

Department of Economics

Graduate Program Handbook

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Economics

Master of Arts in Economics

Co-Discipline in Economics

Graduate Program Coordinators:

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IPh.D. Program: Assoc. Professor Scott Fullwiler (scottf@umkc.edu)

University of Missouri-Kansas City

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction
- II. Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Degree in Economics
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Admissions
 - C. Assistantships and Fellowships
 - D. Degree Requirements
 - E. Co-discipline
 - F. Social Science Consortium
 - G. Requirements for Retention
 - H. Graduation Requirements
 - I. Graduate Study Abroad
 - J. Student Progress
- III. The Master of Arts Degree in Economics
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Admissions
 - C. Graduate Assistantships
 - D. Program of Study and Degree Requirements
 - E. Requirements for Retention
 - F. Graduation Requirements
 - G. Graduate Study Abroad
 - H. Course Sequences and Progress Toward the Degree
- IV. Co-Discipline in Economics
- V. Research Centers, Seminars, and Other Activities
 - A. Center for Economic Information
 - B. Seminars and Other Activities
 - C. Economics Club and Omicron Delta Epsilon
 - D. *Oeconomicus*

Appendix:

“Guide Through the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program” (UMKC School of Graduate Studies)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN ECONOMICS

I. Introduction

The UMKC Department of Economics offers a Ph.D. degree emphasizing a heterodox-pluralistic approach to economics. We train students to teach in economics programs at liberal arts colleges and research universities in the United States and abroad, and to conduct research in economic theory, applied economic issues, and policy-oriented problems. We welcome students to join our department and to thrive in an intellectually challenging atmosphere of collegial scholarship. Our department offers the opportunity for study well beyond the traditional boundaries of economics.

The Department of Economics has a long tradition of Institutional and Post Keynesian scholarship. Abba Lerner started his U.S. career here in 1936. John Hodges, the first Ph.D. student of C. E. Ayres, began as department chair in 1946. He started the tradition in Institutional economics, and it has been continuously in place since. Robert Brazelton brought the Post Keynesian tradition to the Department of Economics in the 1960s. It too has prospered here. Members of the Department of Economics are long standing participants in the Association for Evolutionary Economics, Association of Social Economics, Union for Radical Political Economics, Association for Institutional Thought, Association for Heterodox Economics, Conference of Socialist Economists, European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy, the Association for Economic and Social Analysis, and the National Economic Association.

The objective of the PhD program in Economics at UMKC is to provide the student with the research training and tools necessary to contribute to the expansion of economic theory and to apply that theory to the development of dynamic public policy. Students receive a thorough grounding in heterodox economic theory. This is done through the combination of required and elective courses that are concerned with theoretical, empirical, and policy issues that draw upon particular features of the theory. The program also provides students with an understanding of research methodology and research methods and techniques, including econometrics and qualitative methods, and a critical understanding of neoclassical theory.

The M.A. program in Economics at UMKC seeks to provide students with a broad level of competence in economics. Students are encouraged to extend the reach of their scholarship to acquire a wide-ranging foundation in addition to technical mastery of theory, quantitative methods, and data analytics. This is done through the combination of required and elective courses.

The Co-discipline in Economics seeks to provide the student with a basic understanding of economic theory and methodology. This is done through the combination of required and elective courses.

The Graduate Program Coordinators are professors Fullwiler (Ph.D program) and Professor Naidu (M.A. program).

II. Ph.D. Degree in Economics

A. Introduction

The Department of Economics participates in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program. The central feature of the program is that students have a major discipline, called the **primary discipline**, and a minor discipline, called the **co-discipline**. Students who want to emphasize economics choose it as their primary discipline; and then choose a co-discipline from a number of different academic areas, including mathematics/statistics, geosciences, and the Social Science Consortium. The list of participating disciplines is available here:

<https://sgs.umkc.edu/interdisciplinary-ph-d-program/>

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Economics spans traditional boundaries among disciplines. The goal of the program is to help students develop knowledge and skills for independent research on the fundamental questions of the present and the future. The program is designed to provide self-directed students with academic training at the highest level, while allowing their participation as colleagues in research of fundamental importance. The department's tradition of Institutional, Post Keynesian, and other heterodox scholarship is particularly well-suited to such an interdisciplinary approach.

The document “Guide Through the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program” is included with this Handbook as an appendix. The required forms that must be filed by students as they progress through the IPh.D. program are available here:

<https://sgs.umkc.edu/interdisciplinary-ph-d-program/forms-for-the-interdisciplinary-ph-d-program/>

Additional information about the IPh.D. program is available here:

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/graduate-studies/interdisciplinary-phd-program/>

The UMKC Course Catalog general information regarding graduate education is available here:

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/general-graduate-academic-regulations-information/>

B. Admissions

Applications for admissions should be submitted through UMKC Office of Admissions:

<https://umkc.edu/admissions/>

The Office of Admissions can be reached by email or telephone using the information below:

admissions@umkc.edu

816-235-8652
800-775-8652

Mailing address:
Office of Admissions
University of Missouri Kansas City
5000 Holmes St.
Kansas City, MO 64110 USA

International applicants can contact the International Student Affairs Office (ISAO) for assistance:

<https://umkc.edu/isao/>

For admissions questions regarding the Department of Economics contact the IPhD Advisor:

Scott Fullwiler Ph.D.

scottf@umkc.edu

(816) 235-5701

Mailing address:
Department of Economics
211 Haag Hall
University of Missouri Kansas City
Kansas City, MO, 64110, USA

<http://cas.umkc.edu/econ/>

The deadline for completed applications and supporting documentation is **February 15** for the Fall semester and **October 1** for the Spring semester. Applications received after these dates may be considered for admission, but generally will not be eligible for Department of Economics assistantships and fellowships.

