



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS

Department of Economics

Graduate Student Handbook

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Welcome

On behalf of the Department of Economics and the Master of Science in Economics program, we welcome you to Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas! We are located on West Campus on the 2nd floor of the Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Building (LASB) on the corner of Discovery Road and Research Parkway ([map](#)).

We are excited that you have chosen this program to continue your education. This handbook is designed to assist you with questions and to provide general policies and procedures to help you transition to the department and university.

You are welcome to visit with me at any time my door is open or make an appointment through the link below.

Please know that it is your responsibility to review the Texas A&M Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate>) to learn all degree requirements and whether you meet them.

I look forward to working with you during your study here in the MS ECON program.

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To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/margaret-lomas>.

History, Mission and Goals of the Department

Brief History of the Department

When it was established in 1876 as the state's land-grant institution, Texas A&M University had seven departments, one of which (The Department of Mental and Moral Philosophy) offered courses in economics. The School of Arts and Sciences was created in 1924, and in 1931 the M.S. in Economics was authorized as the first liberal arts graduate program. In 1965, the School of Arts and Sciences split into the Colleges of Science and of Liberal Arts. The Department of Economics was one of twelve departments in the College of Liberal Arts until 2022 when a reorganization of the Schools and Colleges were changed within the University. It is now one of 19 departments in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The Ph.D. degree in economics was approved in 1965. The number of students enrolled in the Ph.D. program has varied widely, reaching peak enrollments of over 100 students in the 1990's. The program has been purposefully down-sized during the past decade, and there will be 66 Ph.D. students enrolled in Fall 2016.

As is the case with many Ph.D.-granting departments, the M.S. program was lacking in focus as an effective terminal degree program. The department chose to put a moratorium on admissions to the terminal M.S. program in 2010. After careful review and reflection, the M.S. program was resurrected as a focused professional-style degree program with a concentration in financial economics and financial econometrics. The pilot class for the new program was admitted in Fall 2011.

Undergraduates may choose between a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Economics and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics. The vast majority of our majors, around 90 percent, select the B.S. option. The undergraduate economics major count has fluctuated widely over time. Following a steady period of decline from 2005-2009, the number of undergraduate majors in the department has risen rather dramatically over the period 2010- 2016.

Our last external program review was in 2009. At that time there were 82 Ph.D. students, 50 M.S. students, 370 undergraduate majors and 29 tenured/tenure track faculty. In the spring of 2022 we had 60 Ph.D. students, 131 M.S. students, 1,067 undergraduate majors and 42 tenured/tenure track and non-tenure track faculty.

The academic reputation of the Department rose markedly in the 1970s. By the early 1980's we were a top 25-30 department in the nation. At the time of the Department's last external program review, the Ph.D. program was ranked 42 overall and 21 among public universities by US News and World Report. The most recent US News and World Report (2023) shows the Department holding steady at number 38 overall and 26 among public universities. Our department is tied with the University of Arizona, University of California-Irvine, University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Southern California in those 2023 rankings.

Mission

The primary mission of the Department of Economics is to contribute to the creation and advancement of knowledge in our discipline and to disseminate that knowledge to other

scholars, to policymakers, and to civic leaders while at the same time providing our students with first-class challenging and engaging instruction at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The faculty and staff in the Department are also committed to providing valuable service to the University, to the State, to local, national, and global communities, and to our profession.

Goals

Since 1999, the vision and goals of Texas A&M University have been guided by the University's plan to become recognized as a top ten public institution by the year 2020. The plan which is titled Vision 2020 (<http://vision2020.tamu.edu/>), is built on a foundation of 12 imperatives. Prominent among these imperatives are goals of elevating the faculty to national prominence, improving graduate and undergraduate programs, and the increased globalization and diversification of the campus community.

The Economics Department goals are in direct alignment with these University Vision 2020 imperatives. In the departmental response to the most recent external review of our programs, a review that took place in the fall of 2009, the Department of Economics identified an overarching goal of becoming a top ten public university economics department in all dimensions: research, teaching, and service. The response document outlines a five year plan with objectives (1) to enhance the national research stature of the department (2) to improve the quality of PhD program (3) to increase the quality and size of our undergraduate program (4) to maintain a commitment to expanding the diversity of our department community. Although we did not explicitly highlight globalization in the 2010 response document, we see internationalization as a companion objective with all four of the stated goals, particularly in the discipline of economics, and an objective that we pursue as a natural derivative of our primary goals.

The University established a strategic plan for the period 2020 – 2025 titled Decade of Excellence. It is centered on increasing our global impact; positioning Texas A&M University as a best place to work, live, and learn; growing and supporting faculty, staff, and research; and enhancing and reinventing education for students. More information can be found at https://provost.tamu.edu/Provost_v19/media/Media/Assets/pdfs-strategicplan/StrategicPlan2020-2025.pdf.

The Liberal Arts Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2020 sets out goals to create knowledge through distinguished research, scholarship, or creative work in a wide variety of academic fields of study; employ exciting pedagogies to provide undergraduate and graduate students with the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for a lifetime of learning and productive personal, professional and civic lives; equip people with the awareness and practices that kindle welcoming and inclusive environments; and share the knowledge that fosters thought-provoking engagement within our institution and our committees. More information can be found in their website, <https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Strategic-Plan-2015-2020-Outline-Final-Revision-Fall-2015.pdf>.

Graduate Administration

Department Head	Assoc. Dept. Head for Ph.D.	Asst. Department Head	MS ECON Director
Dr. Steve Puller	Dr. Tatevik Sekhposyan	Mr. Kurt Felpel	Dr. Li Gan
LASB, Room 205	LASB, Room 206	LASB, Room 207	LASB, Room 216
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Dr. Steve Puller is the Department Head and Professor in the Department of Economics. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, and his fields of specialization are in Industrial Organization, Public Economics, Energy Economics, and Regulation.

Dr. Tatevik Sekhposyan is the Associate Department Head overseeing the PhD program. She earned her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and previously worked at the Bank of Canada prior to joining our department. Her specialization in applied macroeconomics includes developing methods for model evaluation in the context of time variation.

Mr. Kurt Felpel is the Assistant Department Head who oversees the undergraduate and PhD programs, supervises staff, meets with prospective high school students, coordinates class schedules and manages the department webpage.

Dr. Li Gan is a Professor of Economics and the Director of the Master of Science in Economics programs. He is also the Director of the Survey and Research Center for China Household Finance at the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China.

Master of Science in Economics Programs Staff

The Master of Science in Economics programs staff are available to provide students with academic and career development resources. They are located on the 2nd floor of the Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Building.

Assistant Program Director

Margaret Lomas Carpenter, M.Ed.
 LASB, Room 209
 979.845.7376
marge@tamu.edu

Ms. Lomas Carpenter manages the Master of Science in Economics programs. She works directly with the Master's students with admission, curriculum, course registration, degree plans, and readies them for graduation.

Program Coordinator II

Paula Verdegaal
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Ms. Verdegaal works with Master's students in career preparation, professional development, manages the internship for credit program and organizes recruiter presentations and other program events.

Department of Economics Staff

The administrative support staff are available to assist when needed. All are located on the 2nd floor of the Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Building.

Executive Assistant to the Department Head

Ms. Chelsi Bass '09
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Ms. Bass assists the department head in Economics. She is an HR liaison and is responsible for scheduling guests and visitors to the department, building access and event coordination. She coordinates class schedules and supervises student workers.

Program Manager – Behavioral Economics & Policy Program

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Mr. Cabrera oversees the daily administration, logistics and facilities of the BEP & ERL (Economic Research Lab).

Administrative Associate IV – Front Desk

Ms. Mary Owens
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Ms. Owens is the first person most people see and speak to when they enter the department office. She is responsible for checking in guests, ordering office supplies, textbooks for faculty, scheduling conference rooms, organizing faculty evaluations and syllabus information.

Administrative Coordinator

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Ms. Tenalio assists with PhD students, scholarship payments and PhD degree candidate letters of recommendation.

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The undergraduate advisors are located on the first floor of the LASB building. They advise undergraduate students in the Economics department, 3+2 students, oversee course substitutions/adjustments, undergraduate assessments and graduating senior clearances.

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History of the Master of Science Economics Programs

History

The Department of Economics began operating a terminal Masters' degree program in 1931. Enrollment in the program has, for most years, been quite small. Most of the Masters Degrees were awarded to students who failed to complete the Ph.D. program. The Department has devoted its Graduate Program focus and resources to our Doctoral Program. Indeed, the Department only offered three courses, ECON 607 (Microeconomic Theory), ECON 611 (Macroeconomic Theory), and ECMT 660 (Mathematical Economics), designed for the Masters' Program. As a result, degree programs for Master students were cobbled together from a mixture of Ph.D. and 400- level undergraduate courses from our department combined with outside courses drawn from graduate offerings from the Business school, Statistics, Agricultural Economics, and more recently, from the Bush School. Students were often under- prepared for a number of these courses, particularly our own Ph.D. courses. The program lacked coherence.

