Graduate Programs
The department offers work leading to the Master of Science degree and
the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The graduate program in economics
prepares economists for academic careers as well as research and
administrative positions in business and government agencies.

Graduate fields of specialization include regional and urban economics,
international economics and economic development. In addition,
graduate courses are offered in energy economics and econometrics.

The initial admission to a graduate program is determined by the
graduate studies committee on the basis of the applicant’s previous
academic record; verbal, quantitative and analytical scores of the
Graduate Record Examination and three letters of recommendation.

The Master of Science Degree
Admission to the master’s program in economics is granted to college
graduates with superior academic records. Students must have an
undergraduate economics degree, be well grounded in economic theory,
and have an excellent mathematical background. A total of 30-33
graduate credit hours are required to earn an MS in economics.

Each graduate student is guided in the preparation of a plan of study
by the graduate advisor. At the master’s level, there are two options.
One provides the student with a well-rounded program that does not
specialize in a particular area of economics. The second option is applied
economics, which stresses communication skills, quantitative analysis
and coursework from other disciplines related to a career objective.
The candidate for the master’s degree is required to show competence
in basic economic theory and statistical methods, together with an
understanding of the fundamental institutional operations of the United
States economy.

A research report or thesis is required of all students who take only the
MS degree. A foreign language is not required.

Our MS in Economics is not subject to AACSB accreditation because
Economics programs are often taught in either business colleges or arts
and sciences colleges.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree
Admission to the doctoral program in economics is granted to college
graduates who have superior academic records. A total of 64 graduate
credit hours are required to earn a PhD in economics.

The PhD program stresses balanced preparation in economic theory,
mathematics and statistics, as well as competence in subject-area
fields of specialization. The student is required to pass qualifying
examinations in the theory core and in one field of specialization. (The
theory core is not considered a field of specialization.) Competence must
be demonstrated in a second field of specialization through coursework.
The graduate advisor helps the student develop a plan of study to achieve
these objectives. A foreign language is not required.

A dissertation based upon original research is required of the candidate
for a PhD degree in economics. The final oral examination is the
dissertation defense.

Our PhD in Economics is not subject to AACSB accreditation because
many Economics programs reside and are administered in colleges of
arts and sciences.