Admission Requirements

The **criteria** for admission to Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Economics are:

1. For applicants with only a baccalaureate degree, a Graduate Records Examination score above the 50th percentile on the verbal and quantitative and at least a 4.0 on the analytical portions. For applicants with a M.A. degree in economics, the Graduate Record Examination may be waived—contact the department IPhD advisor for further details.
2. A grade point average of at least 3.00 (on a 4.0 scale) covering all college work taken prior to the bachelor's degree, or a grade point average of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) covering all post-baccalaureate work completed to date.

3. International students who have studied less than two years (full time) in a U.S. academic program or a comparable program in an English-speaking country are required to meet the minimum proficiency requirements for graduate students as determined by the UMKC International Student Affairs Office (ISAO). Current criteria for English proficiency are here:
<https://www.umkc.edu/isao/future-students/english-proficiency.html>
4. For full admission applicants must have at least **18 undergraduate semester credit hours in economics**, including intermediate microeconomics and intermediate macroeconomics, and an introductory course in statistics. In addition it is strongly recommended that applicants have some of the following courses: econometrics, mathematical economics, history of economic thought, heterodox economics, economic history, calculus, and linear algebra. Students who have not taken intermediate microeconomics and/or intermediate macroeconomics, or who have taken fewer than 18 credit hours in economics will be admitted only on a provisional status.
5. Applicants matriculated into the M.A. economics program at UMKC may apply for admission to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Economics as once they have completed 15 credit hours of graduate coursework in economics and have earned a grade point average of 3.25 or better.
6. Applicants who wish to transfer to the UMKC Ph.D. program in Economics from Ph.D. programs at other institutions must have obtained grade point average of at least 3.25 covering all graduate coursework. Transfer students must apply for transfer credits toward the Ph.D. as soon as possible after admission. No transfer credit will be granted for any courses not relevant to the Ph.D. in economics or for any courses with a grade of less than 3.0. The UMKC policy for transfer credits in the IPh.D. program is here:
<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/graduate-studies/minimum-interdisciplinary-phd-academic-regulations-degree-requirements/>
8. Applicants who do not fit the above criteria may substitute evidence of scholarly publication, research, recommendations, and academic qualifications to the department admission committee.

C. Assistantships, Fellowships, and Scholarships

Graduate assistantships (Graduate Teaching Assistantship – GTA, Graduate Research Assistantship – GRA, Graduate Assistantship – GA, and Graduate Instructor – GI) are available from the Department of Economics, other academic or administrative units on campus, and research centers associated with the department and the university. The awards for Department of Economics assistantships are only made in **March** for the fall semester of the following academic year.

Contact the IPhD advisor to obtain further information and an application form for Department of Economics assistantships.

The School of Graduate Studies “Handbook for Graduate Teaching Assistants and Graduate Instructors” is found here:

<https://umkc.app.box.com/s/w59t0frxrmc5j8l3np551jzeyknqnj67>

English Language Proficiency and Cultural Orientation. International graduate students receiving a Graduate Teaching Assistantship or serving as a Graduate Instructor must meet the requirements of the UMKC Graduate International Student Instructor and Teaching Assistant Policy. This policy is found here:

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/general-graduate-academic-regulations-information/international-graduate-student-academic-regulations/>

Graduate students who did not receive both their primary and secondary education in a nation or territory in which English is the primary language may not hold a teaching appointment during their first term of enrollment at any public institution of higher education in the State of Missouri. In addition, all such students shall be tested for their ability to communicate orally in English in a classroom setting, and those students who have not previously lived in the United States shall be given a cultural orientation to prepare them for teaching prior to receiving an appointment.

A graduate student from a nation or territory other than the U.S. must have satisfied each of the following standards in order to be certified to accept a GTA or GI appointment at UMKC:

1. Attain a qualifying TOEFL or equivalent score.
 - 24+ is eligible for certification assessment (generally an oral examination in the form of a mock lecture presented to a panel presentation).
 - 22-23 requires a departmental petition in order to participate in the certification assessment.
 - <22 requires an Applied Language Institute oral interview in order to determine eligibility for the certification assessment.
2. Attend the SGS GTA/GI Cultural Orientation.
3. Certification Assessment: Obtain a passing score on an oral examination of language comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar.

The list of countries exempt from proof of English language proficiency is found here:

<https://www.umkc.edu/isao/docs/english-proficiency-exemptions.pdf>

Adequate Progress. To maintain a graduate assistantship students must make adequate progress in the program. See section II.J “Student Progress” below for the definition of adequate progress.

