

# ECONOMICS, MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

## 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 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 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 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 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 master's degree students** are available on the school's website.

Apply online at [graduate.admissions.vcu.edu](http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu) (<http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu>).

## Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.A.	Fall	Jul 1	GMAT or GRE*
	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.

\*Test requirements may be waived for candidates with an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited U.S. institution with a minimum GPA of 3.25. Waiver request information can be found on the Graduate Studies in Business webpage (<https://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/how-to-apply>).

## 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 requires a minimum of 30 credit hours including six core courses in economics and four approved electives.

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.

## Prerequisite undergraduate course

Course	Title	Hours
MATH 200	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	4
or ECON 403	Introduction to Mathematical Economics	

Austen Gouldman  
 Director, graduate programs  
 Email: [gouldmana@vcu.edu](mailto:gouldmana@vcu.edu)  
 Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Additional contact**  
 Graduate Studies in Business  
 Email: [gsib@vcu.edu](mailto:gsib@vcu.edu)  
 Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Program website:** [business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics](http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics) (<http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics>)

## Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Foundation courses</b>		
ECON 500	Concepts in Economics	3
ECON 501	Introduction to Econometrics	3
<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 641	Econometric Time-series Analysis	3
ECON 642	Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics	3
<b>Approved electives</b>		12
ECON 600:609		
ECON 616:699		
FIRE 600:699		
HADM 602	Health System Organization, Financing and Performance	
HADM 610	Health Analytics and Decision Support	
HCPR 601	Introduction to Health Policy	
HCPR 701:734		
INFO 614	Data Mining	
MKTG 600:699		
MGMT 600:699		
OPER 636	Machine Learning Algorithms	
OPER 643	Decision and Risk Analysis	
OPER 647	Multiobjective Decision Analysis	
PADM 601	Principles of Public Administration	
PADM 603	Politics and Economics	
PADM 609	Financial Management in Government	
PADM 622	Public Sector Budgeting	
PADM 625	Public Policy Analysis	
SCMA 600:699		
STAT/BIOS 513	Mathematical Statistics I	
STAT/BIOS 514	Mathematical Statistics II	
STAT 600:699		

**The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 30 (36 if both graduate foundation courses are required).**

**Graduate program director**