In September 2009, the Department placed a moratorium on admissions to the terminal Masters' STEM program and began a serious program review. The two options considered were permanently to shut down the terminal Masters' degree program (while retaining a Masters' Degree option for students who enter our Ph.D. program but fail to complete that program) or to design and secure support for a well-defined Masters' program. The third goal listed under the Strengthen Graduate Programs Imperative (Imperative #2) of Vision 2020 is to "Develop more Master's degree programs." A decision to revive our Master's program was consistent with this Vision 2020 goal.

The Department developed a strategy for creating a new, viable terminal Masters' degree program option. The proposed program centered on a degree in Financial Economics-Financial Econometrics. The niche approach was designed to build on some existing faculty interests and strengths to provide strong course offerings, to draw upon a small set of selected course offerings from other departments on campus. The approach was also market-responsive to evidence of demand for focused masters programs, particularly among students graduating with undergraduate degrees in Economics or Business Economics from China.

The Department launched a pilot program to confirm the market demand for our new M.S. Program. The first class of students was admitted in Fall 2011, and the second cohort of students was enrolled for Fall 2012.

The Department believes in providing students with opportunities to develop their knowledge and skillset. Undergraduate students are able to participate in a Fastrack program to complete their Bachelors and Masters degrees in 5 years. Non-economics undergraduate majors can participate in a Minor to Master program or an Accelerated Master's program. And in Fall 2022, a new combined Master's program with the Bush School of Government and Public Service Master of International Affairs was launched giving students an opportunity to have higher qualifications for leadership careers in business, government, and nongovernment organizations, and public service.

Program Objectives

The primary objective of the program is to produce graduates with the skills and knowledge to compete successfully for economics research analyst positions in the private or public financial sector. It is expected that the program will attract both domestic and international applicants. On the international side, the program is intended to leverage the University's presence in China into a mutually beneficial flow of scholars to be trained for private and public sector applied research careers back in China.

The relationships with students, faculty, and universities in China that are expected to develop as a result of our Masters' Program initiative are consistent with the Globalization Imperative (Imperative #6) of

Vision 2020. We have five faculty with a Chinese heritage. The three senior faculty in this group have very strong reputations and connections within the economics academic community in China.

As a secondary objective, a few of the top students in the Masters' program may decide to continue on in our Ph.D. program. The Masters' program can thus serve as a valuable mechanism for identifying and attracting quality prospects for doctoral programs.

Overview of the Master of Science in Economics Degree Programs

Program Structure

Students are able to complete the **STEM** M.S. program in three regular semesters, with an optional internship in the summer between spring of their first year and fall of their second year. Some students choose to remain for a fourth semester. The program is fairly tightly structured, with a set of required core courses in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics and a Capstone course or research courses.

Program Curriculum

Master of Science in Economics (thesis option)

The Master of Science, with thesis, requires a minimum of 32 semester-hours of coursework. The campus/synchronous degree program plan consists of at least 32 semester-credit hours, typically, 21 semester-credit hours will be taken in the department, 9 of these hours may be credited towards courses in supporting field(s) of interest, and 11 hours may be credited for the thesis.

Coursework in the supporting fields in the MS-Thesis program may be in any related academic area that contributes to a student's career objectives. Examples include accounting, agricultural economics, finance, international affairs, math, public policy and administration, statistics. A residence requirement of nine credit hours of coursework must be completed in one regular semester.

Students interested in this academic path should contact the Assistant Program Director to outline their curriculum.

Master of Science in Economics (non-thesis option)

The Master of Science, with no thesis, does not require a Final Examination. The campus/synchronous degree program plan consists of at least 36 semester-credit hours, typically, 24 semester-credit hours will be taken in the department, 9 of these hours will be credited towards an economics or econometrics concentration, and 12 credit hours in supporting field(s) of interest.

Coursework in the supporting fields in the MS-Non Thesis program may be in any related academic area that contributes to a student's career objectives. Examples include accounting, agricultural economics, finance, international affairs, math, public policy and administration, statistics. A residence requirement of nine credit hours of coursework must be completed in one regular semester.

Core Curriculum (see table below)

While students are allowed the flexibility to select support courses to tailor their graduate program to match their academic interests and career aspirations, each program requires the completion of four core curriculum courses to gain content knowledge and skills:

- ECON 607 Foundations of Microeconomics Theory
- ECON 611 Foundations of Macroeconomics Theory
- ECMT 673 Economic Analytics
- ECMT 674 Economic Forecasting

The non-thesis option requires a 5th core course:

- ECON 675 Capstone

Elective Courses

The program provides rigorous training in economics, econometrics, and analytical and quantitative skills and offers flexibility with electives.

Concentration Course Electives

Students will select 9 credit hours of coursework to identify their concentration in Financial Economics or Financial Econometrics.

Financial Economics Course Electives

- ECON 612 Money, Banking and Financial Markets
- ECON 614 Economics of Microfinance
- ECON 617 Economics of the Multinational Firm
- ECON 618 Behavioral Financial Economics
- ECON 633 Energy Markets and Policy
- ECON 663 International Transfer Pricing
- ECON 668 Decisions Under Risk and Uncertainty
- ECON 680 Financial Economics
- ECON 685 Directed Studies

Financial Econometrics Course Electives

- ECMT 660 Mathematical Economics
- ECMT 670 Econometric Analysis of Financial Data
- ECMT 680 Financial Econometrics

Related Course Electives

Students may select 12 credit hours of coursework in related academic areas that contribute to their career objectives. Examples include accounting, agricultural economics, finance, international affairs, math, public policy and administration, and statistics.

Students may also consider selecting up to two (2) undergraduate 300- or 400-level courses to apply towards their MS ECON degree. These courses cannot be repeated if taken as an undergraduate student.

A student may enroll for an internship course in the Summer of their first year or in the Spring of their second year. Fall semester internships may be permitted if it does not interfere with required course schedules. For international students, internships in their home countries are allowed in the summer only.

Non-thesis Option Course Planning Guide

1. Core Courses

Students will enroll for 15 credit hours of core courses.

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECON 607 Foundations of Microeconomics (Fall)		3
ECON 611 Foundations of Macroeconomics (Spring)		3
ECON 675 Capstone (Second Fall Semester)		3
ECMT 673 Economic Analytics (Fall)		3
ECMT 674 Economic Forecasting (Spring)		3
Total Credit Hours:		15

2. Concentration Course Electives

Students will select one Concentration: Financial Economics OR Financial Econometrics and enroll for 9 credit hours of concentration courses.

Financial Economics Concentration (Select 3 Courses)

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECON 612 Money, Banking, and Financial Markets (F)		
ECON 614 Economics of Microfinance (Spring)		
ECON 617 Economics of Multinational Firm (Spring)		

ECON 618 Behavioral Financial Economics (Fall)		
ECON 633 Energy Markets and Policy (Fall or Spring)		
ECON 663 International Transfer Pricing (F or S)		
ECON 668 Decisions Under Risk and Uncertainty (F or S)		
ECON 680 Financial Economics (Fall)		
ECON 685 Directed Studies (Fall or Spring)		
Total Credit Hours:		9

Financial Econometrics Concentration (Take 3 Courses)

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECMT 660 Mathematical Economics* (Fall)		
ECMT 670 Econometric Analysis of Financial Data (F)		
ECMT 680 Financial Econometrics (Spring)		
Total Credit Hours:		9

**Students from our Chinese Partner Universities who successfully pass the Pre-Master Mathematical Econometrics course are not required to take this course.*

3. Related Course Electives

Students will select 600-level courses in related academic areas that contribute to your career objectives or continue taking courses in our program. Examples include accounting, agricultural economics, economics/econometrics, finance, international affairs, math, public policy and public administration, and statistics.

Two (2) undergraduate 300- or 400-level courses are allowed on the Master's degree plan as long as the undergraduate course(s) have not been counted towards an undergraduate degree.

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECON 684 Professional Internship (3 or 6 credit hours)		
Elective		
Total Credit Hours:		12
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS		36

NOTE: The following Master's courses are stacked with undergraduate courses and should not be repeated. Master's students are required to take the Master's version of the course. Fastrack (3+2) students cannot take the Master's course if they have already taken the undergraduate course.

Stacked Course: Stacked courses are defined as courses in which graduate and undergraduate students meet for a class at the same time with the same instructor, but at their respective level of instruction.

- ECMT 660 – ECON 460
- ECON 663 – ECON 433
- ECON 680 – ECON 445
- ECON 614 – ECON 416

The following undergraduate Economics courses are prerequisites to the Master's Economics courses. For the Master's degree plan, students MUST take the Master's course and NOT the undergraduate course.

