professional services such as legal, accounting, or medical services. Examples of LLPs include Baker Botts LLP (legal practice) and PwC LLP (accounting and other management services). Goldman Sachs, a well-known investment banking firm, was a limited partnership until May 1999, when it converted to the corporate form in order to have better access to capital to finance growth, enable broad employee ownership of the firm, and enable the firm to engage in strategic acquisitions.

1-5 Organization of the Financial Management Function

Many firms divide the decision-making responsibilities of management among several different officers, which often include those in manufacturing, marketing, finance, personnel, and engineering. A sample organization chart emphasizing the finance function is shown in Figure 1.2. The finance function is usually headed by a vice president of

FIGURE 1.2

Sample Organization Chart



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finance, or *chief financial officer (CFO)*, who reports to the president or the CEO. In some corporations the CFO may also be a member of the board of directors. In addition to overseeing the accounting, treasury, tax, and audit functions, today's CFO often has responsibility for strategic planning, monitoring and trading foreign currencies, managing the risk from volatile interest rates, and monitoring production and inventory levels. CFOs also must be able to communicate effectively with the investment community concerning the financial performance of the company.

The chief financial officer often distributes the financial management responsibilities between the *controller* and the *treasurer*. The controller normally has responsibility for all accounting-related activities. These include such functions as the following:

- **Financial accounting.** This function involves the preparation of the financial statements for the firm, such as the balance sheet, income statement, and the statement of cash flows.
- **Cost accounting.** This department often has responsibility for preparing the firm's operating budgets and monitoring the performance of the departments and divisions within the firm.
- **Taxes.** This unit prepares the reports that the company must file with the various government (local, state, and federal) agencies.
- **Data processing.** Given its responsibilities involving corporate accounting and payroll activities, the controller may also have management responsibility for the company's data-processing operations.

The treasurer is normally concerned with the acquisition, custody, and expenditure of funds. These duties often include the following:

- **Cash and marketable securities management.** This group monitors the firm's short-term finances—forecasting its cash needs, obtaining funds from bankers and other sources when needed, and investing any excess funds in short-term interest-earning securities.

- **Capital budgeting analysis.** This department is responsible for analyzing capital expenditures—that is, the purchase of long-term assets, such as new facilities and equipment.
- **Financial planning.** This department is responsible for analyzing the alternative sources of long-term funds, such as the issuance of bonds or common stock, that the firm will need to maintain and expand its operations.
- **Credit analysis.** Most companies have a department that is responsible for determining the amount of credit that the firm will extend to each of its customers. Although this group is responsible for performing financial analysis, it may sometimes be located in the marketing area of the firm because of its close relationship to sales.
- **Investor relations.** Many large companies have a unit responsible for working with institutional investors (for example, mutual funds), bond rating agencies, stockholders, and the general financial community.
- **Pension fund management.** The treasurer may also have responsibility for the investment of employee pension fund contributions. The investment analysis and portfolio management functions may be performed either within the firm or through outside investment advisors.

It should be emphasized that the specific functions of the controller and treasurer shown in Figure 1.2 are illustrative only and that the actual functions performed vary from company to company. For example, in some companies, the treasurer may have responsibility for tax matters. Also, as shown in Figure 1.2, the board of directors of the company may establish audit and finance committees, consisting of a number of directors and officers of the firm with substantial financial expertise, to make recommendations on broad financial policy issues.

1-5a Financial Management and Other Disciplines

As you pursue your study of financial management, you should keep in mind that financial management is not a totally independent area in business administration. Instead, it draws heavily on related disciplines and fields of study. The most important of these are *accounting* and *economics*; in the latter discipline, both *macroeconomics* and *microeconomics* are significant. *Marketing*, *production*, *human resources management*, and the study of *quantitative methods* also have an impact on the financial management field. Each of these is discussed here.

Accounting Financial managers manage a firm's financial and physical assets and secure the funding needed to support these assets. Accountants keep score of the firm's performance. Financial managers often turn to accounting data to assist them in making decisions. Generally a company's accountants are responsible for developing financial reports and measures that assist its managers in assessing the past performance and future direction of the firm and in meeting certain legal obligations, such as the payment of taxes. The accountant's role includes the development of financial statements, such as the *balance sheet*, the *income statement*, and the *statement of cash flows*.

Financial managers are primarily concerned with a firm's cash flows, because they often determine the feasibility of certain investment and financing decisions. The financial manager refers to accounting data when making future resource allocation decisions concerning long-term investments, when managing current investments in working capital, and when making a number of other financial decisions (for example, determining the most appropriate capital structure and identifying the best and most timely sources of funds needed to support the firm's investment programs).

In many small and medium-sized firms, the accounting function and the financial management function may be handled by the same person or group of persons. In such cases, the distinctions just identified may become blurred.

Economics There are two areas of economics with which the financial manager must be familiar: *microeconomics* and *macroeconomics*. Microeconomics deals with he



HTTP:

The Web site maintained by *The Economist* magazine provides extensive background reading on many financial issues you will encounter in this course.

www.economist.com

Similarly, *The Wall Street Journal's* Web site is a rich source of information and examples of issues central to this course.

online.wsj.com/home-page