ECONOMICS

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 [1]

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.

[1] 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 [1]

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.

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