Fellowships and Scholarships. The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) awards Fellowships for new and continuing doctoral students, including:

- Arthur Mag Graduate Fellowship
- Ronald A. MacQuarrie Graduate Fellowship
- School of Graduate Studies Graduate Opportunity Fellowship
- Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Scholar Fellowship

Information regarding other sources for financial support of graduate students, from both UMKC and off-campus, can be found at the sources below:

1. The UMKC School of Graduate Studies maintains a list of externally funded fellowships and scholarships. This list can be found here:
<https://sgs.umkc.edu/prospective-students/funding-your-graduate-education/>
1. UMKC offers a limited number of scholarships for graduate study. More information regarding eligible scholarships for graduate students is found here:
<https://finaid.umkc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/>
2. The UMKC Women's Council Graduate Assistance Fund provides financial support to women currently enrolled in graduate programs at UMKC. The deadline for regular applications is November 1. Information about the UMKC Women's Council and the Graduate Assistance Fund is available here:
<https://www.umkcwc.org/s/1236/bp20/home.aspx?sid=1236&gid=3>

Scholarships for non-resident graduate students:

3. The College of Arts and Sciences Chancellor's Non-resident Award (CNR). Academic departments in the College of Arts and Sciences can award these scholarships to incoming non-resident students with strong academic backgrounds. The scholarship covers the non-resident portion of a student's tuition (approximately \$6,000 per semester). Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 to be eligible. It is awarded upon admission for qualified applicants approved by the Department of Economics and is renewable. Must be U.S. citizen or F-1 or J-1 visa holder, upon enrollment. Contact the Department of Economics IPh.D. Advisor for more information.
<https://finaid.umkc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/featured-scholarships.html>
4. Chancellor's Historically Underrepresented Minority Nonresident Award (MNR). Automatically awarded to newly enrolled nonresident graduate degree-seeking students who identify themselves on the UMKC admission application as African-American, Hispanic or Native American. The scholarship covers the non-resident portion of a student's tuition (approximately \$6,000 per semester). It is awarded upon admission for qualified applicants and is renewable. Must be U.S. citizen or F-1 or J-1 visa holder, upon enrollment. Contact the Department of Economics IPh.D. Advisor for more information.
<https://finaid.umkc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/featured-scholarships.html#Automatic-Scholarships>

5. The UMKC International Student Affairs Office maintains a list of scholarships and awards available for students. This is available at the link below (click on ‘College of Arts and Sciences’ and also ‘Private Scholarship Opportunities’),

<https://www.umkc.edu/isao/future-students/scholarships.html>

D. Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. in economics consists at a minimum of 18 required coursework credit hours in economics—including Economics 5506, 5551, 5601, 5602, 5625 and 5688. If the student has not taken the prerequisites to Economics 5601, 5602, and 5625, they will be required to take Economics 5501, 5502, 5521, and 5525—an additional 12 course work credit hours (or, a total of 30 hours). In addition, there are at minimum 12 credit hours for the dissertation, and 9-12 credit hours outside of economics in the co-discipline.

Economic courses and prerequisites or their equivalents are listed in the table below.

Required Courses – 30 hours

| Course No | Course Title | Term Offered | Prerequisite |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Econ 5501 | Advanced Macroeconomics Analysis | Fall-Evening* | Econ 301 Macroeconomic Analysis |
| Econ 5502 | Advanced Microeconomics Analysis | Spring-Evening | Econ 302 Microeconomic Analysis, Econ 5521 Mathematical Economics |
| Econ 5506 | Advanced History of Economic Thought | Fall-Evening | Graduate Standing |
| Econ 5521 | Mathematical Economics | Fall-Evening | Introductory calculus course (equivalent to UMKC MATH 206) strongly recommended |
| Econ 5525 | Econometric Methods | Spring-Evening | Econ 425 Intermediate Economic Statistics, Econ 5521 Mathematical Economics |
| Econ 5551 | Advanced Institutional Theory | Spring-Evening | Graduate Standing |
| Econ 5601 | Colloquium in Advanced Macroeconomics | Spring-Evening | Econ 5501 Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis |
| Econ 5602 | Colloquium in Advanced Microeconomics | Fall-Evening | Econ 5502 Advanced Microeconomic Analysis |
| Econ 5625 | Colloquium in Econometrics | Fall-Evening | Econ 5525 Econometric Methods |
| Econ 5688 | Colloquium in Political Economy | Spring-Evening | Econ 5506 Advanced History of Economic Thought or Econ 5551 Advanced Institutional Theory |

* Evening is defined as classes starting at 4.00pm or later.

Required Course for Dissertation – 12 hours

Economics 5699 Doctoral Dissertation

E. Co-discipline

According to the guidelines of the IPhD Program, students must take a minimum of 9-12 credit hours of coursework outside of their primary discipline. Economics IPhD students frequently choose the Social Science Consortium as a co-discipline, but students have also chosen geosciences, mathematics/statistics, public affairs and administration, history, and other disciplines. The list of participating disciplines is available here:

<https://sgs.umkc.edu/interdisciplinary-ph-d-program/>

F. Social Science Consortium

The Social Science Consortium is an innovative interdisciplinary co-discipline in the Ph.D. program. Students in the Consortium benefit from a broad association of scholars and academic programs. Please discuss with the Director of the Social Science Consortium and see the UMKC General Catalog for more information:

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/graduate-studies/social-science-consortium-economics-political-science-sociology/>

G. Requirements for Retention

Economics IPh.D. students are expected to maintain a high degree of academic excellence. Economics IPh.D. students must obtain a B or higher (B- not acceptable) in all required courses and maintain a minimum of a 3.0 graduate grade-point average overall. A student who receives a grade of C+ or lower will receive an academic warning. Students who receive a grade of C or C- in two classes, or a D+ or lower in one class, will be dismissed from the program.

