Master of Arts in Economics

The Department of Economics presents a curriculum leading to the Master of Arts (MA) degree. Courses of study allow emphasis in one of three tracks: Economic Analysis, Financial Economics, or International Economics. All three tracks seek to provide students with analytical skills useful in decision making and a broader understanding of the overall economic environment. Options provide as much flexibility as is compatible with the student’s background and career interests.

The Economic Analysis sub-specialty is particularly suitable for students who wish to continue their studies in economics at the doctoral level. Financial Economics includes course work in financial management and areas related to money and capital markets, monetary policy, and financial and monetary institutions. It is particularly suited to those seeking employment in the financial sector. International economics is geared to those with an interest in the international economy, both from a business and policy perspective.

Financial Aid

The Department of Economics offers a limited number of graduate assistantships on a competitive basis. The assistantships provide a stipend, eligibility for waiver of non-resident tuition fees and student health insurance for qualified students.

All applicants will be considered for assistantships; there is no formal application process or form. Decisions on assistantships for an upcoming academic year are typically made in May of the preceding year.

Admission Requirements

1. Academic four-year undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
2. Admission based primarily on grade point average (GPA) and background in economics.
3. Admission to full standing requires a GPA of 2.750 on a 4.000 scale for the last 60 credit hours of coursework, and for all courses in economics and required mathematics.
4. Must have completed principles of macro- and microeconomics, plus one course in statistics and one in calculus. Additionally, students must have completed (or complete within one year of admission) intermediate level macro- and microeconomics. A minimum grade of C+ (2.300) or better is required for the two intermediate level classes as well as statistics and calculus.
5. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required.
6. Non-native speakers of English must have received 79 on the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or have an overall band score of 6.5 on the IELTS, or have a score of 58 on the PTE-Academic, or have attended another U.S. university as a full-time student enrolled in academic courses for a minimum of one year, or have earned a bachelor’s degree (or higher) from a U.S. university within two years of their proposed semester of admission.

Degree Requirements

All three tracks require either a thesis (30 credit hours) or an independent research project and an additional course in the student’s area of interest (33 credit hours). The Master of Arts (MA) degree in Economics is typically completed in four semesters, although it is not unusual for students without prerequisites to finish in three semesters.

The graduate coordinator or the department chairperson must approve the candidate’s
plan of study. All plans of study must include at least 18 hours of graduate level courses in economics or courses approved by the graduate coordinator. Courses identified as background fundamentals of the MBA program and other courses designated by the economics department may not be included in the hours required for the degree.

**Core Courses – All Tracks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 702, Math. Methods in Econ</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 731, Applied Econometrics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 801, Macroeconomic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 802, Microeconomic Analysis or ECON 804, Managerial Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 803, Analysis of Business Conditions and Forecasting or ECON 831 Applied Econometrics II</td>
<td>3</td>
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In all tracks, at least 70 percent of credit hours must be at the 700-800 level (remaining hours may be at the 500-600 level).

**Economics Analysis Track**

Five additional courses in economics or related areas and a 3 hour research project (18 credit hours) or four additional courses in economics or related areas and 3 hours of thesis (15 credit hours).

**Financial Economics Track**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIN 850, Managerial Finance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 740, Monetary Economics &amp; Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Three additional courses in finance or related economics classes and a 3 hour research project (12 credit hours) or two additional courses in economics or finance that are track related and 3 hours of thesis (9 credit hours).

**International Economics Track**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 672, Intl. Econ &amp; Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 674/FIN 625, Intl. Finance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 870, Intl. Finance &amp; Investment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two economics/international-related courses (such as the MBA course, International Business & Competitiveness) and a 3-hour research project (9 credit hours) or one economics/ international course and 3 hours of thesis (6 credit hours).

**Faculty**

M. Busch, ABD, Michigan State University, Econometrics.


J. Clark, PhD, Northwestern University, 1976. Economic Education.

P. Hersch, PhD, Ohio State University, 1982. Applied Microeconomics.

D. Jung, PhD, Michigan State University, 2013. Monetary Economics.


M. Perline, PhD, Ohio State University, 1965. Sports Economics, Labor Economics.

**For More Information**

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