- ECMT 461 Economic Data Analysis

- ECMT 463 Introduction to Econometrics
- ECMT 475 Economic Forecasting
- ECON 323 Microeconomic Theory
- ECON 410 Macroeconomic Theory

Other Preparatory Courses:

- It is highly recommended students come fully prepared in Math and Statistics. Undergraduate students may take a combination of these as electives if not part of their academic curriculum.
 - MATH 171 Calculus I (or Math 151)
 - MATH 172 Calculus II (or Math 152)
 - STAT 211 Principles of Statistics I
 - STAT 302 Statistical Methods

Master of Science in Economics and Master of International Affairs Combined Master's Program

The Department of Economics and the Department of International Affairs offer students the opportunity to receive both a Master of Science in Economics (MS ECON) and a Master of International Affairs (MIA) in a three year period. Students are provided with rigorous advanced training in economics, econometrics, analytical and quantitative skills, international policies, global economy, American foreign policy, and research methods. Students who have a disposition toward leadership will be better prepared for careers in business, government, and nongovernment organizations, and public service.

In this combined master's program, students follow a strictly defined curriculum, to be able to complete all of the requirements for both degrees (which normally each take two years) in this shortened time frame. A total of 66 unduplicated hours includes 30 credit hours for the MS ECON plus 6 combined credit hours from an approved list of courses, and 36 credit hours for the MIA plus 12 combined credit hours from an approved list of courses. In combination, a student may combine no more than 12 credits in both degrees.

Combined Master students shall begin the MS ECON program in their first year then begin courses in the MIA program in their second year. Students will complete their final year by successfully completing their Capstone and remaining courses. Students are required to satisfy the MIA degree's language requirement. If a student decides during the course of study to drop one of the degrees being sought, the requirements for the other degree will revert to the normal requirements for that degree.

Program Descriptions

The M.S. Economics **STEM** program provides rigorous advanced in-person training in economics, econometrics, analytical and quantitative skills for students in order to prepare them for immediate careers in business or government. The M.S. Economics program has a structured curriculum with a total of 36 credit hours: 15 credit hours of core courses in economics, econometrics as well as a Capstone course; 9 credit hours of economics or econometrics concentration courses; and 12 credit hours of electives which includes an optional internship. Students are eligible to complete the program in 18 months.

The Master of International Affairs degree is a 48 credit non-thesis program that includes a core curriculum of five courses, a summer internship or intensive language and cultural study, and a three-course specialization in each of two selected areas of concentration. The curriculum is taught by a multi-disciplinary faculty who combine a mix of scholarly and professional international experience. The core curriculum includes seminars in international policies, the global economy, research methods, and American foreign policy. One of the five core courses must be a capstone. The capstone course requires a student group under the supervision of a faculty member to work on a research task received from a real-world client. Capstone research culminates in a major written report and oral briefing to the client. The Bush School Department of International Affairs equips students having a disposition toward leadership and public service with the vital skills and knowledge critical for successful careers whether in government or nongovernment organizations.

Students would be able to take Master courses simultaneously between the programs. MS ECON students will select 6 credit hours of double-count courses, and MIA students can select up to 12 credit hours of double-count courses: BUSH 635/ECMT 673, INTA 608/ECON 617, INTA 630/ECON 614, and INTA 670/ECON 675. This will not reduce the total number of credits required for the MS ECON and MIA degrees as part of this agreement. Students who have completed both degree requirements for the MS

ECON and MIA programs will receive their diplomas concurrently.

Students are required to take a total of 30 unique credit hours in the MS Economics program that include 15 credit hours of core courses in economics, econometrics as well as a Capstone course, 9 credit hours of economics or econometrics concentration courses, and 6 credit hours of electives which includes an optional internship.

Students will complete no less than 36 unique credit hours in the MIA program that include 15 credit hours of core courses, 18 credit hours of concentration courses, and 3 credit hours of an elective.

Program Curriculum

The charts below indicate the path for a student to complete the combined degree program in three years:

Scenario 1: New Student Admitted to MS ECON/MIA Combined Program OR Current Student Admitted to MS ECON & Adds Secondary MIA

Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2	Summer 2	Fall 3	Spring 3
<u>CORE COURSES:</u> ECON 607 ECMT 673*	<u>CORE COURSES:</u> ECON 611 ECMT 674	<u>ELECTIVE:</u> ECON 684 Internship (opt.) (or 2 classes)	<u>CORE COURSES:</u> BUSH 631 INTA 606 INTA 608*	<u>CORE COURSE:</u> BUSH 635	Electives (6)	<u>CORE COURSE:</u> ECON 675* Elective	Electives (9)
<u>ECON/ECMT Elective:</u> ECON 680 Elective	<u>ECON/ECMT Elective:</u> ECON 617* ECON/ECMT 6XX		INTA Concentration 1-1	INTA Concentration 1-2 INTA Concentration 2-1 INTA Concentration 2-2		INTA Concentration 1-3 INTA Concentration 2-3	<u>CORE COURSE:</u> INTA 670*
	Elective						
TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (6)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (6)	TOTAL (6)	TOTAL: (12)
						TOTAL (6)	
Master of Science in Economics Total Hours: 36 (6 credit hours of courses will be taken only once to count towards both degrees)							
Master of International Affairs Total Hours: 48 (12 credit hours of courses will be taken only once to count towards both degrees)							

**Courses taken once but counting towards course credit for both degrees*

Scenario 2: Current Student Admitted to MIA & Added Secondary MS ECON

Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2	Summer 2	Fall 3	Spring 3
<u>CORE COURSES:</u> BUSH 631 INTA 606 INTA 608*	<u>CORE COURSE:</u> BUSH 635*	Electives (6)	<u>CORE COURSES:</u> ECON 607 ECMT 673*	<u>CORE COURSES:</u> ECON 611 ECMT 674	<u>ELECTIVE:</u> ECON 684 Internship (opt.) (or 2 classes)	<u>CORE COURSE:</u> ECON 675* Elective	Elective (9)
INTA Concentration 1-1	INTA Concentration 1-2 INTA Concentration 2-1		<u>ECON/ECMT Elective:</u> ECON 680 Elective	<u>ECON/ECMT Elective:</u> ECON/ECMT 6XX		INTA Concentration 1-3 INTA Concentration 2-3	<u>CORE COURSE:</u> INTA 670*

	INTA Concentration 2-2						
				Elective			
TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (6)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL (6)	TOTAL (6)	TOTAL: (12)
						TOTAL (6)	
Master of Science in Economics Total Hours: 36 (6 credit hours of courses will be taken only once to count towards both degrees) Master of International Affairs Total Hours: 48 (12 credit hours of courses will be taken only once to count towards both degrees)							

**Courses taken once but counting towards course credit for both degrees*

Program Costs

The MS ECON program charges a semester department fee of \$5,000 (separate from the university’s graduate tuition rate and fee rates) which is retained by the Economics Department. The fee is billed for the three consecutive long semesters, separately. M.S. Economics students are required to enroll for the ECON 675 Capstone course, while the MIA students will have the option of enrolling for ECON 675 or INTA 670 Capstone. The department fee is not charged in the summer semesters. This fee is used for faculty and staff salaries as well as the program’s operating budget.

The Master of International Affairs program charges \$405 per 3 credit hours which is retained by that program.

Admissions & Degree Plans

Admission is once a year beginning in the Fall semester.

Students should apply to the Master of Science in Economics (primary degree program) and Master of International Affairs (secondary degree program) Combined Degree Program and pay one application fee. Both programs will review candidates and agree on admitted applicants. Admission as a combined Master of Science in Economics/Master of International Affairs student will begin that Fall admissions cycle.

Students currently enrolled in the MS ECON or MIA programs who are interested in pursuing this combined Master’s program will be reviewed independently by the secondary degree program. Students must be in good academic and conduct standing to be considered by either program. Admitted students will submit a Change of Major, Department or Degree (MDD) Petition to the Graduate and Professional School to add the second degree.

Students will be required to submit a degree plan and apply for graduation to each degree program.

Students Interested in Applying to PhD Programs at Texas A&M University

A student completing a graduate degree who wants to continue for another graduate degree may request to do so by filing an approved Letter of Intent with the Graduate and Professional School if there is no break in enrollment, or if the break is less than one calendar year. A student who has an enrollment break of more than one calendar year or longer following graduation must re-apply through Graduate Admissions.

The student **MUST** contact the program to verify admission and application requirements. This form is completed in the DocuSign electronic system through the Graduate and Professional School.

To complete the Letter of Intent form (see Appendix C):

1. Enter the degree and semester of the completed degree, the proposed continuing degree, department, major and the semester to begin the proposed degree.
2. The student's signature is required along with including his/her name, student UIN, and mailing address.
3. The department head, or the Chair of the Intercollegiate Faculty, must sign indicating their acceptance of the student and date. The signer checks if the student must begin in the term listed only, or if they receive the one-year time frame to register.