H. Graduation Requirements

The UMKC Academic Catalog specifies minimum degree requirements for the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. This information is here:

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/graduate-studies/minimum-interdisciplinary-phd-academic-regulations-degree-requirements/>

The UMKC “IPh.D. Student Handbook” also has current information regarding graduation requirements and includes more detail than the Academic Catalog. This handbook can be found here:

<https://umkc.app.box.com/s/6facrr0k4xmqpc4qqvhe87kv8o6monab>

Students should take note of the following three graduation requirements established by the university:

1) University Residency Requirements

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students must satisfy the doctoral residency requirement by satisfactory completion of at least 18 credits, exclusive of dissertation research, in no more than 24 months. When satisfying the residency requirement, all Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students are subject to the following restrictions:

- The doctoral residency requirement must be satisfied no later than the end of the semester in which the student completes his or her comprehensive examinations.
- Students must achieve a cumulative graduate grade-point average of at least 3.0 in all courses counted toward satisfying the residency requirement.
- Dissertation research credits (5696-5699) may not be counted toward satisfying the doctoral residency requirement.

2) Plan of Study

Within two years after entering the program, the School of Graduate Studies requires submission of a Plan of Study, which is IPhD Form 2 on the Schools of Graduate Studies website. **This must occur within 24 months of being admitted to the program.** Refer to the IPh.D. Student Handbook and IPhD Form 2 for the current requirements.

3) Maximum time to Candidacy and Degree Completion

Doctoral students must take and pass the doctoral comprehensive examination(s) and advance to candidacy within five years from the beginning of doctoral coursework.

After the establishment of degree candidacy, a maximum of five years will be allowed for completion of degree requirements. Failure to complete the work within the periods specified will necessitate re-evaluation of the entire program and may result in a notice of termination. In compelling circumstances, and on the written recommendation of a majority of the student's supervisory committee members, the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and/or Director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program may grant a one-year extension. Some academic units may impose more stringent time requirements.

Together, the five-year limit on advancing to candidacy and the five-year limit on degree completion after candidacy establish a maximum of ten years for degree completion.

4) Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation Defense

Doctoral candidates must prepare and defend a dissertation proposal. The minimum requirements for a dissertation proposal are specified in the SGS IPh.D. Student Handbook. A dissertation proposal defense is scheduled on an individual basis after consultation with the student's supervisory committee. Once the dissertation proposal has been successfully defended it must be filed with the School of Graduate Studies. When developing the dissertation proposal a student will integrate material from their co-discipline; and during the defense of the proposal the student will be expected to demonstrate its interdisciplinary nature.

The doctoral degree requires the successful completion of a doctoral dissertation. Upon completion of the research project, the student will defend the dissertation before the supervisory committee, who determine whether the dissertation is acceptable for the awarding of the Ph.D. degree. The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and/or the Director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program must also approve the dissertation. The date, time, and location of the dissertation defense must be announced and published at least two weeks before the final examination takes place and may not be administered when UMKC is not officially in session.

Deadlines for submitting the application for graduation, submission of the dissertation to the School of Graduate Studies for format review, completion of the dissertation defense, and submitting the completed dissertation to ProQuest for publication, as well as the guidelines for formatting the dissertation are found here:

<https://sgs.umkc.edu/current-students/ready-to-graduate/>

The following additional requirements are established by the Department of Economics for doctoral students.

5) Comprehensive Examinations and Advancement to Candidacy

To advance to degree candidacy Economics Ph.D. students are required to choose and pass three comprehensive examinations from the following four areas of study: Econometrics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Political Economy. Doctoral students must take and pass the doctoral comprehensive examinations and advance to candidacy within five years from the beginning of doctoral coursework.

Department of Economics comprehensive examinations are offered on the Saturday at the end of the first week of both Fall and Spring semesters, unless otherwise announced.

Students should take a comprehensive exam in an area once they have completed the relevant sequence of courses for that examination area. No grade below B (i.e. B- is not acceptable) is allowed in any of these courses in order to be eligible for a comprehensive exam in that area. For Econometrics, the course sequence is ECON 5525 and ECON 5625. For Macroeconomics, the course sequence is ECON 5501 and ECON 5601. For Microeconomics, the course sequence is ECON 5502 and ECON 5602. For Political Economy, the course sequence is ECON 5506, ECON 5551 and ECON 5688.

Sample exam questions can be obtained from the test writers for a given field. Students must take the examinations on their scheduled dates. No exceptions will be made for conference travel, vacations, or other individual reasons. Students must register in advance with the program adviser and department office administrator to take the examinations. However, if the student discovers that he or she is not adequately prepared, the student can cancel his/her registration up to two days before the examination. Exceptions to this can be granted in emergency situations. If adequate notice is not given, a student who does not take the registered examination will be

considered a “no show” and will fail the examination (unless a legitimate emergency prevents the student from taking the examination).

