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

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

Program goal

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Economics program will have the knowledge and experience to qualify for a wide and rapidly expanding range of analyst positions in the private or public sectors. Graduates will be particularly well-suited for positions requiring modeling skills and substantial experience in the analysis and interpretation of firm-level, industry or macroeconomic data. A unique feature of the program is a three-course core sequence in applied econometrics. These courses emphasize the application of modeling techniques and data analysis though the introduction of cases and projects. Through these courses, students acquire a working knowledge of up-to-date powerful statistical software and broad experience in working with a variety of real data sets. The concentration in health economics will allow students with particular interest in the health sector and in health policy issues to specialize in health economics, a topic currently quite relevant.

Graduates of the M.A.in Economics with a concentration in health economics, in addition to holding highly competitive terminal credentials as analysts, will find the program to be an outstanding bridge to doctoral work in programs such as the Ph.D. in Healthcare Policy and Research offered in the School of Medicine at VCU.

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 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 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 with a concentration in health economics requires 30 credit hours of 600-level courses. The 30 hours must include six core courses and four 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
Prerequisite undergraduate course		
MATH 200	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	4
or ECON 403	Introduction to Mathematical Economics	
Foundation course		
ECON 501	Introduction to Econometrics	3

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
Required courses		
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
Restricted electives		
Select four of the following:		12
HADM 602	Health System Organization, Financing and Performance	
HADM 606	Health Care Managerial Accounting	
HADM 607	Financial Management in Health Organizations	
HADM 610	Health Analytics and Decision Support	
HADM 615	Health Care Politics and Policy	
HADM 624	Health Economics	
HCPR 601	Introduction to Health Policy	
HCPR 703	Health Economics: Theory and Principles	
HCPR 733	Statistical Methods in Analysis of Healthcare Research	
Total Hours		**30**

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.

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Program website: business.vcu.edu/academics/economics/ma-in-economics/ (http://business.vcu.edu/academics/economics/ma-in-economics/)