Upon approval of the Graduate and Professional School, a copy will be sent to the student, department, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of Admission, and ISS (if applicable). The student will then be eligible to register for the new program during the normal registration period for continuing students.

This form may be signed and submitted to the Graduate and Professional School according to the timeframe considered appropriate for making departmental admissions decisions for the requested semester start date (a maximum of one year from the requested semester start date). In signing a Letter of Intent, the department is making an admission decision. Therefore, this process should be given the same level of scrutiny as an application for admission.

Students who are approved for a Letter of Intent that is semester specific, but do not begin study in the semester indicated, must file a new Letter of Intent with the new semester indicated (if within one year of graduation).

If the student does not successfully complete the current degree in the semester indicated, action will be taken by the Graduate and Professional School to place the student back in the original degree program. Unless the admission decision is valid for a future term, it will be removed from Compass.

3+2 Fastrack (5-Year Program)

The ECON “Fastrack” is a program offered by the Department of Economics where undergraduate Economics majors can complete both the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Economics degrees in only five years. Students submit an internal application to the Assistant Program Director after meeting with an undergraduate advisor who evaluates the specific semester they are prepared to apply to. All details of how to apply can be found on the department’s [website](#).

Admitted students will complete their final undergraduate courses during their senior year (or last two full semesters) while also enrolling for graduate courses. Two (2) graduate courses will count once toward their Bachelor’s degree and once towards their Master’s degree. Students will follow the same curriculum path as described for the MS Economics program.

After completing their final undergraduate courses, students will be reclassified as G7 degree-seeking Master students before the next full semester. They will complete 2 full semesters with Masters courses and are expected to graduate with both their Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at the same time after completion of their Master’s curriculum. Fastrack students will walk the stage twice, once to receive their Master’s diploma, and once to receive their Bachelor’s diploma.

Fastrack Non-thesis Option Course Planning Guide

1. Core Courses

Fastrack students will enroll for 6 credit hours of double count core courses. These courses will count once towards their Bachelor’s degree and once towards their Master’s degree, but they only enroll for the course one time.

A Fastrack student will take one double count core course in the Fall semester and one double count core course in the Spring semester. (*Exception: students who are admitted into the fastrack program and only have one semester remaining to complete their undergraduate coursework will enroll for two double count courses*)

Double Count Core Courses (Select 2)

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECON 607 Foundations of Microeconomics (Fall)		
ECON 611 Foundations of Macroeconomics (Spring)		
ECMT 673 Economic Analytics (Fall)		
ECMT 674 Economic Forecasting (Spring)		
Total Credit Hours:		6

Fastrack students will complete 9 credit hours of core courses (Select 3 Courses)

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECON 607 Foundations of Microeconomics (Fall)		
ECON 611 Foundations of Macroeconomics (Spring)		
ECON 675 Capstone (Second Fall Semester)		
ECMT 673 Economic Analytics (Fall)		
ECMT 674 Economic Forecasting (Spring)		
Total Credit Hours:		9

2. Concentration Course Electives

Students will select one Concentration: Financial Economics OR Financial Econometrics and enroll for 9 credit hours of concentration courses.

Financial Economics Concentration (Select 3 Courses)

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECON 612 Money, Banking, and Financial Markets (F)		
ECON 614 Economics of Microfinance (Spring)		
ECON 617 Economics of Multinational Firm (Spring)		
ECON 618 Behavioral Financial Economics (Fall)		
ECON 633 Energy Markets and Policy (Fall or Spring)		
ECON 663 International Transfer Pricing (F or S)		
ECON 668 Decisions Under Risk and Uncertainty (F or S)		
ECON 680 Financial Economics (Fall)		
ECON 685 Directed Studies (Fall or Spring)		
Total Credit Hours:		9

Financial Econometrics Concentration (Take 3 Courses)

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECMT 660 Mathematical Economics (Fall)		
ECMT 670 Econometric Analysis of Financial Data (F)		
ECMT 680 Financial Econometrics (Spring)		
Total Credit Hours:		9

3. Related Course Electives

Students will select 600-level courses in related academic areas that contribute to your career objectives or continue taking courses in our program. Examples include accounting, agricultural economics, economics/econometrics, finance, international affairs, math, public policy and public administration, and statistics.

Two (2) undergraduate 300- or 400-level courses are allowed on the Master's degree plan as long as the undergraduate course(s) have not been counted towards an undergraduate degree.

Course	Semester Taken	Credit Hours
ECON 684 Professional Internship (3 or 6 credit hours)		
Elective		
Total Credit Hours:		12
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS		36

NOTE: The following Master's courses are stacked with undergraduate courses and should not be repeated. Master's students are required to take the Master's version of the course. Fastrack (3+2) students cannot take the Master's course if they have already taken the undergraduate course.

Stacked Course: Stacked courses are defined as courses in which graduate and undergraduate students meet for a class at the same time with the same instructor, but at their respective level of instruction.

- o ECMT 660 – ECON 460

- ECON 663 – ECON 433
- ECON 680 – ECON 445
- ECON 614 – ECON 416

The following undergraduate Economics courses are prerequisites to the Master's Economics courses. For the Master's degree plan, students MUST take the Master's course and NOT the undergraduate course.

- ECMT 461 Economic Data Analysis
- ECMT 463 Introduction to Econometrics
- ECMT 475 Economic Forecasting
- ECON 323 Microeconomic Theory
- ECON 410 Macroeconomic Theory

Other Preparatory Courses:

- It is highly recommended students come fully prepared in Math and Statistics. Undergraduate students may take a combination of these as electives if not part of their academic curriculum.
 - MATH 171 Calculus I (or Math 151)
 - MATH 172 Calculus II (or Math 152)
 - STAT 211 Principles of Statistics I
 - STAT 302 Statistical Methods

ECON Minor to Master's Program and Accelerated Master's Program

ECON Minor to Master's Program

The study of economics provides a rigorous structure for decision-making, whether on academic topics or day-to-day activities such as how to divide roommate expenses or how to allocate time between study and recreation. Economics teaches students how to think rationally about problems, a skill that is essential in any profession.

A minor in economics provides knowledge and information that will make a student a better-informed consumer and participant in the world economy. It also provides a basis for a better understanding of world events.

Program Requirements

Students are required to enroll in ECON 202 Principles of Economics, ECON 203 Principles of Economics, ECON 323 Microeconomic Theory, and two ECON 300-499 Electives (ECON 410, ECMT 461, ECMT 463, and ECMT 475 are highly recommended) for 15 credit hours to receive a Minor in Economics.

Students may be eligible to participate in the Accelerated Master's Economics program and begin taking Master's courses as an undergraduate student. These Master's courses will be reserved for graduate credit if admitted into the Master of Science in Economics program.

During their final year of completing all required coursework of the their undergraduate degree, students may apply and be admitted to the Master of Science in Economics program to complete their final Master's courses for the MS ECON degree within two full semesters and may include an Internship for course credit.

Accelerated Master of Science in Economics Program

Non-economics undergraduate students interested in blending their academic knowledge within careers as Economists, Agricultural Economists, Data Analysts, Banking, Finance, Government, Math, Public Policy, Statistics, Urban Planning, etc. are invited to participate in an accelerated MS Economics program.

Program Requirements

Undergraduate students with appropriate pre-requisite undergraduate courses can take 12 credit hours of MS ECON courses. These Master's courses will be reserved for graduate credit and used towards their MS Economics degree. During their final year of completing all required coursework of the their undergraduate degree, students may apply and be admitted to the Master of Science in Economics program to complete their final Master's courses for the MS ECON degree within two full semesters and may include an Internship for course credit.

Professional Development

A pivotal element in a professional type of degree program is a commitment to professional development activities for the students enrolled. As the Master's program has evolved, we have devoted thought and resources to expanding and improving the professional development activities available to our students.

Internships

The Department of Economics does not offer Master's courses during the summer semester, however most students enroll in ECON 684 (Internship) to participate in an industry-related internship. Based on the number of hours on the job site, the student can select the number of credit hours (either 3 or 6) for which they will receive credit. Students may also participate in ECON 684 in the Fall or Spring semesters if they secure an internship outside of the traditional summer timeframe as long as it does not interfere with their required coursework. For international students, internships in their home countries are allowed in the summer only.

The Program Coordinator will announce when applications open for ECON 684 each semester as well as describe the process in order for students to receive credit for their internship. It is a four step process – application, enrollment, documentation, submission of a final paper.

First, students secure an internship with a company related to this degree program. The student will then submit the online application during the application timeframe. A copy of their offer letter will then need to be submitted to the Master's Program Coordinator who will review the letter and application. If approved, the Program Coordinator will then enroll the student in the ECON 684 (Internship) class and select the appropriate number of credit hours (either 3 or 6). The next step is a two-page information sheet which is submitted directly from the employer to the Program Coordinator within 2 weeks of the start of summer session or semester in which the student is enrolled. This information sheet is filled out by the student's immediate supervisor and signed by both the supervisor and student. The information sheet is designed to document basic information on the student's job, location, contact information, start and end dates for their internship, as well as stating the three learning goals the company is expecting the intern to achieve while participating in the internship.

