1. Course Description

This course provides students the key competencies in the areas of company finance, quantitative finance, financial management of corporation and investment decisions. It also provides an optimal balance between theory and practical application in companies operating in the finance sector; the program integrates a solid theory base and clear understanding of the discipline.

2. Educational Objectives

This course will focus on

- a. Model building in the process of financial planning
- b. Equipping students with the knowledge of regulatory, economic and political environments that directly and indirectly influence financial markets
- c. Practice management and other business aspects of financial planning

3. Course Outcomes

Upon Successful completion of this course, the students will be able to

- a. Apply the financial planning process in the practice of financial planning
- b. Explain the model building process for the practice of financial planning
- c. Demonstrate operative, intellectual and managerial skills
- d. Explain and apply key concepts of finance, economics and business to manage complex issues in local and international financial markets

4. Course Contents

- a. Introduction to Strategy
- b. Types of Strategy
 - (1) Corporate strategy
 - (2) Business strategy
 - (3) Financial strategy
- c. Basic Financial Reports and Concepts
- d. Potential strategic financial objectives of an organization (e.g. value of money, Maximizing shareholders wealth)
- e. Relationship between decisions concerning investment

- f. Budgeting
- g. Financing and dividends
- h. Impact of internal and external constraints on financial strategy.(e.g. funding, regulatory bodies, investor relations, economic factors)
- i. Financial markets and financial instruments
- j. Interpreting Financial Statements
- k. Agency theory and Finance
- I. Identifying investment opportunities and objectives
 - (1) Investment Appraisals
- m. Evaluating investments in terms of return: expected return, required return and realized return
- n. Ideas of diversifiable and non-diversifiable risks: in terms of portfolio
- o. Market equilibrium and market efficiency: CAPM and APT
- p. Types of Stocks and bonds available in markets
- q. Valuation techniques used to evaluate stocks and bonds
- r. Calculation of cost of equity using dividend growth model

5. **Recommended Books**

- a. Executive Finance and Strategy: How to understand and use financial information to set strategic goals by Ralph Tiffin. Kogan Page Limited. 2014
- b. Strategic Public Finance by Stephen J. Bailey. Palgrave Macmillan. 2003