Students are allowed to fail an exam in one subject area. Once a student has taken a comprehensive exam in an area, the student must pass the comprehensive exam in that area. A student who fails a comprehensive exam must retake the comprehensive exam in that subject area at the first opportunity. A second failure, either in the same comprehensive exam area or in a different comprehensive exam area results in dismissal from the Ph.D. program. Students can petition the Doctoral Faculty of the Department of Economics to be allowed failure on a second comprehensive exam. Under no circumstances is a third failure allowed.

Additionally, co-disciplines have the option of requiring an exam or other comprehensive requirements. It is the student’s responsibility to meet with the co-discipline coordinator, discuss whether there are comprehensive requirements, and plan accordingly.

After passing two exams and at least a month prior to taking the third, each student fills out and their committee signs the IPhD Form 3 available on the School of Graduate Studies website. This process may vary if the co-discipline also requires an exam or some other comprehensive assessment. Be sure to communicate with the Economics IPhD Advisor in this case.

Upon successfully passing exams in three areas and completing any required comprehensive work for the co-discipline, each student fills out and their committee completes and signs IPhD Form 4 available on the School of Graduate Studies website. Upon acceptance of Form 4 by the School of Graduate Studies, students officially advance to candidacy and become eligible to enroll in dissertation credits.

I. Graduate Study Abroad

The Economics Department has an exchange agreement with the University of Bremen, Germany in which a student can spend one or two semesters at Bremen taking graduate courses in economics. The courses are in English and will count towards the degree requirements. For more information, see the Graduate Advisor.

J. Student Progress

A course load of 9 credit hours is full-time for a graduate student, and the maximum number of hours a student may take each semester is 12. Approval of the graduate advisor is required beyond this limit. Graduate students holding graduate teaching or research assistantship are automatically exempt from Social Security withholding tax as long as they are enrolled in at least six credit hours. If the student’s enrollment falls below six credit hours, the student’s academic unit may certify his or her eligibility for continued exemption.

Adequate progress requires the student’s overall GPA to be 3.0 or above, and grades of B or higher in all required economics courses. A student is deemed not making adequate progress if they receive less than a B in any required course. If a student’s grade point average is below 3.0 they are placed on academic probation. If the student

remains on academic probation for three consecutive semesters, the student is dismissed. Ph.D. students are required to have a grade of B or higher in all required economics courses (5501, 5502, 5506, 5521, 5525, 5551, 5601, 5602, 5625, 5688). If a grade of B- or lower is earned the course must be retaken. Adequate progress in the Economics doctoral program also requires meeting the deadlines required by the SGS and/or the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program for submission of a Plan of Study and advancement to candidacy.

Students must make adequate progress to remain eligible for a graduate assistantship from the Department of Economics. For students with a graduate assistantship, in addition to the requirements specified in the previous paragraph, adequate progress requires successfully completing 9 credit hours of coursework or dissertation credit hours per semester, completing all required courses during the first two years in the program, and passing comprehensive exams by the beginning of the third year. Any student who fails to meet these requirements will be placed on probationary status and may lose funding after a review by the Economics Department doctoral faculty.

Recommended Course and Testing Sequence for PhD Students with Economics as Primary Discipline

First Year—Fall Semester – 9 or 12 hours (9 hours is full time for graduate student)

Economics 5501—Advanced Macroeconomic Theory

Economics 5521—Mathematical Economics

Co-discipline Course and/or

Economics 5506—Advanced History of Economic Thought (or can be taken in Fall of second year)

First Year—Spring Semester – 9 or 12 hours

Economics 5502—Advanced Microeconomic Theory

Economics 5525—Econometric Methods

Economics 5551—Advanced Institutional Theory and/or

Economics 5601—Colloquium in Advanced Macroeconomics (or can be taken in Spring of second year)

Students completing of ECON 5501 and ECON 5601 in the first year are eligible to take the macroeconomics comprehensive exam at the beginning of the Fall semester of the second year.

Second Year—Fall Semester – 9 or 12 hours

Economics 5506—Advanced History of Economic Thought

Economics 5602—Colloquium in Advanced Microeconomics

Economics 5625—Colloquium in Econometrics and/or

Co-discipline course or ECON Elective

Students completing ECON 5502 and ECON 5602 and/or ECON 5525 and ECON 5625 in the Fall semester of the second year are eligible to take the microeconomics and/or econometrics comprehensive exam at the beginning of the Spring semester of the second year.

Second Year—Spring Semester – 9 or 12 hours

Economics 5601—Colloquium in Advanced Macroeconomics

Economics 5688—Colloquium on Political Economy

Co-discipline course and/or

ECON Elective

End of second year: form Dissertation Supervisory Committee and submit Plan of Study

Students completing ECON 5506, ECON 5551 and ECON 5688 in the Spring semester of the second year are eligible to take the political economy comprehensive exam at the beginning of the Fall semester of the third year.

Third Year—Fall Semester – 9 hours

Co-discipline Course

Co-discipline Course (if needed)

ECON Elective (optional)

Dissertation credit hours (if eligible)

Third Year – Spring Semester – 6-9 hours

- Co-discipline Course (if needed)
- ECON Elective (optional)
- Dissertation credit hours (if eligible)

Co-discipline Comprehensive Exam, where applicable.