At the completion of the internship, the student writes a final paper summarizing their internship experience. Students incorporate material that demonstrates their exposure to and thinking about high-level managerial and strategic practices at the firm where they interned. As a part of the course, the student is required to meet with a consultant from the University Writing Center (UWC) in order to have their final paper reviewed. Proof of the visit in the form of a report provided by the UWC will need to be submitted with the final paper. The UWC report is provided by the UWC to the student after their visit is complete. This paper is then read and a pass/fail grade (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) is assigned by the instructor of the class.

During orientation, students are given a list of the past internships that previous students have participated in.

SAS-Training and Other Programming Languages

The Department provides M.S. students with opportunities to be trained and to become certified in Base and Advanced SAS programming and other programming languages. The training is provided by SAS-certified trainers, and the costs are covered by the program fees. Although the standard data analysis and statistical software analysis data program for faculty and Ph.D. students is STATA, post job market

feedback from our first cohort of M.S. student students indicated a value to encouraging our students to develop expertise with SAS, Python, and R.

Communication Skills

The Texas A&M Department of Economics Master's Program admits between 90-105 students into its program each year. Of those, approximately 30% are International. The large number of foreign students (most of whom have not attended school in the United States) means that some of the basic career advising and career advice that would normally be useful to a domestic student is not useful to them. The department program coordinator focuses on professional development for all of our students. Workshops are conducted to help students improve their career development and assist with job placement after graduation. Workshops concentrate on résumé building, mock interviews, networking and career advice.

Industry Guests

Many industries recruit prospective interns, part-time and full-time employees in the Fall semester to hire them in the following summer. Therefore, a series of presentations from industry experts are scheduled throughout the Fall and Spring Semesters. The master students will have an opportunity to learn about each company and have direct contact with the representatives from the various companies.

Mentoring

While the program's Director, Assistant Program Director, and Program Coordinator are available to guide and direct students during their study, students are encouraged to take advantage of their professors' and Teaching Assistant's office hours to ask questions about the broader discipline of economics, in addition to specific course-related material.

Graduate Student Orientations and Workshops

Master of Science in Economics Orientation & Workshops

A graduate student orientation and workshops are scheduled by the Master's program staff every Fall and Spring semesters, usually in late August and early January. These events are primarily to inform students about degree requirements, registration procedures, and processing paperwork, career prep, etc. These orientations are required by the MS ECON program.

Graduate and Professional School

The Graduate and Professional School at Texas A&M University administers a graduate student orientation in the Fall semester. This orientation provides an introduction and a broad overview of the graduate education experience at Texas A&M. It also offers an opportunity to learn about available campus resources, campus services and traditions. Students can find more information about the orientation dates on their website: [Graduate & Professional School](#), or call 979-845-3631.

Grad Camp

The Graduate and Professional Student Council hosts an extended orientation for graduate and professional students new to Texas A&M University. Grad Camp helps students connect with people on campus, learn about the resources available to them and introduce them to the Aggie culture. For more information, go to <https://gradcamp.tamu.edu/>.

International Student Services

Texas A&M University has more than 6,000 international students from nearly 130 nations. The International Student Services (ISS) office facilitates international students' admittance to the United States and at Texas A&M. They promote interactions between the U.S. and international populations and provides services necessary to meet the special needs of international students.

International students are required to check-in with the International Student Services (ISS) office when they arrive on campus. In addition, the ISS office hosts a New International Student Orientation (NISO) to bring together international students, guests, faculty and staff. NISO features informational sessions and valuable resources. For more information, go to <http://iss.tamu.edu/New-Students>, or call 979-845-1824.

Graduate Student Organizations

Texas A&M Economics Society (TAMES)

<http://www.tamueconsociety.com/>

The Texas A&M Economics Society (TAMES) is a professional student organization for economics majors. The goal of the organization is to help prepare students for the real world by learning more about some of the career paths in economics and related fields.

Throughout the semester, TAMES have speakers visit the organization from a wide spectrum of industries to give presentations on their respective jobs and the companies they work for. TAMES also helps build relationships and networking between members by holding several social events, fundraisers, and participating in community service activities such as The Big Event.

Women in Economics (WIE)

<https://www.womeninecontamu.com/>

Women in Economics seeks to provide women in the Economics department at Texas A&M University with a community through which they can expand their knowledge of economics, explore areas of interest, and broaden interpersonal skills for the purpose of professional development.

Student Organizations at Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University's Division of Student Affairs Student Activities office has a large number of organizations that students can become members of. An important part of the college experience happens outside of the classroom. If you are interested in politics, religion, service, leadership, or academics, look through their list of organizations, and see how you can be a "voice of the students" for the more politically-minded, <https://studentactivities.tamu.edu/get-involved/join-an-organization/>.

Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students

Scholarships

The Economics Department is committed to offering students a wide range of opportunities to learn, succeed and excel. The Master of Science in Economics scholarships are available annually to assist students financially in meeting these goals. The MS ECON scholarships are reviewed by the department scholarship committee, awarded on a competitive basis, and are based on merit and/or financial need.

For current students, applications, resumes and a statement of financial need are accepted by the due date. Late submissions will not be taken. Applicants will also be reviewed on involvement in department sponsored events. Students flagged for academic dishonesty will not be considered.

For newly admitted students, scholarships are awarded based on a complete application review (application to the program, letters of recommendation, resume, statement of purpose, and test scores and transcripts). A criteria score based on the grade point average (GPA) and GRE test scores (quantitative and verbal) will be computed:

$$\text{Criteria Score} = (\text{GPA} \times 50) + (\text{GRE-Q} + \text{GRE-A}).$$

For the admitted Chinese students coming from our partner universities, a criteria score based on the grade point average (GPA) and the course prep test scores will be computed.

All scholarship recipients are expected to maintain the following:

- must be in good standing with the University and the ECON department,
- must enroll in a minimum of 9 credit hours (full-time status) for the Fall and Spring semester at Texas A&M University; this may be waived if the student is in their last semester of study,
- must maintain a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on their transcript,
- must maintain a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on their degree plan,
- must participate in a minimum of three (3) department sponsored events per semester.

Department Graduate Assistantships/Employment

The department may have employment opportunities for the MS ECON students to assist with the tutoring lab or undergraduate classes. Students will be notified by email if a position comes available with details on how to apply.

Campus Employment

Students have the opportunity to search for jobs on campus through the Student Employment Office: <https://jobsforaggies.tamu.edu/>, 979-845-0686.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Texas A&M University offers many financial aid options to help students pay for college costs. The Scholarships & Financial Aid office helps students with their questions on what is available to them. More information can be found on their website: <http://financialaid.tamu.edu/>, 979-845-3236.

Academic Expectations and Program Requirements (University)

Academic Expectations

Expectations for Graduate and Professional Study

The major goals of graduate education at Texas A&M are to instill in each student an understanding of and a capacity for scholarship, independent judgment, academic rigor and intellectual honesty. Faculty and graduate students have a shared obligation to work together to foster these goals through relationships that advance freedom of inquiry, demonstrate individual and professional integrity, and encourage common respect.

Graduate student progress is guided and evaluated by an advisor and a graduate committee. These individuals give direction and support for the appropriate developmental and learning goals of a graduate student. The advisor and the graduate committee also have the obligation of evaluating a graduate student's academic performance. The graduate student, the advisor and the graduate committee constitute the basic core of graduate education. The quality, scope and extent of interaction in this group determines the significance of the graduate experience.

High quality graduate education requires professional and ethical conduct of the participants. Faculty and graduate students have mutual responsibilities in ensuring academic standards and quality graduate programs. Excellence in graduate education is achieved when faculty and students are inspired, have the academic and professional backgrounds essential to function at the highest level, and are genuine in their mutual desire to see one another succeed. Any action that negatively affects this interaction—from either faculty member or student—destroys the whole relationship. Mutual respect is critical to the successful process.

Student Responsibility

Academic Calendar

All students should familiarize themselves with the university's Academic Calendar. This semester calendar provides students with important dates and deadlines set forth by Texas A&M University's Office of the Registrar, <https://registrar.tamu.edu/Catalogs,-Policies-Procedures/Academic-Calendar>.

Each student has a responsibility to:

1. Know specific degree requirements as established by the University or the student's department, college, or interdisciplinary degree program.
2. Enroll in the appropriate coursework to complete the degree plan.
3. Maintain the appropriate standards to continue in graduate studies.
4. Know steps and deadlines related to graduation.
5. Be acquainted with the Texas A&M University Student Rules (refer to the website <http://student-rules.tamu.edu>).

Information about general degree requirements is available in this catalog. Specific degree requirements and procedural guidelines are available from the departmental graduate advisor(s).

