

Requirements for Master's and Doctoral Program

The Master's Program

Admission to the MA program is based on undergraduate academic performance and on scores from the general portion of the GRE. The student may choose either the thesis or non-thesis option.

The **non-thesis option** requires thirty hours of coursework at the 400 level or above. Of these, at least 24 hours (at least 18 hours of which are in economics) must be at the 500 level or above. Of the minimum of 18 hours in economics at the 500 level or above, 12 hours must consist of 511, 512 and 513, 514. Of the 30 hours, a maximum of nine hours in courses approved by the department may be taken in fields other than economics. Students electing the non-thesis option are required to pass the departmental qualifying examination in either microeconomics or macroeconomics.

The **thesis option** requires thirty hours of coursework at the 400 level or above, including at least 24 hours at the 500 level or above, six hours of which may be thesis hours. Of the remaining 18 hours at the 500 level or above, at least 15 hours must be in economics and must include 511, 512, 513, and 514. A maximum of six hours may be in an area other than economics.

The Doctoral Program

Admission to the PhD program is based on promise of outstanding scholarship as demonstrated by previous academic performance, by scores achieved on the general portion of the GRE, and by recommendations.

The program requires a minimum of 48 hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree or 24 hours beyond the master's degree, at least 24 hours of 600 Doctoral Research and Dissertation, and successful completion of the following:

Economic Theory: Microeconomic theory and macroeconomic theory by a qualifying exam. Students must sit for these examinations in the early summer immediately following their first year of study. To sit for the examinations, students must first complete the relevant coursework in the core (511, 512, 513, 514) or petition the graduate committee for exemption from these courses. Students who fail one or both of these qualifying examinations will have a second opportunity to pass them in late summer before the beginning of the second year in the program.

Quantitative Methods: Completion of 581 with a grade of B or better and completion of 582 and 583 with a GPA of 3.0 or better, or by qualifying examination.

Fields of Specialization: Students are required to demonstrate competence in at least two fields of specialization in economics. Specifically, students must earn grades of B or better in both courses within each of the two fields, earn a 3.25 GPA within each of the two fields, and submit a satisfactory research paper in one field by August 1 of the summer following the third year of study. Research papers will be evaluated by a committee of faculty members with expertise in each field. Students whose papers are not deemed to be satisfactory must submit a suitable revision by December 1 of the same year.

Available Fields and Required Courses:

Environmental and Natural Resources - 677, 678

Industrial Organization and Public Policy - 631, 632

International Economics - 621, 622

Public Finance - 671, 672

Electives: Students are required to complete with a grade of B or better two elective courses in economics at the 500 level or above, outside the core subject areas and outside the two chosen fields of specialization. Students must also complete a sufficient number of graduate electives to bring their total hours of coursework to 48 hours beyond the bachelor's degree or 24 hours beyond the master's.

Dissertation: Students are required to complete a doctoral dissertation and to defend it successfully before the faculty. Students must also complete at least 24 hours of 600 (Dissertation), and students must continually register for 600 in all subsequent terms after the first hours of 600 are completed.