Undergraduate Programs

The department offers a bachelor of arts (BA) and a bachelor of science (BS) degree in economics. The bachelor of science degree program is designed for students who desire a more technical program with a stronger emphasis on economic and quantitative analysis. It is especially appropriate for students who anticipate a career as an economic analyst in government, consulting, trade associations, or private sector positions that emphasize economic research and analysis. The requirements are also suitable for students planning postgraduate education in economics or more quantitative business administration programs.

Students interested in careers in the business world can pursue a concentration in managerial economics within the BS in Economics (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/economics/economics-bs/).

The BA in Economics (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/economics/economics-ba/) is designed for students with an interest in the liberal arts. It is appropriate for those who prefer a less quantitative degree program and may be especially suitable for students planning to attend law school or graduate programs in business or public administration.

Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Program

The department offers highly qualified undergraduates the opportunity to apply to an accelerated master’s degree program in economics (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/economics/economics-bs/#acceleratedmasterstext). If accepted, students will be able to earn both an undergraduate and a graduate degree after satisfactory completion of 138 credits, generally within five years.

Graduate Programs

The department offers a master’s and a doctoral degree in economics. The department is noted for its emphasis on comparative institutional analysis and its focus on the relations among economic, political, and legal institutions. This is reflected in the specializations associated with the department: experimental economics, Austrian economics, public choice, constitutional political economy, law and economics, and new institutional economics.

Funding

The department offers graduate teaching and research assistantships and fellowships that are awarded on a competitive basis. Other sources of funding such as grants, loans, and employment on campus are also available. Students with assistantships must register for a minimum of 6 credits a semester and, like all students, demonstrate satisfactory progress toward their degree.