

MASTER'S DEGREE

Students with a bachelor's degree in any field may apply for admission into the master's program. Applicants are admitted on the basis of an undergraduate record, with particular emphasis on performance in economics, mathematics, and statistics courses, performance on the GRE, and letters of recommendation. Although the graduate program assumes mathematical background through calculus (normally two or three semesters of college calculus), as well as undergraduate economics training, applicants with more limited backgrounds may be accepted into the program. Such individuals will be assigned support course work, some or all of which may be counted toward fulfilling requirements.

To fulfill requirements for the MA degree, a candidate must complete a 30-hour approved program of study. This includes 15 credit hours of core courses: 7370 (mathematical economics), 8451 (microeconomics), 8453 (macroeconomics), 8472 and either 9473, 9475, or 9476 (econometric methods). In addition, students must enroll in two semesters of 8413 (MA research workshop) and one credit hour of 8085 or 8090 for completion of the student's major research paper. Of the remaining 12 elective hours, six must be chosen from among 8000 or 9000-level courses in the Department of Economics (except 8085, 8090, 8418, 9085, 9090, 9423 or 9480), with one of these courses corresponding to the area of the student's major research paper.

Students are required to write a major research paper and to defend it at a seminar open to all faculty and students. This presentation is the capstone of the 8085/8090 credit required of all MA students. Although the paper may be written in conjunction with a graduate course, it is expected to be considerably more substantial than the usual term paper. The student may choose to designate the paper as an MA thesis, or as a paper in lieu of a thesis. In either case, up to three hours of elective credit may be earned for research on the paper, with registration in 8090 for students choosing the thesis option, and 8085 for those choosing the non-thesis option.

As a final option, the student can earn an MA while working toward a Ph.D. by passing the comprehensive examinations provided the MA course requirements have been satisfied.

MA SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY

Fall Semester Year 1

Econ 7370: Intro to Quantitative Economics
Econ 8451: Advanced Microeconomic Theory I
Elective or Econ 8453: Advanced
Macroeconomic Theory I

Winter Semester Year 1

Econ 8472: Econometric Methods I
Elective
Elective

Fall Semester Year 2

Econ 9473: Econometric Methods II
-or- Econ 9475: Applied Microeconometrics
-or- Econ 9476: Applied Time Series Analysis
Elective or Econ 8453: Advanced
Macroeconomic Theory I
Econ 8413: Research Workshop I

Winter Semester Year 2

Econ 8413: Research Workshop I
Econ 8085: Problems
-or- Econ 8090: Research
Elective

