

**Instructions for StockTrak Project – Part I (*beginning of semester*)**  
**FIN 3303-Financial Markets**  
**Dr. Whyte**

This assignment requires the use of StockTrak, a market simulation tournament that allows you to trade stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments using live data used by actual financial market participants. The parameters of your assignment are as follows:

***Learning objective:*** The learning objective of this assignment is to help you acquire basic critical thinking skills associated with investing, including conducting financial research and understanding how the client's profile influences your investment choices.

***Your role:*** Financial Planner

***Your client:*** You have been hired as a Financial Planner by two different clients:

- A 22-25 year student who has just graduated from UCF but has an inheritance of \$500,000 to invest for herself. She was a Physics major and does not have much understanding of financial markets and instruments.
- A 55 year old approaching retirement who has \$500,000 to invest. He is an Engineer who has a limited understanding of financial markets and instruments.

Note that \$500,000 is the maximum you have to invest on each client's behalf. You must invest in each of the different investments/instruments identified in the spreadsheet attached to this assignment. However, the amount invested in each category is totally at your discretion. You may also choose to hold some of your client's money in the form of cash. You will need to make sure that you stay within the \$500,000 limit recognizing for, example, that buying just 1 bond will cost close to \$1,000 (more if a premium bond, less if a discount bond). Thus, if you buy 500 bonds you will exceed your limit.

***Your deliverable:*** A spreadsheet (format included with assignment) showing your investment choices and a brief explanation for each choice. Your explanations must be stated in a form that is easily understood by your client. Your assignment must conform to the EXCEL template. You should print your final report in landscape format and it should be no more than 2 pages. I have listed one example of each type of transaction on the template. These are just examples. Please use your own examples and provide your own rationale for choosing the particular security/instrument. **You must attach a print out of your StockTrak transaction history to your final report.** Click on transaction history on the (right hand menu).

If you made other transactions above and beyond those required for this assignment, you will need to highlight the relevant transactions from the report that are related to the project. **If you do not attach your transaction history, you will NOT receive credit.**

**Instructions for StockTrak Project – Part II (end of semester)**  
**FIN 3303-Financial Markets**  
**Dr. Whyte**

**Learning objective:** The learning objective of this assignment is to help you acquire basic critical thinking skills associated with investing including analyzing the performance of your investments and writing a report that a naïve investor can understand.

**Your role:** Financial Planner

**Your client:** You were hired as a Financial Planner by two different clients at the beginning of the semester:

- A 22-25 year student who has just graduate from UCF but has an inheritance of \$500,000 to invest for herself. She was Physics major and does not have much understanding of financial markets and instruments.
- A 55 year old approaching retirement who has \$500,000 to invest. He is an Engineer who has a limited understanding of financial markets and instruments.

**Your deliverable:** Your clients have now asked you to provide a detailed report explaining the performance of their portfolio. Your report must include (1) a spreadsheet (format included with assignment) showing your investment gains/losses for each investment, (2) a typed document (no more than 3 pages, double spaced) identifying the best and worst performing investments and explaining the underlying reasons for the performance in a manner that your client can understand. Your discussion must include a discussion of specific events affecting the company (e.g. new product launch, change in strategy) or financial markets in general, as well as a discussion of macroeconomic forces (e.g. the phases of the business cycle, low interest rates, high unemployment) that may have affected performance. You must also recommend whether the client should continue to hold these 2 investments. **You must attach your transaction history to this assignment. If you do not attach your transaction history you will NOT receive credit.**