



Fermanian School of Business

FIN-4016-1

Student Managed Investment Fund

1 Credit hour (Credit/No-Credit)

Fall 2026

Meetings: Tuesday (see schedule)	Professor: Jason Hightower, CFA
Meeting time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm	E-mail: jhightow@pointloma.edu
Meeting room: FSB-103	Office location: FSB 131
	Office Hours: T/W/Th by appointment

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Fermanian School of Business Mission

Character – Professionalism – Excellence – Relationships – Commitment – Innovation

As members of a vital Christian community, we strive to provide high quality business programs that equip students to make a positive impact in their workplace and community by connecting purpose to practice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with the opportunity to apply investment concepts in practice by managing an investment account with real capital. Students will conduct market research, evaluate economic and industry trends, and make portfolio management decisions based on their analysis. Emphasis is placed on security selection, diversification, risk management, and performance evaluation. The course also explores the psychology and mechanics of investment decision-making, highlighting how behavioral factors influence financial markets.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Estimate the intrinsic value of securities using fundamental value drivers and appropriate valuation models. (PLO 2, C1 & C2)
2. Analyze a company as an investment using its business model, competitive position, industry dynamics, growth prospects, cost and capital structure, and company-specific risks. (PLO 2 & C1)
3. Manage an investment portfolio using diversification, position sizing, benchmarking, performance evaluation, opportunity cost, risk management, and behavioral considerations. (PLO C1)

4. Defend an investment recommendation using evidence-based analysis and professional communication in a team decision-making environment. (PLO 3, 5 & C1)

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 1-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Tentative Schedule (subject to change as needed - Check your PLNU e-mail and Canvas account daily):

Fund meetings (class sessions) will be held from 4:30pm – 6:00pm on the following Tuesdays:

- 9/1/26
- 9/15/26
- 9/29/26
- 10/13/26
- 10/27/26
- 11/10/26
- 12/1/26

REQUIRED TEXT AND STUDY RESOURCES

Text: There is no required textbook for this course.

Resources: Personal Computer with Microsoft Excel (Google Sheets and Apple Numbers CANNOT be substituted for Excel as they do not have the required functionality).

CLASS ACTIVITIES (ASSESSMENT AND GRADING)

Assessment and Grading:

This course is graded as Credit/No-Credit. In order to receive a Credit grade, students must meet two criteria:

1. Be present, attentive, and participative at a minimum of five (5) fund meetings in their entirety.
2. Participate in at least one (1) investment pitch, with a partner, including submitting a substantive discounted cash flow (DCF) valuation model, presentation slide deck, and investment thesis memo to the professor at least 48 hours prior to your pitch.

CLASS POLICIES

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy: You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas and as a learning tool. However, overreliance on AI will reflect poorly on you, as truly original finance work requires your own forward-looking hypotheses and projections. If you have any doubts about using AI, please discuss your concerns with the professor.

Professionalism: Students are expected to hold the highest levels of professionalism including integrity and honesty, respectfulness, punctuality and mature leadership. Exemplary behavior is expected in the classroom.

Attendance and Participation Policy: Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 2 meetings they will not receive credit for this course.

Leaving early or arriving late for class sessions counts as a partial absence. For example, arriving late by 1-15 minutes will be treated as 1/3 absence. Additionally, PLNU counts all absences unexcused except for University sanctioned activities. All illnesses, emergencies, etc. (even with a doctor's note) are considered unexcused.

PLNU Academic Behavior Policy: Both faculty and students at Point Loma Nazarene University have the right to expect a safe and ordered environment for learning. Students are expected to take the initiative to learn and conduct themselves in a mature and civil manner in the classroom environment. Any student behavior that is disruptive or threatening is a serious affront to Point Loma Nazarene University as a learning community. Students who fail to adhere to these behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from class or further university sanctions. For a full definition of disruptive behavior, response procedures, and the appeal process, please consult the [Academic Behavior Policy](#) in the [University Catalog](#).

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy: Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Dropping the Course: It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of NC on the official transcript.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy: PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore,

planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC eligibility process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

PLNU Recording Notification: In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

Schedule and Other Changes: The information in this syllabus is subject to change. Any such changes will be announced in class and/or communicated via Canvas or email.

Canvas and Email: Assignments, announcements, changes to this syllabus and other communication from the instructor, from time to time, may be made via Canvas or email.

Mobile Phones and Other Mobile Devices: The use of mobile phones, including phone calls, texting or any other purposes, is not allowed in the classroom during class meetings or examinations. Please keep mobile phones turned-off and out of sight. The classroom use of tablets and PC's should only be for class-related work and not for social media or any other non-class purposes.

FERPA Policy: In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by distributing all grades and papers individually. Also, in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

Final Examination Policy: There is no final exam in this course.

PLNU Copyright Policy: Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

<https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures>