

ECONOMICS, BS

Banner Code: LA-BS-ECON

D150 Mason Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: economics.gmu.edu/programs/la-bs-econ

Economics is about more than money and profits. It is a way of looking at the world through the lens of incentives, choices, and markets to help uncover new solutions to the persistent problems in our society. This economic perspective sheds light on important issues in the areas of production, education, crime, the environment, international trade, immigration, health care, economic growth, poverty, and more. The BS in Economics provides a stronger emphasis on quantitative analysis. Students prepare for a career as an analyst in government, consulting, trade associations, or other private sector positions, and for graduate school in economics or more quantitative business administration programs.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete a minimum of 59 credits of required coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Students completing a concentration will complete additional credits.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Some economics courses may fulfill the Mason Core requirement in global understanding. Check with the departmental advising office for more information. Economics majors can fulfill the Mason Core synthesis requirement with ECON 309 Economic Problems and Public Policies (Mason Core).

Core Courses without Concentration

Required Courses

ECON 103	Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core) (with a grade of C or above)	3
ECON 104	Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core) (with a grade of C or above)	3
ECON 306	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ECON 311	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
ECON 345	Introduction to Econometrics	3
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)	4
MATH 114	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	4

Select one from the following:		3-4
IT 104	Introduction to Computing (Mason Core)	
CS 112	Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core)	
HNRS 353 & MIS 102	Technology in the Contemporary World (Topic Varies) (Mason Core) and Spreadsheet Applications for Business	
Total Credits		26-27

Statistics

Select one from the following: ¹		6
STAT 250 & STAT 350	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and Introductory Statistics II	
STAT 344 & STAT 354	Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II	
Total Credits		6

¹ With departmental permission, BUS 210 Business Analytics I and BUS 310 Business Analytics II may also be substituted for the two required courses in statistics; however, a two-course sequence of STAT 250 Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and STAT 350 Introductory Statistics II OR STAT 344 Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and STAT 354 Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II is highly recommended for students who wish to pursue graduate study in economics.

Additional Course

ACCT 203	Survey of Accounting	3
or STAT 362	Introduction to Computer Statistical Packages	
Total Credits		3

Electives without Concentration

Electives

Select 24 credits of electives from courses in economics at the 300 and 400 level ¹	24
Total Credits	24

¹ ECON 385 International Economic Policy may not be used to fulfill this requirement. If ECON 340 Introduction to Mathematical Economics is chosen as an elective, students need not take the 4-credit course MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II; however, MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II is strongly recommended for students considering graduate school in economics since it is required for admission to most graduate programs. An additional calculus course beyond MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II is also advisable for students considering graduate study in economics.

Optional Concentrations

Students interested in a degree in economics with a concentration will complete the coursework for one of the concentrations below.

Concentration in Managerial Economics (MECN)

Students who wish to focus their BS in economics for application in the business world may choose to pursue a concentration in managerial economics. They complete 62 credits, 10 of which may be used also to fulfill Mason Core requirements.

Required Courses

ECON 103	Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 104	Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 306	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ECON 308	Managerial Economics and Strategy	3
ECON 310	Money and Banking	3
ECON 311	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
ECON 345	Introduction to Econometrics	3
Total Credits		21

Statistics

Select one from the following: ¹		6
STAT 250 & STAT 350	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and Introductory Statistics II	
STAT 344 & STAT 354	Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II	
Total Credits		6

¹ With departmental permission, BUS 210 Business Analytics I and BUS 310 Business Analytics II may also be substituted for the two required courses in statistics; however, a two-course sequence of STAT 250 Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and STAT 350 Introductory Statistics II OR STAT 344 Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and STAT 354 Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II is highly recommended for students who wish to pursue graduate study in economics.