**Defense of Dissertation Proposal before Dissertation Supervisory Committee
(before beginning of year four).**

Write the Dissertation and Defend before the Dissertation Supervisory Committee

III. The Master's Degree in Economics

A. Introduction

The M.A. program at UMKC is designed to provide students with a broad level of competence in economics. Students are encouraged to extend the reach of their scholarship to acquire a wide-ranging foundation in addition to technical mastery of theory and quantitative methods. This is done through the combination of required and elective courses.

The aims of the program are:

- to provide students with the training needed to enter either the public or private sectors or take up positions in research and educational institutions.
- to prepare students to independently conduct research utilizing relatively sophisticated data analytics.
- to provide a level of training that enables students to produce and critically evaluate important research and effectively communicate their findings for industry and public policy.
- to provide students with the skills to apply as well as critique different theoretical models and technical methods.
- to prepare students for graduate studies in economics at the doctoral level.

UMKC Graduate Academic Regulations and Information and Master's Degree Academic Regulations can be found here:

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/general-graduate-academic-regulations-information/>

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/general-graduate-academic-regulations-information/masters-degrees-academic-regulations/>

B. Admissions

The application for admissions should be submitted through UMKC Office of Admissions:

<https://umkc.edu/admissions/>

The Office of Admissions can be reached by email or telephone using the information below:

admissions@umkc.edu

816-235-8652
800-775-8652

Mailing address:
Office of Admissions
University of Missouri Kansas City
5000 Holmes St.
Kansas City, MO 64110 USA

International applicants can contact the International Student Affairs Office (ISAO) for assistance:

<https://umkc.edu/isao/>

(816) 235-1113

For admissions questions regarding the Department of Economics contact the M.A. Advisor:

Sirisha Naidu Ph.D.

snaidu@umkc.edu

(816) 235-5715

Mailing address:

Department of Economics
211 Haag Hall
University of Missouri Kansas City
Kansas City, MO, 64110, USA

<http://cas.umkc.edu/econ/>

Admission Requirements

There are no application deadlines for the M.A. program in Economics. Qualified students are admitted at any time and students are admitted for the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

Applicants will be considered for admission to the M.A. program if they have a baccalaureate degree in economics from an accredited college or university with an overall grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent). Applicants whose undergraduate grade-point average is less than 3.0 will only be considered for admission if they take the general test Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) and score above a 153 in Verbal Reasoning, 144 in Quantitative Reasoning, and 4 in the Analytical Writing measures; and if they present a strong application package.

Applicants who have a baccalaureate degree with an overall undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 or better and who did not major or minor in economics may be **provisionally admitted** to the program but will have to demonstrate proficiency in the following courses (or their equivalents) before taking courses in the graduate program:

Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis (Economics 301)
Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (Economics 302)
Introductory Statistics (Statistics 235)

It is highly recommended (though not required) that students take a course on introductory calculus and linear algebra before starting the MA program.

International students who have studied less than two years (full time) in a U.S. academic program or a comparable program in an English-speaking country are required to meet the minimum proficiency requirements for graduate students as determined by UMKC's International Student Affairs Office (ISAO):

<https://www.umkc.edu/isao/future-students/english-proficiency.html>

The list of countries exempt from proof of English language proficiency is found here:

<https://www.umkc.edu/isao/docs/english-proficiency-exemptions.pdf>

C. Graduate Assistantships, Fellowships and Scholarships

Graduate assistantships from the Department of Economics and affiliated research centers are usually allocated exclusively to students in the IPh.D. program, but there are other sources for financial support of M.A. students, from both UMKC and off-campus.

2. The UMKC School of Graduate Studies maintains a list of externally funded fellowships and scholarships. A link to this list is here:
<https://sgs.umkc.edu/prospective-students/funding-your-graduate-education/>
3. UMKC offers a limited number of scholarships for graduate study. More information regarding eligible scholarships for graduate students is found here:
<https://finaid.umkc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/>
4. The UMKC Women's Council Graduate Assistance Fund provides financial support to women currently enrolled in graduate programs at UMKC. The deadline for regular applications is November 1. More information about the UMKC Women's Council and the Graduate Assistance Fund is available here:
<https://www.umkcwc.org/s/1236/bp20/home.aspx?sid=1236&gid=3>

Scholarships for M.A. students who are not Missouri residents:

5. The College of Arts and Sciences Chancellor's Non-resident Award (CNR). Academic departments in the College of Arts and Sciences can award these scholarships to incoming non-resident students with strong academic backgrounds. The scholarship covers the non-resident portion of a student's tuition (approximately \$6,000 per semester). Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 to be eligible. It is awarded upon admission for qualified applicants approved by the Department of Economics and is renewable. Must be U.S. citizen or F-1 or J-1 visa holder upon enrollment. Contact the Department of Economics M.A. Advisor for more information.
<https://finaid.umkc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/featured-scholarships.html>
6. Chancellor's Historically Underrepresented Minority Nonresident Award (MNR). Automatically awarded to newly enrolled nonresident graduate degree-seeking

students who identify themselves on the UMKC admission application as African-American, Hispanic or Native American. The scholarship covers the non-resident portion of a student's tuition (approximately \$6,000 per semester). It is awarded upon admission for qualified applicants and is renewable. Must be U.S. citizen or F-1 or J-1 visa holder, upon enrollment. Contact the Department of Economics M.A. Advisor for more information.

