I. Overview

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Economics is a rigorous program of advanced economics and empirical analysis courses. These courses provide a powerful set of skills that can be directly applied to business, policy analysis, research, or as a stepping stone to Ph.D. programs.

The core classes include Price Theory for Management, Strategy, Markets and Competition, and Analytics for Business.

Building on these core classes, students can exploit the program's flexibility to tailor their elective courses and research as desired.

One popular area of focus is applications for business decision-making. Building on the two core classes in price theory and strategic analysis, students can select economics electives in financial economics, personnel economics, law and economics, cost-benefit analysis, strategy, monetary economics, and non-economics electives in business strategy, advanced finance, commodity futures markets, and prices, to create a powerful business-focused curriculum.

A second option is to select advanced economics and elective courses tailored to your specific interests. The Department of Economics offers courses in economics of education, international economics, economics of health, antitrust economics, sports economics, environmental economics, anti-trust economics, natural resources, advanced econometrics, macroeconomics, and so on. Combining economics courses with electives outside the department allows students to create a flexible and individual curriculum.

A third option is to use the master's program as preparation for advanced study in a Ph.D. program. Students can take the full Ph.D. core curriculum as excellent preparation for any Ph.D. program in the country.

A unique feature of the M.A. program is that it can be completed either in one calendar year or part-time over several years. The program begins in June each year with online courses in price theory and analytics for business. Full-time students then take 4 classes in each of the fall and spring semesters and graduate the following May. To help part-time students who are fully employed, two classes in each of the spring and fall semesters will be offered in the evenings. Part-time students can take as many classes as they want during the fall and spring semesters; if they take the two evening classes during the fall and spring semesters, they will graduate in two years.

Tom Evans and Scott Templeton are co-coordinators of the M.A. in Economics program. Tom Evans, Ph.D., coordinates the program for individuals who are not currently attending Clemson. Scott Templeton, Ph.D., coordinates the program for current Clemson students.

II. Curriculum
Students are required to earn 30 credits in a combination of required core classes, economics electives, and electives outside the department.

A. Required Courses

All students must take 6 credits of applied economics theory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 700</td>
<td>Price Theory for Management</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 8230</td>
<td>Microeconomics for Public Policy</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and ECON 8430</td>
<td>Strategy, Markets, and Competition</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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All students must take 3 credits in applied econometrics:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 8700</td>
<td>Economic Analytics for Business</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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NOTE 1: Intermediate microeconomics is a pre-requisite for ECON (Price Theory) and ECON 8230.

NOTE 2: ECON 6240 and ECON 8430 may not both be counted towards the master’s program. If a student takes ECON 6240, they must take ECON 8050 to fulfill the applied economic theory requirement.

NOTE 3: Though rare, substitutions may be approved by the program coordinator and course instructor.

B. Economics Research Course

MA students are required to complete a one-semester research paper, though there are three options: completing a project of their own choosing, completing a practicum working with a local firm or government entity, or completing research as part of an internship.

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 700</td>
<td>Economics Research Course</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 8810</td>
<td>Internship in Economics</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECON 700 Economics Research (3 credits): This course takes students from initial idea through literature review, theory, data gathering, data analysis, hypothesis testing and conclusion. Within this course are two options. One is for the student to select a topic of their own choosing. The second is to be partnered with a local business or government entity by the Clemson Small Business Development Center on an applied economics project.

ECON 8810 Internship in Economics (3 credits): This course allows students to apply economic analysis in a business setting to develop technical skills in a professional environment as part of their summer internship or full-time work.

C. Elective Courses
All coursework must be completed at the 6000 or 8000 level, with a maximum of 9 credits at the 6000 level.

Students may take up to 6 credits of non-economics electives; all the remaining courses must be taken from the economics department.

