

Master of Arts in Economics

Economists gather and analyze data, evaluate and report on statistical trends, and make recommendations based on collected insights. In our program, you will develop these analytical skills and gain experience using statistical analysis software. An Economics M.A. degree is an ideal foundation for jobs in data science, analytics, government, and policy.

Financial Aid

Visit the Graduate Studies website for information about funding opportunities (<http://graduate.ku.edu/funding/>) for graduate students at KU.

Financial Aid and Scholarships (<https://financialaid.ku.edu/>) administers grants, loans, and need-based financial aid.

Facilities and Services

In addition to KU computing and library facilities, students in the M.A. and Ph.D. programs may use the department's computer laboratory, which provides access to a variety of databases and econometric software packages useful for economics research.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Applicants to the M.A. and M.A./J.D. programs should have taken a minimum of 2 courses in calculus (6 to 10 semester hours) and a statistics course. Students with little background in economics may be advised to take ECON 520 Microeconomics and/or ECON 522 Macroeconomics and/or ECON 526 Introduction to Econometrics as preparation for M.A. courses. ECON 520, ECON 522, and ECON 526 do not count toward completion of M.A. degree requirements.

Applications submitted before **May 1** receive first consideration for fall or summer admission. Applications submitted before **November 1** receive first consideration for spring admission.

Submit your graduate application online (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>).

M.A. Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Economics requires a total of 30 hours and allows for the following degree completion options:

1. Course Work-Only
2. Master's Thesis Final Defense

The program serves students with little previous background in economics as well as students who majored in economics as undergraduates and provides maximum flexibility for students to pursue their own special interests. The degree requirements are as follows:

Course Work Requirements

At initial enrollment, each candidate must discuss a preliminary plan of study with the M.A. program director. This plan may be revised over time. **In total, 18 hours of course work coursework (out of 30 hours) must be 700 level or higher.**

Code	Title	Hours
ECON 700	Survey of Microeconomics ¹	3
ECON 701	Survey of Macroeconomics ¹	3
ECON 715	Elementary Econometrics ¹	3
12 hours of ECON electives at the 500+ level		12
Electives or Thesis Hours		9
Student choosing the thesis option should enroll in 6 hours of ECON 899 and an additional 3 hours of ECON electives at the 700+ level		
Student choosing the coursework only option should enroll in 9 hours of ECON electives at the 700+ level		
Total Hours		30

¹Doctoral-level theory courses (ECON 801, ECON 810, ECON 817) can be substituted.

Students have the option of taking up to 9 elective hours in related areas, such as business administration, computer science, political science, or mathematics, chosen in consultation with the graduate program coordinator and approved by the M.A. program director.

Electives

Below is a list of available electives. Courses listed below that were taken at KU prior to official admission to the graduate program (year 5) cannot be retaken for credit.

Code	Title	Hours
ECON 305	History of Economic Analysis	3
ECON 350	Environmental Economics	3
ECON 351	Philosophy of Economics	3
ECON 360	Economic Systems	3
ECON 363	Current Economic Issues of East Europe	3
ECON 382	Economic Development	3
ECON 384	Economic Development of Latin America	3
ECON 386	Economic Issues in China	3
ECON 409	Sports Economics	3
ECON 410	Energy Economics	3
ECON 413	Behavioral Economics	3
ECON 464	Topics in Applied Economics: _____	3
ECON 490	Game Theory	3
ECON 497	Research in Economics	1-3
ECON 600	Money and Banking	3
ECON 604	International Trade	3

ECON 605	International Finance	3
ECON 620	Elements of Mathematical Economics	3
ECON 622	Public Finance	3
ECON 630	Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy	3
ECON 640	Labor Economics	3
ECON 664	Topics in Economics: _____	3
ECON 669	The Economics of Financial Markets	3
ECON 680	Economic Growth	3
ECON 696	Research Methods in Economics	3
ECON 705	Development of Economic Thought	3
ECON 716	Econometric Forecasting	3
ECON 718	Elementary Financial Econometrics	3
ECON 719	Digital Economics	3
ECON 730	Topics in Industrial Organization	3
ECON 740	Theory of Economic Growth and Development	3
ECON 769	Financial Economics	3
ECON 770	Economics of the Labor Market	3
ECON 780	Topics in Economics: _____	1-3
ECON 790	Game Theory and Applications	3
ECON 791	Game Theory and Applications II	3
ECON 800	Optimization Techniques I	3
ECON 801	Microeconomics I	3
ECON 802	Microeconomics II	3
ECON 809	Optimization Techniques II	3
ECON 810	Macroeconomics I	3
ECON 811	Macroeconomics II	3
ECON 816	Probability and Statistics	3
ECON 817	Econometrics I	3
ECON 818	Econometrics II	3
ECON 830	Game Theory and Industrial Organization	3
ECON 854	Advanced Environmental Economic Theory	3
ECON 869	Advanced Financial Economics	3
ECON 870	Applied Microeconomics	3
ECON 880	Advanced Topics in Economic Theory: _____	1-3
ECON 901	Advanced Economic Theory I	3
ECON 911	Applied Macroeconomics	3
ECON 912	Advanced Macroeconomics	3
ECON 913	Monetary Economics	3
ECON 914	Computational Methods for Economics	3
ECON 915	Advanced Econometrics I	3
ECON 916	Advanced Econometrics II	3
ECON 917	Advanced Econometrics III	3
ECON 918	Financial Econometrics	3
ECON 919	Advanced Health Economics	3
ECON 950	Special Problems in Economics	1-3

should share the results of the economic research they have undertaken and, most importantly, the contribution the thesis makes to the extant literature on the subject. The oral presentation and defense will not be scheduled until the thesis is complete. The student must submit the thesis to the supervisor and the faculty committee at least two weeks before the final defense. For students interested in pursuing a doctoral program, the thesis degree is recommended.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Apply tools of economic analysis to critique original research in their specific field or subfield.
- Apply broad knowledge of theory and research methods to questions and current problems in the field of economics.
- Communicate effectively to professional audiences and the public through technical reports and presentations.

Master's Thesis & Final Defense

Those choosing to complete the M.A. degree with a written thesis must do an oral presentation and defense of the thesis to a faculty committee in accordance with the Graduate Studies Policy on Master's Final Exams (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/masters-final-exams/>). In the thesis, the student