# MSFA AY 2016-2017 Assessment

## *Phase 1: Assessment Plan*

## Learning Outcome assessed:

## 2-2 Integration

Fixed Income Valuation: Analyze fixed income investments using the characteristics of bonds and factors that influence bond yields. Develop strategies for fixed income portfolios.

## Assessment Method:

Exam Question

## Targeted performance, based on rubrics:

80% of students meet or exceed expectations

## Evaluation Process:

Exam question with open-ended question.

## Rubric:

Test key

## Course where learning outcome was assessed:

MSFA 732-32, Derivatives II, 48 students

## Evaluator(s):

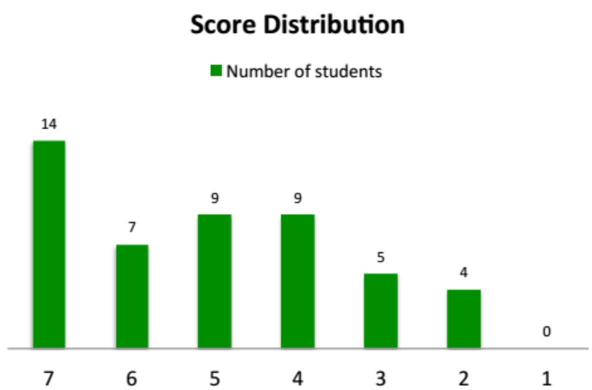
Ivan Asensio

## *Phase 2: Results Assessment and Planned Action*

## Results:

Results

- Overall assessment: Satisfactory
- Out of 7 points possible, average score was 5.08 and standard deviation was 1.65.
- 14 out of 48 total received a perfect score of 7
- 5 out of 48 received a low score was 2




Target goal is 75% of student will perform at a level of 5/7 or better.

For this class we had 30/48 = 62.5%.

This class is on the cusp of attaining the goal for the course as 39/48 (81%) students attained 4/7 or better. So close to achieving goal.

## Suggested Action:

It is clear that students need to improve by a small amount to attain the program's target percentage in proficiency. The instructor will provide additional online study materials and additional practice questions on assignments to help the students on the margin improve.

We note that a glance at the questions on which these results are based shows that the questions are quite challenging and so we are not unhappy with the results achieved.

## *Phase 3: Closing the Loop*

In future assessment cycles we may break out the LOS into “basic” vs. “advanced” skills in this LOS. This will allow us a better assessment of how students are mastering the skills in this LOS.

## Part II – Question 1

*The 5-year credit default swap (CDS) written on the sovereign debt issued by the government of India is currently trading at 150 bps per annum, paid semi-annually in USD. The bonds themselves are yielding 650 bps per annum (i.e. 5-year Indian rupee-denominated bonds issued by the government of India). A US-based hedge fund manager is very bullish on the economy of India, as he envisions that much-needed financial and regulatory reforms will work to stimulate output without sparking inflation pressures.*

a. *Clearly articulate the trade he can execute involving CDS contracts based on his views about the economy of India. Map out cash flows and describe total return of the strategy at the end of the 5-year period assuming no counter party default. (3pt)*
b. *Why is there a 500 bps difference between the CDS spread and the bond-yields? What factors account for this difference? (3pt)*
c. *Would you recommend buying the bonds instead of executing the CDS trade given the large differential? Explain why or why not. (1pt)*

---