**D. Elective Courses in Economics**

- ECON 6020 – Law and Economics
- ECON 6100 – Economic Development
- ECON 6110 – Economics of Education
- ECON 6120 – International Microeconomics
- ECON 6130 – International Macroeconomics
- ECON 6220 – Monetary Economics
- ECON 6230 – Economics of Health
- ECON 6240 – Organization of Industries (see Note2)
- ECON 6250 – Antitrust Economics
- ECON 6260 – Seminar in Sports Economics
- ECON 6270 – Development of the American Economy
- ECON 6280 – Cost-Benefit Analysis
- ECON 6290 – Economics of Energy Markets
- ECON 6400 – Game Theory
- ECON 6570 – Natural Resource Use, Technology, and Policy
- ECON 8110 – Economics of Environmental Quality
- ECON 8150 – Economic History of the United States
- ECON 8260 – Economic Theory of Regulation
- ECON 8270 – Economics of Institutions and Organizations
- ECON 8600 – Data Analysis for Economics
- ECON 8610 – Advanced Data Analysis for Economics
- ECON 8710 – Advanced Data Analytics for Business
- ECON ____ – Financial Economics
- ECON ____ – Personnel Economics

**E. Electives Courses from Other Departments**

- AGRB 6090 – Commodity Futures Markets
- AGRB 6560 – Prices
- CRP 8040 – Introduction to GIS for Planning and Policy
- CPSC 6300 – Applied Data Science
- FOR 6340 and FOR 6341 – Geographical Information Systems for Natural Resources and Lab
- MATH 6070 – Regression and Time Series Analysis
- STAT 6020 – Introduction to Statistical Computing
- STAT 8010 – Statistical Methods
- STAT 8420 – Introduction to Statistical Methods
- STAT 8020 – Statistical Methods II
F. Typical Schedule for Full-Time, One Year M.A. in Economics

Summer (online)
ECON ____ - Price Theory for Management
ECON 8700 - Economic Analytics for Business

Fall (in person)
ECON 8430 - Strategy, Markets, and Competition
And 9 credits of electives

Spring (in person)
ECON ____ - Economics Research Course
or ECON 8810 – Internship in Economics
And 9 credits of electives

NOTE 1: All students in the M.A. program are expected to participate in four informal workshops - two during the Fall and two during the Spring semester - on communicating economics.

NOTE 2: Check course availability through Section Overview in iRoar. Use Public Access to the Syllabus Repository at https://etpr.app.clemson.edu/repository/ to download previous syllabi.

G. Typical Schedule for Part-Time M.A. in Economics

Summer (online)
ECON ____ - Price Theory for Management
ECON 8700 - Economic Analytics for Business

After the first summer, students can take one or two classes each fall and Spring semester until they complete all the requirements.

Students have six years from the date of their first matriculation to complete their degree.

H. Ph.D. Preparation Option

M.A. students who are superbly prepared and wish to develop advanced skills in economic theory may earn their M.A. degree by successfully completing each course in the core curriculum of the Ph.D. in Economics and one three-credit elective course. Students who wish to take the core courses must obtain advance permission from the Ph.D. and M.A. program coordinators. The Ph.D.
core currently consists of Applied Mathematical Economics (ECON 8040), a three-course sequence in microeconomics (ECON 8010, 8020, and 9010), a two-course sequence in macroeconomics (ECON 8050 and, for now, ECON 8980), and a three-course sequence in econometrics (ECON 8060, 8070, and either 8080 or 9090). The minimum requirements of 30 credits still apply. Successful completion of this non-thesis option typically requires three or more semesters of coursework.

III. Administrative Requirements: Policies, Procedures, and Forms

Clemson University and its Graduate School have many policies and procedures that applicants, admitted students, and faculty must follow. Each student is responsible for knowing about these policies and procedures found in the current Graduate Student Handbook. See https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policies-procedures/index.html for details.

As a result of its policies and procedures, the Graduate School also has forms that should be filled out and filed in a timely fashion to ensure that an applicant is considered for admission and an admitted student graduates on time. Students are responsible for meeting administrative requirements and also keeping track of any subsequent changes. Students must consult the Graduate School Announcements and updates on the Graduate School’s website. Forms for enrolled students are available at https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/forms.html.

