

Finance and Economics

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The Department of Finance and Economics offers the following graduate degrees through the college of Business:

- Master of Arts in Economics
- Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance
- Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Economics

The department also participates in the interdisciplinary Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. See the College of Business Administration section of this publication for MBA and PhD information.

Master of Arts in Economics

The Master of Arts in Economics program provides training in economic science to prepare graduates for professional positions in business, government, and education. Students receive training in the academic and applied skills necessary to establish and maintain a successful career or to prepare for further graduate work in economics or related fields.

Admission Criteria

An applicant must meet all University graduate admission requirements and achieve acceptable scores on each major section of the GRE (verbal, quantitative, and analytical). For full admission to the program, the student must have previously completed intermediate microeconomics and intermediate macroeconomics or otherwise demonstrate a thorough understanding of basic economic theory and an ability to perform graduate-level work in economics. Students from all undergraduate majors are invited to apply; however, it is highly desirable for prospective students to have completed additional economics, statistics, and mathematics courses before enrolling in the M.A. program. We admit students every other year; we are scheduled to admit new students for Fall 2015 and subsequent odd-numbered years.

Provisional Admission

The student who has not fully met the requirements stipulated by the University and the department for admission to graduate study may be granted admission as a degree-seeking graduate student with provisional status. The student must have as his or her initial objective advancement to regular status.

A provisional student must receive a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate-level courses on the program of study taken at Mississippi State University (courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement) in order to achieve regular status. If a 3.00 is not attained, the provisional student will be dismissed from graduate study. While in the provisional status, a student is not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.

Academic Performance

A grade of C or better is required on all undergraduate prerequisite courses. A student in any graduate degree program in the College of Business may not continue in the program with grades below B in more than 6 hours of **core** graduate coursework after admission to the program, regardless of the overall average. Thus, any program is terminated automatically when a seventh credit hour below B is recorded on **core** graduate coursework.

Ph.D. in Applied Economics

The Ph.D. in Applied Economics is a cooperative program offered by the graduate economics faculty of the College of Business and the Agricultural Economics faculty of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The program provides advanced training in economic science to prepare graduates for research and teaching positions in academia, government, and business.

Admission Criteria

To obtain regular admission status, an applicant must meet all University-wide graduate admission requirements and must achieve acceptable scores on each section of the GRE (verbal, quantitative, and analytical). An international applicant not holding a prior degree from a U.S. Institution must submit an indicator of English proficiency including one of the following:

1. A TOEFL score of 575 PBT (233 CBT or 84 iBT) or
2. An IELTS score of 7.0.

Other indicators of English proficiency may be considered on a case by case basis.

A student must have previously completed intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, differential and integral calculus, and one semester of statistics before beginning the required course sequence. Applications are reviewed in the spring semester for enrollment in the following fall semester. We admit students every other year; we are scheduled to admit new students for Fall 2015 and subsequent odd-numbered years. Graduate research and teaching assistantship decisions are usually made in March.

Provisional Admission

A student who initially obtains provisional admission status must receive a 3.00 GPA on all core courses taken during the first 9 hours of enrollment in the program to achieve regular admission status. Graduate courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.

Academic Performance

The student will be dismissed from the Ph.D. program in Applied Economics for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to complete core courses with a grade of C or higher
2. Making more than two grades below a B in courses on the program of study after admission to the program
3. Qualifying examination:
 - a. Failure to sit for this exam in the December after the third semester of coursework, unless granted a postponement due to extenuating circumstances
 - b. Failure to sit for a required retake of this exam at the first opportunity
 - c. Failure to obtain a passing grade on this exam

A student may appeal a dismissal decision by following normal appeal procedures.

Prerequisite and Core Courses

A student must have previously completed the following undergraduate courses (or the equivalents) with a grade of C or higher before beginning the required graduate course sequence:

MA 1613	Calculus for Business and Life Sciences I	3
MA 1623		
EC 3113	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
EC 3123	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	3

All students admitted to the program enroll in a rigorous core curriculum composed of courses in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory, econometrics, research methodology, and applied skills.

Master of Arts in Economics - Thesis

Core Courses

EC 8133	Econometrics I	3
EC 8163	Microeconomics I	3
EC 8173	Macroeconomics I	3

Additional Coursework

EC XXXX	Graduate-level coursework	15
EC 8000	Thesis Research/ Thesis in Economics	6

Total Hours		30
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Each M.A. student prepares a program of study with consultation from the graduate advisor and a program committee. The student may choose to take field courses from a wide variety of areas within economics.

Master of Arts in Economics - Non-Thesis

Core Courses

EC 8133	Econometrics I	3
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EC 8163	Microeconomics I	3
EC 8173	Macroeconomics I	3
Additional Coursework		
EC XXXX	Graduate-level coursework	21
Total Hours		30

Each M.A. student prepares a program of study with consultation from the graduate advisor and a program committee. The student may choose to take field courses from a wide variety of areas within economics.

Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Economics

Core Courses

EC 8163	Microeconomics I	3
EC 8263	Microeconomics II	3
EC 8173	Macroeconomics I	3
EC 8133	Econometrics I	3
EC 8145		3

Additional Coursework

EC XXXX	Graduate-level coursework	33
EC 9000	Dissertation Research/ Dissertation in Economics	20
Total Hours		68

Coursework can be completed in two and one-half years, excluding summers. All students enroll in a core curriculum composed of courses in microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory and econometrics. A preliminary qualifying examination over economic theory and quantitative skills is administered after completion of the third semester courses.

Guided by his or her interests and career goals, the student may specialize in a number of areas. Specific applied fields of specialization available include public economics, labor economics, industrial organization, and development economics. A field consists of a minimum of two approved graduate course electives in one area of specialization. Although the Department of Finance and Economics and the Department of Agricultural Economics teach the approved field courses, a student may, in consultation with his or her program of study committee, include courses from related disciplines such as business, public administration, mathematics, and statistics. Prior to entering the dissertation stage, the student must pass a written comprehensive examination over the applied skills courses.

The dissertation is completed under the supervision of a major professor and an advisory committee drawn from the graduate faculty in the Departments of Finance and Economics and Agricultural Economics. Completion of the degree requires the student to present and defend the dissertation work to the satisfaction of the graduate economics faculty.

Completion Requirements

The dissertation is completed under the supervision of the student's Graduate Committee. Completion of the degree requires students to present and defend their dissertation work to the satisfaction of the Graduate Economics Faculty.

Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration, Finance Concentration

See the Business Administration - Ph.D. Programs of Study (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2014-15/graduate/colleges-degree-programs/business/business-administration-phd/#programsofstudytext>) .