DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS

Program Learning Outcomes for the MA and PhD Degrees in the field of Economics

Upon completing the MA degree in the field of Economics, students will be able to:

1. Carry out independent research in economics, using mathematical, statistical, econometric, and computational tools.
2. Conduct a focused review of the literature and develop a research design to carry out independent research. Read critically and assess research manuscripts related to their field of study and in other fields.

Additionally, upon completing the PhD degree in the field of Economics, students will be able to:

1. Write an independent and original thesis that is of sufficient quality to merit publication in a top economics journal.
2. Defend their research design and modeling choices by presenting their paper in a seminar environment. Communicate their research effectively by writing clearly, concisely, and cogently.

Requirements for the MA and PhD Degrees in the field of Economics

MA Degree Program
The MA degree is a non-thesis master’s degree. For general university requirements for non-thesis masters degrees, please see Non-Thesis Master’s Degrees. For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students. Although students are not normally admitted to study for an MA, graduate students may earn the MA along the way to the PhD. In order to obtain the MA Degree in the field of Economics, students must:

- Pass the first year core courses with a grade point average of 2.67 or better.
- Complete 6 field courses with passing grades.
- Earn a satisfactory grade in ECON 700 in the last two semesters before graduation.

Summary

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Total Credit Hours Required for the MA Degree in the field of Economics

90

PhD Degree Program
For general university requirements, please see Doctoral Degrees. For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students. Candidates for the PhD usually spend from 2 to 2-1/2 years in full-time coursework and at least 1 year writing the thesis; 5 years is a reasonable goal for completing the program. For the PhD degree in the field of Economics, students must:

- Attend the statistics and mathematics camp before starting their first year courses.
- Complete an approved program of at least 18 courses (including approved courses in other departments), no more than 4 of which are research workshops. At least 2 years of full-time study must be in residence at Rice.
- Perform satisfactorily on the written general exams in economic theory and econometrics.
- Write a research paper proposal before the start of their third year.
- Write and present a research paper before the end of their third year.
- Choose a thesis advisor by the end of their seventh semester.
- Attend a research workshop every semester after their first year and present their own research in a workshop once every semester after their second year.
- Submit a written progress report in every semester they register for ECON 800.
- Submit a thesis progress report every year starting with their fourth year.
- Defend their thesis proposal to the faculty and students in a seminar during the spring semester of their fourth year.

Summary

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Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Economics

90

Policies for the PhD Degree in the field of Economics

Department of Economics Graduate Program Handbook
The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the department of Economics publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: Economics Ph.D. Graduate Handbook.pdf

Admission

Preparation for PhD Program: Applicants to the PhD program should have a strong background in mathematics and statistics. All applicants are required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
Additional Information
For additional information, please see the Economics website: https://economics.rice.edu/

Opportunities for the PhD Degree in the field of Economics

Additional Master’s Degrees Options for the PhD Degree in the field of Economics, or the PhD Degree in the field of Statistics

Students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Economics, or in the field of Statistics, have the opportunity to also earn a Master of Arts (MA) degree in either the fields of Economics or Statistics, respectively.

Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Economics with an MA Degree in the field of Statistics

Students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Economics and the MA degree with coordinated work in Statistics must complete:

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 courses from departmental (ECON or BUSI) course offerings that have a strong statistics content. ¹</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 courses from departmental (STAT) course offerings that are significantly different in content to courses in economics. ¹, ²</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Qualifier in Econometrics at the comparable level of an MA degree in Statistics.</td>
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<td>A Major Project ³</td>
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<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
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Footnotes and Additional Information
¹ Courses that are jointly listed (cross-listed) between the 2 departments are counted towards the number of courses in the "home" department for the particular course.
² Must include Advanced Statistical Methods and Multivariate Statistics.
³ This may be directed by Economics faculty, but must have strong statistical content. The doctoral proposal in Economics can count toward this requirement.

Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Statistics with an MA Degree in the field of Economics

Students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Statistics and the MA degree with coordinated work in Economics must complete:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>MICROECONOMICS I</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 502</td>
<td>MACROECONOMICS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 504</td>
<td>COMPUTATIONAL ECONOMICS ¹</td>
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<td>STAT 604</td>
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<td>ECON 505</td>
<td>FINANCIAL ECONOMICS I ¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUSI 521</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 508</td>
<td>MICROECONOMICS II</td>
<td>5</td>
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Elective Requirements

Select 5 courses from departmental (STAT) course offerings

Qualifier in Statistics at the comparable level of a field of examination from the MA degree in the field of Economics.

A Major Project ²

Total Credit Hours 32

Footnotes and Additional Information
¹ Courses that are jointly listed (cross-listed) between the 2 departments are counted toward the number of courses in the "home" department of the particular course.
² This may be directed by Statistics faculty, but must have strong econometrics content. The doctoral proposal in Statistics can count toward this requirement.

Additional Information
For additional information, please see the Economics website: https://economics.rice.edu/