Some of the most important policies, procedures, and forms are discussed below in this section. Although the information in this section is correct at the time of its being written, students are responsible for any and all subsequent changes. That is, the information in this section cannot substitute for and is not necessarily the information available on the Graduate School’s websites.

A. Admission Requirements

The program takes a broad view of applicants. There are no limits on the number of students that can be accepted. Students accepted into the program have demonstrated the preparation and ability to be successful.

Accepted students will typically have the following qualifications:

- A four-year undergraduate degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of at least 3.0.
- Taken intermediate microeconomics and earned 3.0 or above.
- Taken a statistics course and earned 3.0 or above.
- Taken univariate and multivariate calculus and earned 3.0 or above.

Students who majored in economics, agricultural economics, in mathematics or statistics and took intermediate microeconomics will have adequate backgrounds.

Students who have not achieved all of the above will still be considered, but students need to then provide evidence that they will be successful in the program. This could be by explaining exceptional circumstances or by describing the subsequent steps that students have taken to improve or demonstrate competency in each of these areas.
Excellent students with inadequate backgrounds in economics may be admitted but may also be required to take extra, co-requisite undergraduate courses, such as intermediate microeconomics or calculus. Domestic students with inadequate backgrounds may also apply as non-degree seekers, take co-requisite undergraduate or even core graduate courses, and then apply to the program.

B. Application and Admission to Program

To apply for admission to the M.A. in Economics program, please follow the instructions at https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/admissions/apply/new-applicants.html and start the online application here: https://gradapply.clemson.edu/apply/. Applications should be completed by March 15 to guarantee a decision and notification before April 15.

Complete applications should include the following:

i. Complete official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions.

ii. A personal statement. The personal statement should include the applicant's reasons for pursuing a master’s degree and why they believe their preparation is sufficient to be successful. This personal statement must be written by the applicant.

iii. Two letters of recommendation. For undergraduate applicants, both letters should be from academic sources. For currently employed applicants, please include one academic and one employment reference. The letters should specifically address the applicant's ability and preparation to be successful in a master’s program.

iv. A curriculum vitae or resume.

v. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are NOT required, but they are encouraged. For students who do not meet the admission requirements described above, a GRE score would be an acceptable way to address shortcomings. Median scores of students recently admitted to the MA in Economics are 158 (61st percentile) for the quantitative, 154 (62nd percentile) for the verbal, and 4 (54th percentile) for the analytical writing parts of the GRE. (U.S. citizens and resident aliens may request a discount on the fees for the GRE from the Fee Reduction Program of the Educational Testing Service.)

vi. International applicants must take an English test and submit official scores unless they are exempted. Admitted international students have earned at least 90 on the Test of English as a 4 Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT and at least 20 for listening and 20 for speaking. If an admitted international student has not taken the TOEFL, she instead has earned a score of at least 60 on the Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic, 7.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or 115 on Duolingo’s test. An applicant with a low TOEFL, PTE Academic, IELTS, or Duolingo score can still be admitted conditional on completing Level 112 of an ELS course and retaking the GRE. International applicants who have studied abroad for at least two years in the U.S. or other English-speaking countries and completed their undergraduate education there are not required to retake an English test. International applicants who have graduated from “exempt institutions” should contact the Graduate School to request an exemption from the English test. “Exempt institutions” are listed here:
C. Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are set by Board of Trustees during their July meeting for the upcoming academic year. The MA in Economics program is a Tier 2 program for purposes of tuition. In 2023-2024 full-time graduate students will pay tuition of $5,610 per semester if they are residents of South Carolina and $11,686 per semester if they are non-residents. All full-time students will pay $713 per semester in fees. A student must take at least nine credit hours in each of the Fall and Spring semesters to be full-time. Part-time students will pay $772 per credit if they are residents and $1,548 per credit if they are non-residents. Part-time students also pay $121 in additional fees. Check our online calculator for tuition and fees for the latest information about costs. Grading, research, and teaching assistantships are not available to students in the MS in Economic Analytics program. Nor are we able to offer any scholarship, fellowship, or tuition waiver to our MS students.

