

Applied Economics, MS, MAE

Specialization(s): Natural Resource Economics; Regional Economic Development; Agricultural Economics

Department: Applied Economics Department

College: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The master's degree in applied economics is a preparatory degree for students wishing to do applied work in areas where economics is the focus of the career. This is an applied degree as opposed to a research degree, meaning students receive the education necessary to enter the workforce in economic programs, or work as consultants in government areas, nonprofits, and private sectors.

Career Options

This degree prepares students for positions in:

- Industry
- Private consulting firms
- Regional and national policy-making agencies
- Private, not-for-profit organizations
- Community/regional economic planning and development agencies

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

Prerequisite course work for all Masters Degree programs in APEC:

B.S./B.A. in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Applied Economics, Economics, Environmental/Natural Resource Economics, or a closely related degree.

Or at a minimum evidence of the following coursework:

- Microeconomic principles
- Calculus
- Basic Statistics
- Intermediate/Managerial Microeconomics or comparable course

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 – January 31

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. Students going through the Peace Corps Master's International Program must choose plan A or B:

- In the **Plan A** option, students complete graduate-level coursework and must write a thesis for their degrees.
- 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.

Students pursuing the MAE are not required to write a thesis or research paper. The degree requires only course work.

Financial Assistance

The department offers a limited amount of competitive [research assistantships](#) with a [tuition award](#) for out-of-state students. As the availability of these assistantships varies from 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.

For students pursuing the MAE, the department does not offer any research assistantships or tuition awards. Students may be eligible for other funding opportunities, including fellowships and scholarships.

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Science**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Applied Economics**.

Although it is not required, many 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

Advisor(s)

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

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.

Labs, Centers, Research

Center for Integrated BioSystems: The CIB leads a progressive, interdisciplinary effort in research, core services, and education serving agriculture and life sciences. The CIB is where the first hybrid animal, a mule, was cloned, and was named one of “30 Awesome College Labs” by Popular Science magazine. The CIB has a research program with several active projects in diverse areas of life science that encompass plant, animal, and microbe functional genomics.

Utah Agricultural Experiment Station: The UAES is part of a network of researchers and facilities at the nation’s land-grant universities and is committed to improving agriculture and managing natural resources for the people of Utah. At research facilities on the USU campus and throughout the state, UAES supports hundreds of research projects that promote agriculture and human nutrition and enhance the quality of rural life.