Scholastic Requirements

Degree-seeking students must maintain a GPR of at least 3.000 on all courses listed on the degree plan and transcript. A course in which the final grade is C may be repeated for a higher grade. If the second grade is higher, the original grade will be excluded from the GPA calculation for the degree plan and

cumulative GPA, but remain on the student's permanent record. The most recent grade will be used in computing the cumulative and degree plan GPAs.

A student repeating a course in which a grade of B or better has been earned will not receive grade points for the repeated course, unless the catalog states the course may be repeated for credit.

If either of a student's cumulative GPR or the GPR for courses listed on the degree plan falls below the minimum of 3.000, he or she will be considered to be scholastically deficient. If the minimum GPR is not attained in a reasonable length of time, the student may be dismissed from graduate studies. The procedures for dismissal are explained in the Texas A&M University Student rules (refer to the website <http://student-rules.tamu.edu>).

Program Requirements

A graduate student must file a degree plan which includes those courses to be applied toward a particular degree and formally establishes the advisory committee. Courses previously used for another degree are not acceptable for degree plan credit.

Lower division undergraduate coursework (100- and 200-level) may not be used for credit toward a graduate degree. **Coursework applied to a previous degree may not be used toward a graduate degree. Coursework may not be used to satisfy requirements for more than one degree.** Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by the student's advisory committee if such additional coursework is needed to correct deficiencies in the student's academic preparation. Specific details and requirements for each degree program may be obtained from the student's academic department or the specific degree program requirements provided in the catalog. *For the Thesis Option:* No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student's Request for Final Examination or Request for Final Examination Exemption is approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Changes in the approved degree plan may be made by petition to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. A student should submit the degree plan and petitions using the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website at <https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu>.

Petitions

Graduate students may use petitions to

1. request a change of major, degree or department;
2. request changes to the coursework or committee membership as established by the degree plan;
3. request a leave of absence;
4. request extensions to time limits; or
5. request exceptions to published rules.

Each petition will be considered on its own merit by the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies. The student should make such requests by submitting either a Major, Degree, or Department petition (MDD) or a Long Form petition using the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website at <https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu>.

The petition will be routed for the required approval by the members of the student's advisory committee, if appointed, and the department head, or his or her designee (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if appropriate).

Professional Internship

A student may spend an appropriate period of time under the supervision of a practicing professional in industry, business, an educational institution or a government agency. The objectives of the internship are two-fold:

1. to enable the student to demonstrate the ability to apply technical training and knowledge by making an identifiable contribution in an area of practical concern to the industry or organization in which the internship is served, and
2. to enable the student to function in a non-academic environment in a position in which he or she will become aware of the organizational approach to problems in addition to those traditional approaches with which the student is familiar.

These may include, but are in no way limited to, problems of management, labor relations, public relations, environmental protection, economics, etc.

Internship agreements should be negotiated between the appropriate organization or industry and the appropriate academic department. The organization of the internship, the internship supervisor and the nature of the internship will be determined by mutual consent of the student, the head of the student's major department, the student's advisory committee and the supervising organization prior to the commencement of the internship period. The internship experience should be at a level commensurate with the particular degree objective.

An internship report should be prepared by the student in accordance with guidelines established by the student's major department, the student's advisory committee or other appropriate body. The report should be submitted to the advisory committee and to any other organization which may be specified for specific programs. The internship report must be the original work of the student.

An internship, if utilized as part of a student's degree requirements, should be undertaken near the end of the student's educational program, after the student has had the opportunity to establish a solid theoretical base for the internship experience.

No Thesis, No Final Exam Option

The student enrolls in a Capstone course the second Fall semester of their study. The course provides students the opportunity to work with the instructors in an examination of their earlier course work in both concentrations, financial economics and financial econometrics. Students will integrate the knowledge they have gathered in their coursework, including micro- and macroeconomics, financial economics, econometrics, forecasting, and other analytical tools. The work will culminate in the production of a major group research paper, utilizing professional literature, both printed and electronic, and published data.

A positive evaluation by the instructor and faculty panel is required to pass a student on his or her research, oral presentation and final report.

Thesis Option: Final Examination for Masters Students

The final examination covers the thesis and all work taken on the degree plan and at the option of the committee may be written or oral or both. The final examination may not be administered before the thesis is available to all members of the student's advisory committee in substantially final form, and all members have had adequate time to review the document. The examination is conducted by the student's advisory committee. A thesis option student must be registered in the University in the semester or summer term in which the final examination is taken. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the major professor, attend final examinations for advanced degrees. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings. A student shall be given only one opportunity to repeat the final examination for the master's degree and that must be within a time period that does not extend beyond the end of the next regular semester (summer terms are excluded). A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department.

A thesis option candidate may petition to be exempt from his/her final examination provided their degree plan GPR is 3.500 or greater and they have approval of the advisory committee, the head of the student's department and the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. It is recommended that the petition for exemption be submitted the same semester the student intends to submit the thesis.

Course Limitations on Degree Plan

Master of Science in Economics (No Thesis, No Final Exam Option) – A student may have on their degree plan one (1) 685 Directed Studies course as long as it is not in their last semester of study.

Master of Science in Economics (Thesis Option) – No more than 12 hours of the combination 691, 684, and 685 may be listed on the degree plan.

Full-Time Status

A graduate student (domestic or international) is considered full-time if he or she is registered for a minimum of:

- 9 semester credit hours during a fall or spring semester
- 6 semester credit hours during a summer semester

A Q grade or W grade does not count toward the certification of enrollment status.

Colleges and departments may impose additional semester credit hour requirements for a student holding an assistantship or fellowship which exceeds the minimum stated above.

Special considerations relate to “full time status” for an international student. If the student is in their last semester of study (second Spring semester) and do not need to take a full load of courses to complete the degree program, they may submit a Reduced Course Load form to the International Student Services office.

A student who has financial assistance should consult [Scholarships & Financial Aid](#), call (979) 845-3236 or visit <http://financialaid.tamu.edu>, for enrollment requirements.

Maximum Schedule

Fall/Spring: A graduate student may register for a maximum of 15 hours. The college dean’s office can approve/register a student for up to 18 hours. A request to register for more than 18 hours should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies on the Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to University Requirements and must include the course/section number and the semester of registration. If approved, maximum allowable hours will be updated accordingly by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and the academic department will register the student for the additional hours.

5-week summer session: A graduate student may register for a maximum of 6 hours. The college dean’s office can approve/register a student for up to 9 hours. A request to register for more than 9 hours should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies on the Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to University Requirements and must include the course/section number and the semester of registration. If approved, maximum allowable hours will be updated accordingly by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and the academic department will register the student for the additional hours.

10-week summer session: A graduate student may register for a maximum of 10 hours. The college dean’s office can approve/register a student for up to 15 hours. A request to register for more than 15 hours should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies on the Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to University Requirements and must include the course/section number and the semester of registration. If approved, maximum allowable hours will be updated accordingly by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and the academic department will register the student for the additional hours.

Graduation

A graduate degree is conferred at the close of each regular semester and 10-week summer semester. A candidate for an advanced degree who expects to complete his/her work at the end of a given semester

must first submit a degree plan through the Graduate and Professional School, <https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu> (see Appendix C – Submitting Your Degree Plan). After the degree plan is approved by his/her program, department, college, and Graduate and Professional School, the candidate will apply for graduation by submitting the electronic application for degree to the Office of the Registrar and by paying the required graduation fee to Student Business Services no later than the Friday of the fifth week of the fall or spring semester or the Friday of the first week of the second summer term. **The electronic application can be accessed via the Howdy portal. A cancellation made after the application deadline will not result in a refund of the diploma fee. Graduate degree candidates who have completed all degree requirements will not be allowed to cancel their graduation application without approval from the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.** A student should check the website of the Office of the Registrar at <http://graduation.tamu.edu> to determine the date and time of his/her graduation ceremony.

University Policies

Aggie Honor Systems Office & Aggie Honor Code

<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>

All Texas A&M students, graduate and undergraduate, part-time or full-time, in residence or in distance education, are expected to follow the guiding rule of the

Aggie Honor Code:

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Aggie Honor System Office (see <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>). Students may be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M community from the requirements or the processes of the Aggie Honor System Office.

Appendix A

Submitting Your Degree Plan

Your degree plan is required to be submitted one full semester before you plan to graduate. If you plan to graduate in the fall semester, your degree plan will be due before the end of the preceding spring semester (due dates will be emailed by the program manager or advisor). Below are steps to submit your degree plan.

Step 1. Log into <https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu/>

Enter Your NetID and Password

Step 2. Create New Degree Plan

Step 3. Add Degree Plan

Step 4. Add Information about Your Degree Program

Step 1

General information ⇒ Courses for Credit ⇒ Committee Members

General Information

Name: *

Department: * ECON | ECONOMICS ▼

College: * LIBERAL ARTS

Degree: * Master of Science ▼

Major: * ECON | Economics ▼

Option: * No Thesis & No Final Exam ▼

* indicates a required field.