<https://finaid.umkc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/featured-scholarships.html#Automatic-Scholarships>

7. The UMKC International Student Affairs Office maintains a list of scholarships and awards available for students. This is available at the link below (click on 'College of Arts and Sciences' and also 'Private Scholarship Opportunities'),

<https://www.umkc.edu/isao/future-students/scholarships.html>

D. Program of Study and Degree Requirements

Newly accepted students must contact the M.A. Advisor prior to the beginning of their first semester to discuss their program of study.

Thirty credit hours of graduate work is required for the M.A. in economics. A minimum of twenty-one credit hours must be taken at the 5500 level or higher in Economics. The following core (required) courses (15 hours) and their prerequisites are listed:

| Course No | Course Title | Term Offered | Prerequisite |
|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Econ 5501 | Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis | Fall Evening* | Econ 301 Macroeconomic Analysis |
| Econ 5502 | Advanced Microeconomic Analysis | Spring Evening | Econ 302 Microeconomic Analysis, Econ 5521 Mathematical Economics |
| Econ 5521 | Mathematical Economics | Fall Evening | Introductory calculus course (equivalent to UMKC MATH 206) strongly recommended |
| Econ 5525 | Econometric Methods | Spring Evening | Econ 425 Econometrics, Econ 5521 Mathematical Economics |
| Econ 5551 | Advanced Institutional Theory | Spring Evening | |

* Evening is defined as classes starting at 4.00pm or later.

Students may petition the M.A. Advisor to waive a required course if they have already successfully completed an equivalent course at another university. This waiver may only be granted by the UMKC faculty member currently teaching the course.

Economics 425 is required for all students who have not already taken it or an equivalent course.

Economics 5501, Economics 5502, Economics 5521, Economics 5525 and Economics 5551 are the five core (required) courses in the M.A. sequence. Together they constitute fifteen of the required thirty credit hours. An additional 15 hours of coursework must be completed. Up to nine of these hours may be in selected 400-level courses in Economics (excluding all Economic courses 490 to 499) and/or in selected 5500 or 5600 level courses in related disciplines, upon consultation with and prior approval of the M.A. Advisor. Graduate credit toward the M.A. in Economics is not given for Economics courses at the 300 level or lower, or any undergraduate course outside of Economics. No more than six hours of Economics 5590 Special Topics may be counted towards graduation, and no Special Topics courses in other related disciplines are permitted to count towards the requirements of the M.A. degree.

Graduate students in economics must also comply with the regulations found in the UMKC Academic Catalog:

<https://catalog.umkc.edu/general-graduate-academic-regulations-information/>

E. Requirements for Retention

Students are expected to maintain a high degree of academic excellence. Students must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 graduate grade-point average. A student who receives a grade of C+ or lower will receive an academic warning. Students who receive a grade of C or C- in two classes, or a D+ or lower in one class, will be dismissed from the program. A maximum of three hours of 2.0 (C) in graduate courses will be permitted to count toward graduation. No more than six credit hours below a 3.0 (B) will be permitted to count toward graduation. A 3.0 (B) must be earned in all undergraduate courses approved for graduate credit, such as Economics 425 and Economics 451, and in Economics 5590, 5591, and 5599.

F. Graduation Requirements

A formal Program of Study form, requiring approval of the Graduate Advisor, Department Chair, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, must be filed prior to graduation. The overall minimum grade-point average for graduation is 3.0 and an overall grade-point average of a 3.0 must be obtained over all required courses—Economics 5501, 5502, 5521, 5525, and 5551.

M.A. Degree Tracks

Graduation Requirements – Elective Courses Track

Students are required to complete 15 hours beyond the required courses. Of these, at least 6 hours must be at the 5500 level in Economics. Economics 5591 and 5599 cannot be counted towards graduation requirements.

Graduation Requirements – Project (Thesis) Track

Students are required to complete 15 hours beyond the required courses. Of these, at least 6 hours must be at the 5500 level in Economics. Students choosing the Project (Thesis) Track complete a supervised thesis. The number

of hours for the thesis depends on its scope and is determined by the student and his/her thesis advisor. For more information about the Project (Thesis) Track, see the M.A. Advisor. Depending on the scope of the project, students choosing this option are required to take a minimum of three and a maximum of six hours from among the following courses:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Economics 5590 | Special Topics |
| Economics 5599 | Research and Thesis (3 hours required) |

G. Graduate Study Abroad

The Economics Department has an exchange agreement with the University of Bremen, Germany in which a student can spend one or two semesters at Bremen taking graduate courses in economics. The courses are in English and will count towards the degree requirements. For more information, see the M.A. Advisor.

H. Course Sequences and Progress Toward the Degree

Nine credit hours is considered full-time for a graduate student, and the maximum number of hours a graduate student can take each semester is twelve. If a student in the M.A. program wishes to take more than the maximum, he/she must get the approval of the M.A. advisor. It generally takes a student 3 or more semesters of full-time study to complete the requirements for the M.A. degree in Economics.

