Master of Arts in Economics

Program Director

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Program Description

The Master of Arts in economics program is designed to provide students with a background in applied economics which would lead to professional employment in business, government, or education. Special emphasis is placed on the use of data analysis to investigate public policy issues and business decisions. Supplemented by upper-level courses in mathematics, the program can also help prepare students for doctoral study in economics or related fields. Through choosing the thesis option, a well-prepared student may complete the master's degree in a single academic year by taking 12 semester hours in both the fall and the spring semesters and completing the thesis during the summer.

Faculty Research Interests

Ou Hu, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Financial markets; international finance; asset pricing

Tomi Ovaska, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Economics of happiness; distribution modes of foreign aid; economic development in transition economies

Joseph Palardy, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Macroeconomics; time series econometrics

Tod Porter, Ph.D., Professor and Chair  
Labor markets; school finance; computer-aided instruction

Teresa Riley, Ph.D., Professor  
Labor economics; health care financing; economics education

Albert (A.J.) Sumell, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Urban, housing, and environmental economics

Yogesh Uppal, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Applied microeconomics; applied econometrics; public economics

Ebenge Usip, Ph.D., Professor  
Econometrics; time series analysis and forecasting; mathematical economics

Yaqin Wang, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Futures markets; behavioral finance

Admission Requirements

In addition to the School of Graduate Studies and Research admission requirements, applicants must have completed at least one course in each of the following areas: principles of microeconomics, principles of macroeconomics, statistics, and calculus. Students who do not meet the requirements may be admitted on a provisional basis.
Nonthesis Option

Students must complete 30 semester hours of graduate credit with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the M.A. in economics. The requirements for the degree include the following core courses plus three electives that account for a total of nine semester hours.

The core courses in the program include the following:

- ECON 6904  Quantitative Methods  3 s.h.
- ECON 6912  Microeconomic Theory  3 s.h.
- ECON 6922  Macroeconomic Theory  3 s.h.
- ECON 6939  The Economics of Financial Markets and Institutions  3 s.h.
- ECON 6945  Public Finance  3 s.h.
- ECON 6976  Econometrics  3 s.h.
- ECON 6998  Research Seminar  3 s.h.

The paper produced in the research seminar will be reviewed by a committee of three graduate faculty from the Department. Electives are 6900-level graduate courses in the Department that are included in the M.A. program. One elective may be either a 5800-level economics swing course or a graduate-level course taught outside the Department that has been approved by the graduate coordinator.

Thesis Option

A thesis may be substituted for the research seminar and a three-semester-hour elective. The thesis, which will be a maximum of six semester hours of credit, must be submitted according to the general requirements of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. The student will defend the thesis in an oral examination before a committee of three or more faculty members of the department. Students wishing to write a thesis must submit a thesis proposal and the names of three faculty members who are willing to serve on a thesis committee to the graduate coordinator prior to registering for thesis credit hours.

Combined Bachelors/Masters Program

Undergraduate students can apply for admission into the combined Bachelors/Masters program for the MA in Economics after completing 78 semester hours with a GPA of 3.3 or higher. After being admitted to the program students can take a maximum of 9 semester hours of graduate coursework that can count both towards a bachelors degree and a masters degree from the Department of Economics. Students admitted into the program can take any of the courses listed below after having met the following prerequisites.

- ECON 6904 – A grade of B or A in ECON 3790, and a grade of B or A in MATH 1552 or 1570 or 1571

- ECON 6912 – A grade of B or A in ECON 3710, and a grade of B or A in MATH 1552 or 1570 or 1571; or A grades in ECON 2610, MATH 1571, and 1572 (in this case ECON 6912 is taken in place of ECON 3710)

- ECON 6922 – A grade of B or A in ECON 3712, and a grade of B or A in MATH 1552 or 1570 or 1571; or A grades in ECON 2630, MATH 1571, and 1572 (in this case ECON 6922 is taken in place of ECON 3712)

- ECON 6939 – A grade of B or A in ECON 3712, and a grade of B or A in MATH 1552 or 1570 or 1571

- ECON 6945 – A grade of B or A in ECON 6912

- ECON 6976 – A grade of B or A in ECON 6904; or a grade of A in ECON 3790 or STAT 3743, and a grade of A in MATH 1552 or 1570 or 1571