

# ECONOMICS, MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN FINANCIAL ECONOMICS

## Program accreditation

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (<http://www.aacsb.edu/>)

## Program goal

The Master of Arts in Economics is designed to enhance the student's abilities to use economic modeling to conduct applied analytical and econometric research. Students in this program are expected to demonstrate competence over a rigorous and current core curriculum in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and in econometrics.

Graduates of the program should be well-qualified to conduct applied economic analysis in either a government or corporate research setting. The program also is an excellent preparation for entry into a doctoral program in economics or finance.

## Student learning outcomes

1. Students will be able to use a standard macroeconomic model to analyze the impact of a policy action on major macroeconomic variables.
2. Students will be able to use advanced microeconomic models to analyze the behavior of consumers and firms and the impact of public policy on economic welfare.
3. Students will understand the properties of the Ordinary Least Squares estimator under different assumptions about the data generating process encountered in economics.
4. Students will understand circumstances in which estimation of an econometric time series model is appropriate.
5. Students will understand the application of models appropriate for the analysis of limited dependent variables encountered in economics.

## VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the [academic regulations section](http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/) for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

## Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the [academic regulations section](http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/) for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/>)

## Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the [academic regulations section](http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/) for additional information on graduation requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

## Other information

School of Business [policies and procedures for graduate students](#) are available on the school's website.

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

## Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.A.	Fall	Jul 1	
	Spring	Nov 1	
	Summer	Mar 1	

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>), applicants must submit an up-to-date resume.

International applicants may be required to submit an approved English proficiency score and/or course-by-course international transcript evaluation.

All applicants may opt to submit a GMAT or GRE score for consideration. Additional information can be found on the Graduate Studies in Business webpage (<https://business.vcu.edu/prospective-students/graduate/admissions/#sob-content-1801062>).

## Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), the M.A. in Economics degree with a concentration in financial economics requires a minimum of 30 credit hours of 600-level course work. The 30 hours must include seven core courses and three restricted electives.

## Prerequisite undergraduate and/or foundation courses

Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may be waived for students who present satisfactory equivalent preparation at either the undergraduate or graduate level. This determination is made by the faculty adviser at the time of admission.

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Prerequisite undergraduate course</b>		
MATH 200 or ECON 403	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I Introduction to Mathematical Economics	4
<b>Foundation courses</b>		
ECON 501	Introduction to Econometrics	3
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3

## Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Required courses</b>		
ECON 604	Advanced Microeconomic Theory	3
ECON 607	Advanced Macroeconomic Theory	3
ECON 612	Econometrics	3
ECON 614	Mathematical Economics	3
ECON 617	Financial Markets	3
ECON 641	Econometric Time-series Analysis	3
ECON 642	Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics	3
<b>Restricted electives</b>		
FIRE 623	Financial Management	3
FIRE 635	Investments and Security Analysis	3
FIRE 650	Derivatives	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 30.

## Accelerated opportunities

The department offers opportunities for qualified undergraduate students to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. Students interested in an accelerated program from the School of Business (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/business/economics/economics-bs/#acceleratedtext>) can see details on the program page in the Undergraduate Bulletin. The College of Humanities and Sciences also offers this accelerated option (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/economicsprogram/economics-bs/#acceleratedbsandmatext>) in their liberal arts-focused economics degree.

### Contact

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### Additional contact

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**Program website:** [business.vcu.edu/academics/economics/ma-in-economics/](http://business.vcu.edu/academics/economics/ma-in-economics/) (<http://business.vcu.edu/academics/economics/ma-in-economics/>)