# ECONOMICS, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-ECON

D150 Mason Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: economics.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-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 BA is designed for students with a strong interest in the liberal arts. It is appropriate for those who prefer a less quantitative degree program than the BS and may be especially appropriate for students planning to attend law school or graduate programs in business or public administration.

## Admissions & Policies

### Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete a minimum of 48 credits of required coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Students in the concentration in philosophy, politics, and economics complete a minimum of 70 credits. Students must also complete ECON 103 Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core) and ECON 104 Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core) with at least a 2.00 (C) in each.

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.

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

### Core Courses without Concentration

#### Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 103</td>
<td>Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 104</td>
<td>Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 306</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 311</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 108</td>
<td>Introductory Calculus with Business Applications (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNRT 125</td>
<td>A Liberal Arts Approach to Calculus (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 113</td>
<td>Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT 104</td>
<td>Introduction to Computing (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 112</td>
<td>Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNRS 353</td>
<td>Technology in the Contemporary World (Topic Varies) (Mason Core) and Spreadsheet Applications for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 18-19

### Statistics

Select 6 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUS 210 &amp; BUS 310</td>
<td>Business Analytics I and Business Analytics II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 250 &amp; STAT 350</td>
<td>Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and Introductory Statistics II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 344 &amp; STAT 354</td>
<td>Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 6

### Electives without Concentration

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

Total Credits: 24

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

### Core Courses with Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

The 70-73 credit concentration in philosophy, politics, and economics offers students a program that explores the interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, political science, and economics.

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<tr>
<td>ECON 103</td>
<td>Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>ECON 311</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 412</td>
<td>Game Theory and Economics of Institutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HNRT 125: A Liberal Arts Approach to Calculus (Mason Core)

MATH 113: Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)

Select one from the following: 3-4 credits

- 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: 21-22

Statistics
Select one from the following: 4-6 credits

- BUS 210 & BUS 310: Business Analytics I and Business Analytics II
- 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: 4-6

Electives with Concentration
Select 18 credits of electives in economics at the 300 and 400 level

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 a 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: Modern Western Political Theory

or PHIL/GOVT 327: Contemporary Western Political Theory

PHIL 357: Philosophy of the Social Sciences

or PHIL 371: Philosophy of Natural Sciences

PHIL 358: Ethics and Economics

PHIL 411: Theories of Decision

Total Credits: 12

Public and International Affairs

GOVT 103: Introduction to American Government (Mason Core)

GOVT/PHIL 323: Classical Western Political Theory

GOVT 422: Constitutional Interpretation

GOVT 467: Current Issues in Economic Policy

Total Credits: 3

Capstone Experience Course

GOVT 469: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

or PHIL/ECON 460: Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

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 one of the following courses:

- 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

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.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Select 3 credits from the following:

- PHIL 1
- RELI

1 Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement)

- ANTH
- CRIM
ECON
GOVT
HIST
LING
PSYC
SOCI

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

- **GGS 101** Major World Regions (Mason Core)
- **GGS 103** Human Geography (Mason Core)
- **GGS 110** Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
- **GGS 301** Political Geography
- **GGS 303** Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
- **GGS 304** Population Geography (Mason Core)
- **GGS 305** Economic Geography
- **GGS 306** Urban Geography
- **GGS 315** Geography of the United States
- **GGS 316** Geography of Latin America
- **GGS 320** Geography of Europe
- **GGS 325** Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
- **GGS 330** Geography of the Soviet Succession States
- **GGS 357** Structures in Urban Governance and Planning
- **GGS 380** Geography of Virginia

1. The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

2. HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

### Foreign Language

<table>
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</thead>
</table>
|      | Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by:  
Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202, 209, or 210 (or higher level courses taught in the language)  
Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test  
Or completing the following ASL three course sequence: EDSE 115 American Sign Language (ASL) I  
EDSE 116 American Sign Language (ASL) II  
EDSE 219 American Sign Language (ASL) III | 3 |

1. Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

### Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 114</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 300</td>
<td>Civilizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 301</td>
<td>Native North Americans</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 302</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 303</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of the Andes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 306</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 307</td>
<td>Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 308</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 309</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 313</td>
<td>Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 314</td>
<td>Zombies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 316</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 323</td>
<td>Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 330</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 332</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 381</td>
<td>Medical Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 383</td>
<td>Cities of the Global South</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 396</td>
<td>Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 360</td>
<td>Topics in Arabic Cultural Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 420</td>
<td>Survey of Arabic Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 440</td>
<td>Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 203</td>
<td>Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 204</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 206</td>
<td>Survey of African Art (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 318</td>
<td>Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 319</td>
<td>Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 320</td>
<td>Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 382</td>
<td>Arts of India (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 383</td>
<td>Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 384</td>
<td>Arts of China (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 385</td>
<td>Arts of Japan (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 386</td>
<td>The Silk Road (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 482</td>
<td>RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN 318</td>
<td>Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIST 364  Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core) 3
HIST 365  Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core) 3
HIST 366  Comparative Slavery 3
HIST 367  History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America 3
HIST 387  Topics in Global History (Mason Core) 3-6
HIST 426  The Russian Revolution 3
HIST 460  Modern Iran (Mason Core) 3
HIST 461  Arab-Israeli Conflict 3
HIST 462  Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core) 3
HIST 465  The Middle East in the 20th Century 3
JAPA 310  Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core) 3
JAPA 340  Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core) 3
KORE 320  Korean Popular Culture in a Global World 3
MUSI 103  Musics of the World (Mason Core) 3
RELI 211  Religions of the West (Mason Core) 3
RELI 212  Religions of Asia (Mason Core) 3
RELI 240  Death and the Afterlife in World Religions 3
RELI 272  Islam 3
RELI 313  Hinduism (Mason Core) 3
RELI 314  Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions 3
RELI 315  Buddhism (Mason Core) 3
RELI 337  Mysticism: East and West 3
RELI 365  Muhammad: Life and Legacy 3
RELI 374  Islamic Thought (Mason Core) 3
RELI 375  Qur’an and Hadith 3
RELI 379  Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics 3
RELI 387  Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights 3
RELI 490  Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core) 3
RUSS 353  Russian Civilization (Mason Core) 3
RUSS 354  Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core) 3

1 A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

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.

<table>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Foundation Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Written Communication</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Requirement 1
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 program listed below specifies the BA in economics as a feeder degree for its program. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 535</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Econometrics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 611</td>
<td>Microeconomic Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Microeconomic Theory II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 615</td>
<td>Macroeconomic Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 630</td>
<td>Mathematical Economics I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

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Additional Electives
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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 program listed below specifies the BA in economics as a feeder degree for its program. 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
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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.

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Accelerated Option Requirements
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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 535</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Econometrics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.