

Fifth Year MA Program in Economics

The Fifth Year MA Program allows MU undergraduates who qualify to obtain a Masters of Arts degree in economics with only one additional year of study beyond the BA. A student is normally accepted into the program during his or her junior year. During the senior year, in addition to courses required for the BA, the student enrolls in 6 hours of courses to be counted for graduate credit. In the following year, the student completes requirements for the MA degree while enrolled in the MU Economics Department graduate program.

The MA Degree in Economics

The MA is an appropriate degree to obtain a position as a professional economist or to pursue further studies at the Ph.D. level. It may also provide valuable background for those intending to pursue another professional degree, e.g., law, journalism, business.

Program Requirements

Students in the program need not have an undergraduate major in economics but must meet the following requirements:

1. 90 credit hours toward the BA or BS completed by the end of the junior year.
2. Overall GPA of at least 3.0 at the time of admission to the program.
3. An undergraduate program to include Economics 4351 and 4353, preferably taken prior to the senior year, and Economics 4370 and 4371, usually taken in the senior year.

Program Procedures

Students are normally admitted into the program in the second semester of their junior year. At this time, the student and Fifth Year Program advisor establish a firm program of course work for the senior year and a tentative outline for the following year. During the senior year, the student completes his or her undergraduate program, which must include six hours of coursework taken for graduate credit beyond the 120 hours required for the bachelor's degree.

During the senior year, students take the Graduate Record Examination and complete application for admission into the MU Economics graduate program. In the following year, they complete requirements for the MA degree, which includes 24 hours of course work and completion of an MA research paper.

Financial Aid

During their undergraduate senior year, students in the Fifth Year MA Program are given first consideration among undergraduates for teaching assistantships and grader awards. In the graduate year, most students can expect to receive teaching assistantships.