

New OU course gives students portfolio management experience with \$2 million Kresge fund

9 enrolled in class; advisory board signs off on student investment recommendations

The Kresge Foundation says many students looking for portfolio management experience go to New York City for first job. This course is an effort to help retain local talent.

By [Kirk Pinho](#)

Oakland University students taking a 400-level business course this semester are getting hands-on experience in investment portfolio management and evaluation and stock selection with a \$2 million student-managed investment fund from the Troy-based **Kresge Foundation**.

The nine students enrolled in the Managing Investment Funds course, taught by Ranadeb Chaudhuri, assistant professor of finance at OU, receive instruction in security analysis techniques and use **Bloomberg's** online trading system to study and analyze equities, stock market indices, fixed-income securities, currencies, commodities, futures and foreign exchange rates.

This is the first time the course is being offered.

The course is designed to give students real-world experience in investment management in an effort to keep locally trained talent in the region because many of them leave upon graduation, said Rob Manilla, vice president and CIO of the Kresge Foundation, from whose \$3.5 billion investment portfolio the \$2 million investment fund is taken.

"The curriculum and hands-on experience offered in this class will better prepare OU graduates for the job market," he said in a statement. "And by exposing students to a broader range of investment roles, we are optimistic that we will be able to retain our locally trained talent — who typically head to New York City for their first professional experience — to explore and fill the many rewarding job opportunities that exist within metro Detroit's public, private and philanthropic sectors."

They will make investment recommendations to a class advisory board of professionals comprised of:

- Brian Edgar, senior vice president of investments for **UBS Financial Services**;
- Nick Krasnokut, investment officer for Kresge;
- John Lesser, president of **Plante Moran Financial Advisors**;
- Chris Liparoto, senior vice president of wealth management for **Merrill Lynch Wealth Management**;
- Jason Raznick, CEO of **Benzinga**;
- Phil Serra, first vice president of investments for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

The board will review, challenge and fine-tune the recommended investment portfolio, with a Kresge employee making the official stock transactions, according to a press release.