Economics and Statistics, MS

Department: Applied Economics Department; Mathematics and Statistics Department
College: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; College of Science

Overview

About This Degree

The master's degree in economics and statistics is a flexible, versatile degree that can help students meet two separate career goals. For students with strong quantitative interests in economics, this program consists of rigorous, doctoral-level coursework that serves as excellent preparation for prestigious PhD programs in economics. Students who are more interested in applied mathematics and statistics can pursue this degree and be qualified for careers as statistical analysts for a variety of organizations.

The program is focused both on gaining extensive quantitative economics knowledge and applying statistics skills to social science. The first year of coursework consists of high-level economics coursework and two prerequisite statistics courses. The second year is extremely customizable; students can choose from a wide variety of graduate-level courses in statistics and in economics, creating their own schedule based on their research or career interests.

Career Options

The majority of students interested in pursuing further education or work in economics choose to go on to PhD programs. Students can also graduate with the master's degree and pursue the following careers:

- Statistical analyst for all levels of government agencies
- Quantitative analyst for consulting firms

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

Students with bachelor's degrees in economics are more likely to be accepted, however, it is not required. Viable candidates should have taken at least intermediate courses in microeconomic theory, economics mathematics, and econometrics.

Application Requirements:

- Complete the online application
- Pay the $55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on the GRE
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following application deadline for students wishing to receive funding:

- Fall semester – March 1

The deadline for admission without funding is:

- Fall semester – June 30

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the MS by pursuing one of two options:

- In the **Plan A** option, students complete graduate-level coursework and must write a thesis.
- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

Financial Assistance

The department offers a limited amount of competitive research assistantships, which may qualify out-of-state students for tuition awards. As the availability of these assistantships varies year to year, students should check with the department for more information.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including fellowships, scholarships, and travel support. Additionally, students may be eligible for subsidized health insurance through qualifying assistantships.

Program Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Master of Science**.

Although it is not required, some students in this program choose to participate in an internship. Recently, students have found internships at statewide environmental advocacy groups, municipal economic development agencies, and nationally recognized macroeconomic consulting firms.

Contact

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

American Statistical Association: ASA is the largest organization of mathematicians in industry and academe. The ASA supports excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare.

Association of Environmental Resource Economists: AERE is a professional association for economists working in the environmental and natural resources fields. It serves as a means for exchanging ideas, stimulating research, and promoting graduate training in environmental and resource economics.

Biometric Society: ENAR and WNAR (the eastern and western North American regions) is an association of statisticians working on problems in statistics with biological, agricultural, and medical applications. The society's goal is to advance biological and life science through the development of quantitative theories and the application, development, and dissemination of effective mathematical and statistical techniques.

Institute of Mathematical Statistics: IMS is an organization mainly for research statisticians working in academe. The IMS is an international professional and scholarly society devoted to the development, dissemination, and application of statistics and probability. The institute currently has about 4,500 members in all parts of the world.

Western Economic Association International: Founded in 1922, the Western Economic Association International is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to encouraging and communicating economic research and analysis. The association's principal activities include publishing two refereed quarterly journals and staging scholarly conferences that are forums for current economic research.