Martin Widdicks is a senior lecturer in the Department of Finance. He joined the faculty in 2011. Before joining Illinois, he had held faculty positions at Lancaster University and the University of Manchester. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a PhD in mathematical finance, both from the University of Manchester. He serves as the director of the MS Finance program.

Widdicks is an expert in the area of the mathematics of derivative pricing, with emphasis on numerical techniques. He teaches what are widely considered some of the most technically demanding courses in the graduate curriculum of the Department of Finance. He has worked hard to make what could be dry topics into courses the students find interesting and understandable. He enables students to put the techniques they learn into practice in realistic settings, while also instilling in them an understanding of the limitations of the techniques. In doing so, he has managed to make the material accessible to students who come in with varying levels of preparation. His instruction combines theoretical rigor, empirical relevance, and practical applications in an engaging format.

Widdicks regularly appears on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students.” Students in his courses describe him as very knowledgeable about the subject matter, an excellent communicator of his knowledge and expertise to students, and a caring instructor. He approaches his office hours as mini tutorial sessions. The challenging material often brings long lines of students to his office, and he works with them at length to make sure they understand the material.