Required Courses in Math, Accounting, and Information Technology

ACCT 203	Survey of Accounting	3
Select one from the following:		3-4
IT 104	Introduction to Computing (Mason Core)	
CS 112	Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core)	
HNRS 353 & MIS 102	Technology in the Contemporary World (Topic Varies) (Mason Core) and Spreadsheet Applications for Business	
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)	4
MATH 114	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II ¹	4
Total Credits		14-15

¹ ECON 340 Introduction to Mathematical Economics may not be substituted for MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II for the concentration

Two Required Courses in Business Writing

BUS 103	Develop Professional Skills I: Foundational Elements	3
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BUS 303	Develop Professional Skills II: Advanced Elements	3
Total Credits		6

Electives in Economics

Select 9 credits from the following:		9
ECON 321	Economics of Labor	
ECON 370	Economics of Industrial Organization	
ECON 390	International Economics (Mason Core)	
ECON 412	Game Theory and Economics of Institutions	
ECON 415	Law and Economics	
ECON 420	International Money and Finance	
ECON 421	Financial Economics	
ECON 496	Special Topics in Economics	
Total Credits		9

Additional Electives in Economics

Select 6 credits of electives in economics from courses at the 300 and 400 level ¹		6
Total Credits		6

¹ ECON 385 International Economic Policy may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Elective not in Economics

Select one elective from the following:		3
BULE 303	Legal Environment of Business	
FNAN 303	Financial Management	
MGMT 303	Principles of Management	
MKTG 303	Principles of Marketing	
MIS 303	Introduction to Business Information Systems (Mason Core)	
OM 303	Operations Management	
Total Credits		3

Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

This is a high credit concentration for students interested in a program that explores the interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, political science, and economics.

Required Courses in Economics

ECON 103	Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 104	Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 306	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ECON 311	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
ECON 345	Introduction to Econometrics	3
ECON 412	Game Theory and Economics of Institutions	3
Total Credits		18

Statistics

Select one from the following: ¹		6
STAT 250 & STAT 350	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and Introductory Statistics II	

STAT 344 & STAT 354	Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II	
Total Credits		6

¹ With departmental permission, BUS 210 Business Analytics I and BUS 310 Business Analytics II may also be substituted for the two required courses in statistics; however, a two-course sequence of STAT 250 Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and STAT 350 Introductory Statistics II OR STAT 344 Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and STAT 354 Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II is highly recommended for students who wish to pursue graduate study in economics.

Required Courses in Math and Information Technology

Select one from the following:			3-4
IT 104	Introduction to Computing (Mason Core)		
CS 112	Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core)		
HNRS 353 & MIS 102	Technology in the Contemporary World (Topic Varies) (Mason Core) and Spreadsheet Applications for Business		
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)	4	
MATH 114	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	4	
Total Credits			11-12

Electives

Select 18 credits of electives in economics at the 300 and 400 level ¹	18
Total Credits	18

¹ ECON 385 International Economic Policy may not be used to fulfill this requirement. If ECON 340 Introduction to Mathematical Economics is chosen as an elective, students need not take the 4-credit course MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II; however, MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II is strongly recommended for students considering graduate school in economics since it is required for admission to most graduate programs. An additional calculus course beyond MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II is also advisable for students considering graduate study in economics.

Philosophy

PHIL/GOVT 324 or PHIL/GOVT 327	Modern Western Political Theory Contemporary Western Political Theory	3
PHIL 357 or PHIL 371	Philosophy of the Social Sciences Philosophy of Natural Sciences	3
PHIL 358	Ethics and Economics	3
PHIL 411	Theories of Decision	3
Total Credits		12

Public and International Affairs

GOVT 103	Introduction to American Government (Mason Core)	3
GOVT/PHIL 323	Classical Western Political Theory	3
GOVT 422	Constitutional Interpretation	3

GOVT 467	Current Issues in Economic Policy	3
Total Credits		12

Capstone Experience Course

GOVT 469 or PHIL/ECON 460	Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	3
Total Credits		3

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated as "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in economics fulfill this requirement by successfully completing:

Select one from the following:		3
ECON 345	Introduction to Econometrics	
ECON 355	The Political Economy of Nonprofit Institutions	
ECON 365	Topics in Economic History	
ECON 435	Economics of Energy	
ECON 470	Economics of Regulation	
Total Credits		3

Upper Level Requirements

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication	6
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology	3-7
Core Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Synthesis/Capstone Requirement¹		
	Synthesis/Capstone	3
Total Credits		40

¹ minimum 3 credits

Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with electives to bring the degree total to 120

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students pursuing departmental honors must complete 6 hours of ECON 495 RS: Honors Thesis in Economics culminating with an original work of research and an oral presentation. Requirements for departmental honors are in addition to the coursework required for the major. Students must complete ECON 495 RS: Honors Thesis in Economics with a grade of B or higher to receive departmental honors.