Save & Exit

Continue >>

Fastrack students will select the 3+2 Non-thesis Program option.

Step 5. Add Information about Your Courses

Step 2

General Information ⇒ Courses for Credit ⇒ Committee Members

Credit Courses

Course Type: * A&M Transfer

Course Prefix: * ▼

Course: * ▼

Credit Hours: * Final Grade:

Year Taken: Semester Taken: ▼

Campus: - Select Campus - ▼

* indicates a required field.

Add Course

Course	Hours	Grade	Type	Taken
Total Degree Plan Hours:				0.00

* Additional course work may be added to this proposed course of study by the Advisory Committee, if such additional work is needed to correct deficiencies in your academic preparation.

Save & Exit

Continue >>

Step 6. Enter Exceptions

If you registered for an internship for 6 credit hours, you may need to enter an exception that shows our program allows graduate students to participate in an internship.

EXCEPTIONS:

Request: Rule H10 - A maximum of 4 credit hours of Professional Internship (484/684) may be applied toward your selected degree. REASON: The MS Economics program allows up to 6 hours from a Professional Internship.

Step 7. Enter Committee Members

If you are in the No Thesis, No Final Exam Option, you will have only ONE committee member:

Role: Chair
Name: Gan Li

If you are in the Thesis Option, you will enter all 3 committee members: 1 Chair & 2 Members. You MUST meet with me to inform me of your decision to enroll in the Thesis Option and discuss with me who your thesis committee members are. You MUST have approval from all three members prior to submitting your degree plan.

Step 3

[General Information](#) ⇒ [Courses for Credit](#) ⇒ Committee Members

Committee Members

Committee Role	Name	Department	Graduate Faculty Membership Type
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Role: * <input type="text"/></p> <p>Name: * <input type="text"/></p> <p><small>* indicates a required field.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="button" value="Add Member"/></p> </div>			
<input type="button" value="Finish"/>			

Step 8. Audit Your Degree Plan

The electronic system will audit your degree plan to locate any errors.

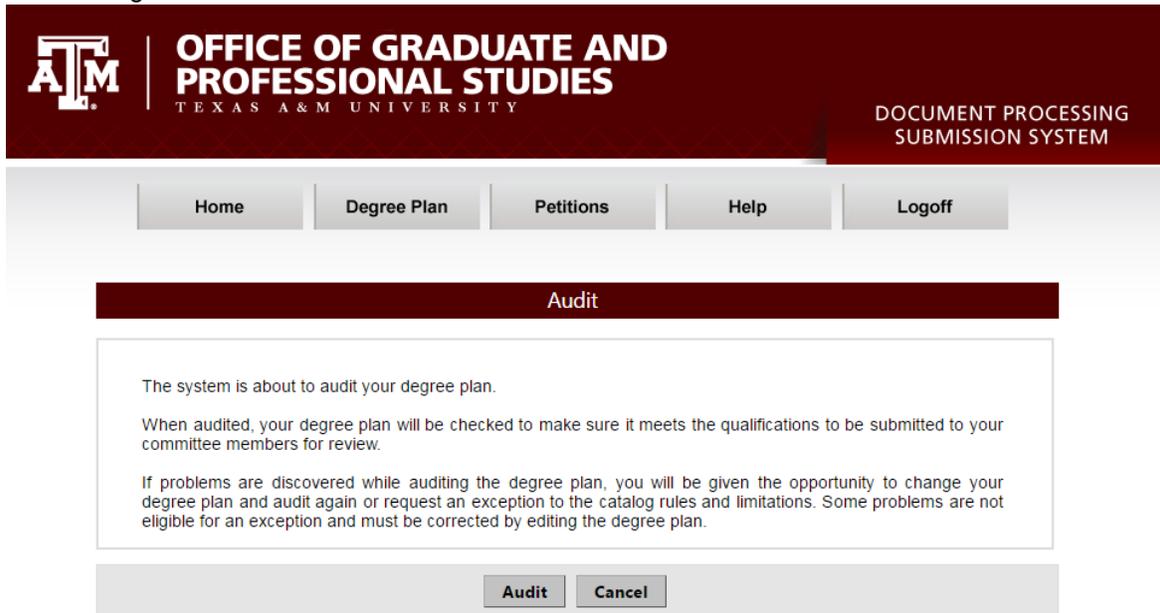
Degree Plan - MS in ECON created on October 04, 2016

Your Approval Status is: INC

Your document has been created and must be submitted to begin the approval process. All degree plans and LongForm petitions containing a Committee or Course Change, must pass an audit before submission is allowed.

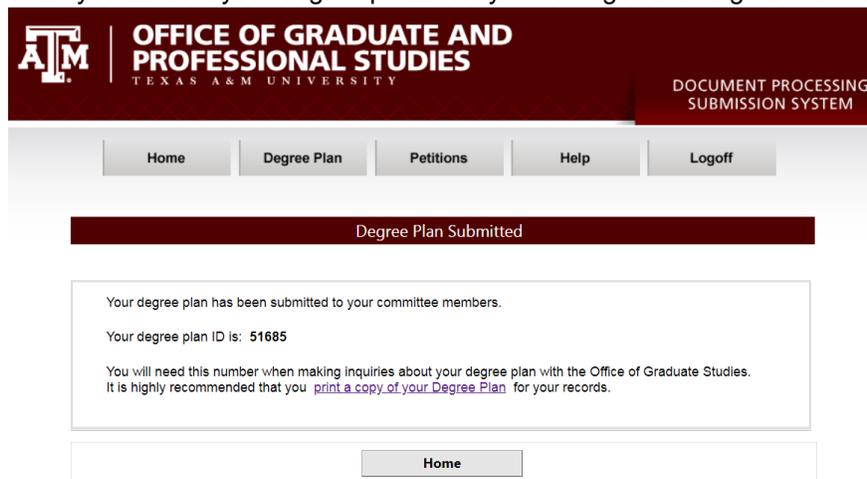
Step 9. Audit Again

Select Audit again.



Step 10. Submit Your Degree Plan

The system will have you **submit** your degree plan after you have gone through 2 audit functions.



Note: *Your degree plan is not automatically approved. It goes through a series of approvals through our department and the Graduate & Professional School. You should expect a 7-14 day email response from GPS once it has passed all approvals.*

Appendix B

Changing Course(s) on an Approved Degree Plan

Once your degree plan is approved, you can change courses on it.

Step 1. Log into <https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu/>

Enter Your NetID and Password

Step 2. Create New Petition

Step 3. Identifying Information for Petition

Enter the type of Petition you are filing for.

- To change a course on your degree plan, select the **Long Form**.

Step 4. Petition for Course Change(s)

Select Course Change and Press Proceed

Home Degree Plan Petitions Help Logoff

Petition to Request Waivers or Exceptions, Time Limit Extensions, Change of Committee Members & Courses

Please Note: Only one Long Form Petition may be submitted at a time. A Long Form Petition may be used to submit request to Change a Degree Plan's Committee Membership or Courses, to request a Waiver or Exception, or to request an extension to Time Limits.

Approved Degree Plan(s):

MS ECON ECON

Please check the subjects of this petition. Each Section that you wish to include in this Petition must be **saved** prior to submission.

Committee Change
 Course Change
 Waivers & Exceptions
 Time Limit Extensions

Complete Long Form

Please proceed to the next screen where you may select to submit, print, edit or delete your petition request.

Proceed

Step 4. Update Courses to be Listed on Your Degree Plan

You will add and delete courses to be listed on your degree plan. Then select Proceed.

Courses

Course Listing:

Course	Hours	Grade	Type	Taken	
ECMT860 MATH ECONOMICS	3.00		A&M	Fall , 2022	Delete
ECMT873 ECONOMIC ANALYTICS	3.00		A&M	Fall , 2022	Delete
ECMT874 ECONOMIC FORECASTING	3.00	A	A&M	Spring , 2021	Delete
ECMT880 FINANCIAL ECONOMETRICS	3.00	A	A&M	Spring , 2022	Delete
ECON807 FOUN OF MICROEC THEORY	3.00	A	A&M	Fall , 2021	Delete
ECON811 FNDTNS OF MACROECON TH	3.00	A	A&M	Spring , 2022	Delete
ECON833 ENERGY MARKETS	3.00	A	A&M	Spring , 2022	Delete
ECON875 CAPSTONE FINC ECON/ECMT	3.00		A&M	Fall , 2022	Delete
STAT808 REGRESSION ANALYSIS	3.00	A	A&M	Spring , 2022	Delete
STAT826 METH TIME SERIES ANALY	3.00		A&M	Summer , 2022	Delete
STAT831 STAT METHODS IN FINANCE	3.00		A&M	Fall , 2022	Delete
STAT859 APPLIED CAT DATA ANALY	3.00		A&M	Summer , 2022	Delete

Total Degree Plan Hours: 36.00

*Additional course work may be added to this proposed course of study by the Advisory Committee, if such additional work is needed to correct deficiencies in your academic preparation.