International students pay (out-of-state tuition). However, for students with passports from 1) Taiwan, 2) Rhineland-Palatinate, or Rhineland-Pfalz, Germany, 3) Thuringen, Germany, 4) Brandenburg, Germany, or 5) Queensland, Australia are eligible for in-state tuition because their respective governments have Sister-State Agreements with South Carolina.

All graduate students are required to have health insurance. Students who are already covered by policies that meet the University's requirements are eligible for waivers. All others are covered by the Clemson University Student Insurance Plan. Fees for health insurance are included with tuition and fees for Fall and Spring semesters, and students are automatically enrolled. The premium for health insurance during the summer is included in the fee for the Spring semester.

D. Major Advisor, the Advisory Committee, and Plan of Study

Students should choose a major advisor by the middle of their second semester or the start of their final semester. A faculty member from the Department of Economics must serve as the major advisor or at least a co-advisor. The major advisor assists the student in course selection, supervises research, leads the student’s advisory-examining committee, and writes letters of recommendation for jobs or doctoral programs. The graduate program coordinator serves as interim advisor until the student selects one.

E. Plan of Study

Required courses, elective courses, and any undergraduate co-requisite course that addresses a deficiency in background are listed in a form called the GS2 Plan of Study. The student must file the GS2 Plan of Study by the middle of his or her second semester or before the start of his or her final semester as an enrolled student. The exact date of the deadline for filing the GS2 Plan of Study can be found at https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/deadlines.html. A student can amend the GS2 Plan of Study if academic plans change. The final version of the GS2 Plan of Study is important
Because someone in Enrolled Student Services determines the student’s eligibility for graduation by checking each course listed against the student’s transcript.

Please refer to https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/plan-of-study/index.html for more information about the GS2 Plan of Study.

F. Academic Probation

A graduate student must have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better on a scale of 0 to 4 to earn a graduate degree from Clemson University. A student who does not maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 is put on academic probation or may be dismissed from the M.A. in Economics program. There are two levels of academic probation: R1 for those on probation for the first time and R2 for those beyond the first time. Students placed on probation because their GPA has fallen below 3.0 are expected to raise their GPA to at least 3.0 within nine credit hours. Although students who fail to do so may be dismissed from their program at this point, those who make excellent progress may be given another chance to do so within the next nine credit hours. Students placed on academic probation must file a GSPS, which must be signed by the graduate coordinator and approved by the Graduate School. The student has the responsibility to contact the coordinator of the M.A. in Economics program for discussion about the Plan for Success before approval.

IV. Plan for a Bachelor in Economics to Master in Economics

A. Overview of Plan for B.A. or B.S. to M.A. in Economics

The Bachelor-to-Graduate plan enables undergraduate majors in economics (B.A. or B.S.) at Clemson to take graduate courses and also earn their M.A. in Economics. An undergraduate economics major with an approved Bachelor-to-Graduate Plan may enroll in graduate courses for dual use and, thereby, satisfy course-content requirements of the master’s degree and the undergraduate economics major. The numerical credits for a dual-use course, however, cannot be counted twice to satisfy the minimum requirements for unique credits for both degrees. In particular, students must earn at least 120 and 30 unique credits for their bachelor’s and master’s degrees. For example, an economics major could use the 6000-level version of Cost-Benefit Analysis (ECON 6280) in lieu of the undergraduate version of the course (ECON 4280) to satisfy part of her major’s requirement of 9 or 12 credits from elective courses in economics for her B.S. or B.A. and also use the course’s 3 credits to reach the 30 unique credits required for her M.A. degree. However, the student would need to earn 123 credits to graduate with her B.A. or B.S., so 120 of them were unique.