Economics majors who have completed 90 credits with an overall GPA of 3.50 and a GPA of 3.50 within the major are eligible to apply. Not all applicants who meet the minimum requirements are guaranteed acceptance.

Applications will be available starting May 1st of each year. Applications are due by August 1st.

To be accepted into the program and enroll in ECON 495 RS: Honors Thesis in Economics students must submit a research proposal. Research proposals can be developed independently or by completing ECON 494 Honors Thesis Writing Seminar with a grade of B or higher. Completion of ECON 494 Honors Thesis Writing Seminar is not required for departmental honors.

Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's programs listed below specify the BS in economics as a feeder degree for their programs. It is important to note, however, that many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason, including this one. See the full list of master's degrees with accelerated programs at George Mason.

Economics, BA or BS/Economics, Accelerated MA

Overview

Highly-qualified Mason economics majors may apply to the accelerated master's degree program. If accepted, students will be able to earn both a BA or BS and a MA in economics after satisfactory completion of 144 credits. Graduates are exceptionally well-prepared for professional school or a PhD program in economics or a related discipline.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in economics, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://economics.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-MA-ACEL-ECON>) on the departmental web site.

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students will be required to complete two master's courses to be applied to the undergraduate degree as upper level credit. These two courses must be selected from the following five courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		6
ECON 535	Survey of Applied Econometrics	
ECON 611	Microeconomic Theory	
ECON 612	Microeconomic Theory II	
ECON 615	Macroeconomic Theory	
ECON 630	Mathematical Economics I	
Total Credits		6

Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work and earn a grade of B or better (3.00 or higher) in course work applied to their major. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students may take an additional two master's courses as reserve graduate credit. These two additional master's courses must be selected from the following five courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		6
ECON 535	Survey of Applied Econometrics	
ECON 611	Microeconomic Theory	
ECON 612	Microeconomic Theory II	
ECON 615	Macroeconomic Theory	
ECON 630	Mathematical Economics I	
Total Credits		6

These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

BS (selected)/Statistical Science, Accelerated MS

Overview

Highly-qualified students in selected BS programs (see below) have the option of obtaining an accelerated Statistical Science, MS. Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Admission Requirements

Students enrolled in a BS degree in any one of the Volgenau School major areas, in the Mathematics, BS program from the College of Science, or in the Economics, BS program from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences may apply to this option if they have earned 90 undergraduate credits with an overall GPA of 3.00. Criteria for admission are identical to criteria for admission to the Statistical Science, MS program, which include successful completion of the following Mason courses each with a grade of C or better:

Code	Title	Credits
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)	4
MATH 114	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	4
MATH 213	Analytic Geometry and Calculus III	3
MATH 203 or MATH 321	Linear Algebra Abstract Algebra	3
STAT 250 or STAT 344	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I	3
STAT 346 or MATH 351	Probability for Engineers Probability	3

Accelerated Option Requirements

Students must complete all credits that satisfy requirements for the BS and MS programs, with 6 credits overlapping with grades of B or better in two 500-level STAT courses selected from STAT 544 Applied Probability, STAT 554 Applied Statistics I, and STAT 574 Survey Sampling I.

Degree Conferral

Students must apply the semester before they expect to complete the BS requirements to have the BS degree conferred. In addition, at the beginning of the student's final undergraduate semester, students must complete a Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form that is submitted to the Office of the University Registrar and Graduate Recruitment and Enrollment Services. At the completion of MS requirements, a master's degree is conferred.