Course Type: * A&M Transfer

Course Prefix: *

Course: *

Credit Hours: * Final Grade:

Year Taken: Semester Taken:

Campus:

* indicates a required field

Add Course

Save Proposed Course Change Section

Complete Long Form

Please proceed to the next screen where you may select to submit, print, edit or delete your petition request.

Proceed

Step 5. Your Petition Has Been Created

Your Petition has been created, **but it is Incomplete (INC)**. You will then select **Audit**.

Petition

Petition Type:	LongForm
Creation Date:	July 28, 2022
Submit Date:	Petition has not been submitted.
Approval Status:	INC
Status Detail:	Your document has been created and must be submitted to begin the approval process. All degree plans and LongForm petitions containing a Committee or Course Change, must pass an audit before submission is allowed.

Step 6. Select Audit Again

The system requires you to select Audit for a second time.

Audit

The system is about to audit your Long Form petition's request for committee or coursework changes.

When audited, your petition will be checked to make sure it meets the qualifications to be submitted to your committee members and department for review.

If problems are discovered while auditing the petition, you will be given the opportunity to change your petition and audit again or request an exception to the catalog rules and limitations. Some problems are not eligible for an exception and must be corrected by editing the petition.

Step 7. Audit Results

If the Petition passes the Audit, you will receive an approval.

If the Petition does NOT pass the Audit, you will receive the following message. You will be prompted to edit your Long Form Petition to remove the cause of the warning(s) and audit the petition again.

Audit Results

Your Long Form petition has been audited.
Your petition did not pass the audit.

Reason	Severity
Rule # H43 - Your degree plan exceeds the minimum number of hours. Please be aware that this may extend time to degree. While this is allowable, departmental review and approval is required. Please request an exception to this rule on the "Exception - Edit" screen and enter justification.	Warning

Audit Rule warnings must be addressed in one of the following ways:

1. Edit your [Long Form Petition](#) to remove the cause of the warning(s) and audit the petition again.
2. Or enter a [Exception Request](#) for each warning.

Note: Your Long Form Petition cannot be submitted until all audit rule warnings have been addressed or the committee and course work changes are reversed.

[Home](#)

Step 8. Home Page

Be sure to go back to your home page to verify your Petition has been created, submitted, and audited. An INC indicates that your Petition is incomplete.

Note: Your Petition is not automatically approved. It goes through a series of approvals through our department and the Graduate & Professional School. You should expect a 7-14 day email response from GPS once it has passed all approvals.

Appendix C

Applying to PhD Programs at TAMU/Continuing another Graduate Degree

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL



Letter of Intent

Background. The purpose of this form is to enable a student completing a graduate degree at Texas A&M University to continue for another graduate degree without filing an admissions application through the Office of Admissions. Any break in enrollment (between the two programs) must be less than one calendar year. The admitting department's approval and signature is required before the form is submitted to the Graduate and Professional School (GPS). Submission should occur no earlier than one year from the requested semester start date.

Note. Programs may require all applicants, including students wishing to submit a Letter of Intent or applicants completing graduate degrees from outside the program, to submit a formal application through the Office of Admissions. Students wishing to submit a Letter of Intent should determine the existing policies of the admitting department/program.

Instructions. (1) The student should initiate the DocuSign form by completing the requested information. (2) The form then routes to the Staff Graduate Advisor, who will review the form to ensure the information is complete and correct. (3) The Department Head or Intercollegiate Faculty Chair of the admitting department/program should complete their information, indicate whether the request is approved, and sign the form. DocuSign will then send the completed form to Graduate and Professional School for processing.

If the Letter of Intent is approved, Graduate and Professional School will process the form. Only after this time are students eligible to register for courses during the scheduled enrollment period for continuing students. If the student fails to complete the first degree prior to the requested semester start date, admission to the new program will no longer be valid for that semester. The admission will be deferred, if specified by the department, for up to one year from the requested semester start date. Otherwise, a new Letter of Intent form must be submitted.

Current degree program (degree) Expected completion date (semester/year)

Proposed degree program (degree/major/department) Requested semester start date *

**The requested semester start date cannot be more than one calendar year following graduation from the current program (e.g., enrolling no later than Spring 2016 for students completing the current program in May 2015.)*

Student Name UIN Date

Mailing Address Email Address

Checked and approved by Staff Graduate Advisor: _____

We have reviewed the student's credentials and have accepted or declined him/her into the above named program.

If accepted, please choose beginning term option:
 (please select one) the semester named above **only**
 up to one year after the semester named above

Department Head / Intercollegiate Faculty Chair - type and sign Date

Letter of Intent

Last Revised: 01/08/2021

Appendix D

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Department of Economics is committed to offering students a wide range of opportunities to learn, succeed and excel. The Master of Science in Economics Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis and are based on merit and financial need. The scholarships are available to students pursuing their Master of Science in Economics degree and to assist students financially in meeting their academic goals. Recipients will receive a minimum of \$1000 per academic year. This amount will be divided between Fall and Spring semesters. If the student is scheduled to graduate in the Fall semester, the student will receive the full amount. Non-Resident recipients will be eligible for in-state tuition.

TO APPLY

Fill out the online application form* and submit the following via the online submission system:

- a. Your resume
- b. A statement of financial need (maximum of one page, 12pt font).
 - Your name and UIN must be at the top left corner of the document:
FirstName LastName
123456789

*The online application link will be emailed to all students in the Spring or Fall semester.

CRITERIA

- a. Scholarships will be awarded based on merit and financial need
- b. Must be in good standing with the university and the ECON department
- c. Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student (9 credit hours)
- d. Must be enrolled as a full-time student in the Fall semester
- e. Must maintain a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on your transcript
- f. Must have participated in three (3) department sponsored events each semester

DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. on May 1st** to be considered for the scholarships awarded for the upcoming academic year.

- Late applications will **NOT** be accepted.
- All required documents must be submitted as one pdf through the application submission system.

Failure to submit a complete online application with all fields entered on the form and all required documents submitted by the deadline may result in disqualification of scholarship consideration.

Who to Contact

The following list is a guide on who to contact when you have questions.

Contact Margaret, marge@tamu.edu, for:

- Admissions to MS ECON/Fastrack
- MS ECON Advising¹
- MS ECON Curriculum
- MS ECON Course Registration
- MS ECON Course Selections
- Certificate Programs
- Continuing Another TAMU Grad Program
- Degree Plans
- **Documents Needing Signatures**²
- Graduation/Diploma Application
- MS ECON Scholarships
- For International Students
 - Curricular Practical Training
 - Optional Practical Training
 - Any document needing a graduate advisor/director signature/approval
- Q-Drop/Withdrawing

Contact Paula, paulav@tamu.edu, for:

- Career Fairs
- Career Prep
- Cover Letters
- Exit Survey
- Graduation Hooding Ceremony
- Internships
- Industry Visits
- Professional Development
- Resumes

¹Fastrack students should contact their Undergraduate Advisor for questions regarding their Bachelor's degree.

²Students needing a document signed by department faculty or the graduate advisor should expect a response time of 5 business days.

Need Help With	Who to Contact	Contact Information
Admission Official Documents	University's Admissions Office	https://admissions.tamu.edu/
Conversation Partnerships (for International Students)	Center for Teaching Excellence	https://cte.tamu.edu/Graduate-Student-Support/English-Language-Proficiency
Financial Aid	Financial Aid Office	https://financialaid.tamu.edu/
Finding Course Descriptions	Graduate Catalog	https://catalog.tamu.edu/
Graduation Application & Fee	Registrar's Office	https://graduation.tamu.edu/
Mental Health Guidance	Counseling & Psychological Services	https://caps.tamu.edu/
Parking & Transportation	Transportation Services	https://transport.tamu.edu/
Registering for Non-ECON Courses (Except FINC ³)	The academic advisor from that program (Except FINC ²)	Search that program's website
Scholarships ⁴	Scholarships Office	https://scholarships.tamu.edu/
Student Disabilities	Disability Resources	https://disability.tamu.edu/
Student Health	Student Health Services	https://shs.tamu.edu/
Student Tuition & Fees	Student Business Services	https://sbs.tamu.edu
Transcript Requests	Registrar's Office	https://registrar.tamu.edu/ under Forms & Reports tab
Written & Oral Communication	University Writing Center	https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/

³Students wanting to register for FINC courses must enter their request through Margaret's Waitlist. Information about this waitlist will be emailed to all MS ECON students each semester.

⁴Scholarships will be posted to student account at the beginning of the semester. If you received a scholarship and do not see it posted to your account or you do not see a tuition waiver after the first or second week of the semester, contact Student Business Services.