Recommended Sequence for full-time students admitted in Fall Semester who have *not* taken an undergraduate econometrics course

First Year -- Fall Semester -- 9 hours (*or 12 hours*)

Economics 425 – Econometrics
Economics 5521 – Mathematical Economics
Economics 5501 – Advanced Macroeconomic Theory
Elective (if taking 12 hours)

First Year -- Spring Semester – 9 hours (*or 12 hours*)

Economics 5502 – Advanced Microeconomic Theory
Economics 5525 – Econometric Methods
Economics 5551 – Advanced Institutional Economics
Elective (if taking 12 hours)

First Year -- Summer Semester -- 3 or 6 hours

Elective(s)

Usually no required Economics courses are offered during the summer.

Second Year – Fall Semester -- 9

Economic 5501 – Advanced Macroeconomic Theory (if not taken 1st year)
Elective (if needed to complete degree requirements)
Elective (if needed to complete degree requirements)

Recommended Sequence for full-time students who *have* previously completed an undergraduate econometrics course

First Year -- Fall Semester -- 9 (*or 12 hours*)

Economics 5521 – Mathematical Economics
Economics 5501 – Advanced Macroeconomic Theory
Elective(s) (3 to 6 hours)

First Year -- Spring Semester – 9 (*or 12 hours*)

Economics 5502 – Advanced Microeconomic Theory
Economics 5525 – Econometric Methods
Economics 5551 – Advanced Institutional Economics
Elective (if taking 12 hours)

First Year -- Summer Semester -- 3 or 6 hours

Elective(s)

Second Year – Fall Semester -- 3 to 9 hours

Elective(s) (if needed to complete degree requirements)

M.A. students who are planning to take the Project Track will take the same sequence of courses as above, except that Economics 5590 and 5599 are integrated at the appropriate time. Students wanting to do a project need to decide early and consult with the M.A. Advisor.

M.A. students studying part-time should consult with the M.A. Advisor to determine optimal course sequencing to complete the degree.

IV. Co-Discipline in Economics

Admission to the co-discipline in economics is open to all IPh.D. applicants. Applicants who do not have appropriate background, such as an undergraduate major or a minor in economics, will be required to take the following two courses before full admission to the co-discipline:

Econ 301 Macroeconomic Analysis
Econ 302 Microeconomic Analysis

Those students taking economics as a co-discipline will take a minimum of 12 hours in economics at the graduate level all at the 5500-5600 level, including

| Course No | Course Title | Term Offered | Prerequisite |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Econ 5501 | Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis | Fall* Evening | Econ 301 Macroeconomic Analysis |
| Econ 5502 | Advanced Microeconomic Analysis | Spring Evening | Econ 302 Microeconomic Analysis, Econ 521 Mathematical Economics |

* Evening is defined as classes starting at 4.00pm or later.

Co-discipline students must earn a B (3.0) or better in Econ 5501, 5502, and the 5500-5600 level electives. The course exams in Econ 5501 and 5502 serve as the discipline-specific comprehensive exam for Economics as a Co-discipline *so long as the student obtains a grade of at least a B in each of these courses.*

V. Research Centers, Seminars, and Other Activities

A. Center for Economic Information, Taki Manolakos, Acting Director

The Center for Economic Information (<http://cei.umkc.edu/>) focuses research on issues of environmental determinants of health outcomes and local community development. Partnerships with community groups, municipal governments, and local, state and national grant making institutions have resulted in important ongoing products such as CityScope, the Kansas City Community Development Initiative (KCCDI) Indicators program, and a database developed for the Downtown Council. The research toolkit used by CEI includes econometric modeling, geographic information systems and database development. Current projects (2020-2021) include

- Participation in a GIS based NIH grant that studies the impact of environmental factors on obesity
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant to study mitigation of lead exposure in Kansas City
- Our Healthy Eastside KC grant to study vaccine hesitancy
- Numerous small projects designed to benefit individual governmental agencies, community development corporations (CDCs), neighborhood associations, and other community-based organizations.

Our principal partners include the UMKC Center for the City, the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance (KCNA), the Downtown Council, The Kansas City Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), KCCDI, Urban League, and local governments.

B. Seminars and Other Activities

The Department of Economics has a number of ongoing seminars on institutionalism and pragmatism, money, and Marxian and heterodox theory. In addition, throughout the year it brings scholars for lectures and seminars.

C. Economics Club and Omicron Delta Epsilon

The Department of Economics sponsors the Economics Club. It consists of graduate and undergraduate students and faculty. Students at every level are welcome and encouraged to join and participate in the many activities sponsored by the club every year. To join the Econ Club contact any faculty member or club officer.

The Department also sponsors Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Economics Honors Society. Graduate students are eligible to join if they have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Contact the ODE Faculty Advisor for application materials.

D. *Oeconomicus*

The graduate students produce their own economics journal, *Oeconomicus* which is sponsored by the Economics Club at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. The *Journal* welcomes contributions in all areas of political economy, economic methodology, economic history, and history of economic thought. All economic traditions - including but not limited to Post Keynesian, Institutionalist, Marxist,

Feminist, Austrian, and Sraffian - are welcomed in our *Journal*. *Oeconomicus* publishes both theoretical and empirical research, as well as interviews with distinguished economists and policy makers. We encourage contributors to submit book reviews, and we welcome any comments on publications appearing in our *Journal*. For further information:

<https://cas.umkc.edu/areas-of-study/economics/publications.html>