A maximum of 12 credit hours of graduate courses that satisfy the requirements for the M.A. in Economics may be taken for dual use. Approved graduate courses may satisfy electives of the bachelor’s degree. Approved 8000-level courses may be substituted for required undergraduate courses in economics. However, 6000-level counterparts of 4000-level courses that are specifically identified as required for the bachelor’s degree (e.g., ECON 4050) cannot be counted toward the master’s requirements. See “1.3. Special Applicant Categories” in the Graduate School’s Policy Handbook for similar information about the “Combined Bachelor’s/master’s degree”.
B. Eligibility and Admission Requirements

Undergraduate economics majors who have earned at least 90 credits at Clemson and a grade point average of 3.40 are eligible to submit a Bachelor-to-Master plan for approval. Students use the form “GS6-Bachelor-to-Graduate—Request for Combined Education Plan” each semester. The online application and its requirements for admission, such as GRE scores, are waived for Clemson students with approved Bachelor's-to-Master's plans to pursue the M.A. in Economics.

C. Approval and Acceptance into Plan

Economic majors should consult both their undergraduate academic advisor and the graduate program coordinator of the master's program, Scott Templeton. The student's undergraduate advisor, Chairperson of the Economics Department, graduate coordinator of the masters' program, and an official of the Graduate School all must approve the plan.

Once the GS6-Bachelor-to-Graduate form is signed and submitted to the graduate school, the Graduate School tracks a student's progress until graduation with a bachelor's degree in economics. Upon completing the undergraduate degree in economics and meeting the required GPA, the student is officially accepted into the M.A. in Economics. In other words, upon graduation with a B.A. or B.S. in Economics and meeting the GPA requirement, students are sent letters that inform them of their full acceptance into the M.A. in Economics program. Their status in iRoar is also updated to graduate student.

D. Graduate Program Requirements of the Bachelor-to-Master Plan

The curricular requirements for the M.A. component of the Bachelor-to-Master plan are identical to those for the M.A. in Economics. A student must earn at least 30 credits in graduate economics or other approved courses. A student must also maintain a 3.0 graduate grade-point average. Not more than 12 of the credits from graded courses that the advisory committee requires may be from 6000-level courses.

V. Other Educational and Career-Related Resources at Clemson

In addition to the courses that our department offers in economic analytics and data analysis, the Clemson Visualization Lab has twelve workshops in data visualization and analytics. See https://sites.google.com/g.clemson.edu/vizlab/home?authuser=0 for details. Palmetto Cluster is Clemson University’s high-performance computing resource. People who run the Palmetto Cluster offer training in R, Python, and machine learning in these languages, among other things. See https://www.palmetto.clemson.edu/palmetto/training/schedule/ for the training schedule. The Clemson Center for Geospatial Technologies (CCGT) currently offers eleven free workshops to train students in geographic information systems and enable them to earn certificates. Graduate students can access services and programs of Clemson's Center for Career and Professional Development. Clemson has “great career services” among colleges and universities in the U.S.,
according to the 2021 Princeton Review, and has earned this superlative rating for the past ten years. Clemson also ranked 3rd best among public universities for internships, according to the Review. The Michelin Career Center, which is part of the Center for Career and Professional Development, has various informational services for graduate students. The Graduate School has its own set of online resources for professional development and career planning called Grad360°. Although graduate students are responsible for their job searches, the graduate coordinator and departmental chair might occasionally provide them with information about job openings.

To improve their study methods, time management, and test preparation, graduate students can use resources from the Academic Success Center, such as success strategy worksheets. The beautiful and spacious new buildings of the Wilbur O. and Ann Power College of Business also enhance the education and professional development of our graduate students.

To access electronic copies of previously approved theses for the M.A. in Economics and the M.S. in Economic Analytics, use this link: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/theses_econ/.