Proposed Changes to MA in Business Economics

Current Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Elective Courses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECO 6120 Economic Policy Analysis</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO 6115 Microeconomics I Aggregate</td>
<td>at least 6 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO 6206 Economics Mathematical</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECO 6405 Economics Econometrics I</td>
<td>at most 6 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO 6424 Econometrics II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO 6425</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Economics electives must be drawn from the following set of graduate-level courses offered in the Department of Economics:

| ECO 6305 History of Economic Thought | ECP 6205 Labor Economics I |
| ECO 6505 Public Finance | ECP 6405 Industrial Organization |
| ECO 6525 Public Sector Economics | ECP 6408 Economics of Organization |
| ECO 6936 Industrial Organization II | ECP 6536 Economics of Health Care I |
| ECO 6936 Economic Development | ECP 6614 Urban Economics |
| ECO 7116 Microeconomics I | ECP 6624 Regional Economics |
| ECO 7426 Econometrics III | ECP 7207 Labor Economics II |
| ECO 7427 Econometrics IV | ECP 7537 Economics of Health Care II |

Unrestricted elective courses are graduate-level courses offered by any department within the College of Business or, with approval from the Graduate Director, from elsewhere within the University. The following courses, which are MBA courses taught within the Department of Economics, may serve as an unrestricted elective:

| ECO 6936 Economics of Sustainable Enterprises | ECP 6415 Issues in Regulation and Antitrust |
| ECO 6936 Labor Economics | ECP 6456 Law and Economics |

In addition to completing the 30 hours of coursework with overall and major GPAs of at least 3.0, a student must pass an oral examination conducted by a panel of three faculty members who have taught courses in the student's program. At least one faculty member must be drawn from those who teach the core courses. The oral examination provides a forum for the student to provide evidence that s/he has sufficient knowledge and breadth of fundamental economic concepts so as to be able to undertake rigorous economic analysis, both theoretical and empirical in nature.
Proposed Degree Requirements

Core Courses
- ECO 6115 Microeconomics I 3 cr
- ECO 6206 Aggregate Economics 3 cr
- ECO 6405 Mathematical Economics I 3 cr
- ECO 6424 Econometrics I 3 cr

Elective Courses
- Economics at least 12 cr
- Unrestricted at most 6 cr

Economics electives must be drawn from the following set of graduate-level courses offered in the Department of Economics:

- ECO 6120 Economic Policy Analysis
- ECO 6305 History of Economic Thought
- ECO 6425 Econometrics II
- ECO 6505 Public Finance
- ECO 6516 Microeconomics II
- ECO 7406 Mathematical Economics II
- ECO 7426 Econometrics III
- ECO 7427 Econometrics IV
- ECP 6205 Labor Economics I
- ECP 6405 Industrial Organization
- ECP 6408 Economics of Organization
- ECP 6536 Economics of Health Care I
- ECP 6614 Urban Economics
- ECP 6624 Regional Economics
- ECP 7207 Labor Economics II
- ECP 7406 Industrial Organization II
- ECP 7537 Economics of Health Care II
- ECS 6015 Economic Development

Unrestricted elective courses are graduate-level courses offered by any department within the College of Business or, with approval from the Graduate Director, from elsewhere within the University. The following courses, which are MBA courses taught within the Department of Economics, may also serve as unrestricted electives:

- ECO 6936 Economics of Sustainable Enterprise
- ECP 6415 Issues in Regulation and Antitrust
- ECP 6456 Law and Economics

In addition to completing the 30 hours of coursework with overall and major GPAs of at least 3.0, a student must pass an oral examination conducted by a panel of three faculty members who have taught courses in the student's program. At least one faculty member must be drawn from those who teach the core courses. The oral examination provides a forum for the student to provide evidence that s/he has sufficient knowledge and breadth of fundamental economic concepts so as to be able to undertake rigorous economic analysis, both theoretical and empirical in nature.

ECO 7406, ECP 7406, and ECS 6015 are new courses whose proposals are being submitted along with this change in degree program.

Although the Department of Economics is now housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department continues to offer the MA in Business Economics which is housed in the College of Business.
Over the past year, the Graduate Policy Committee of the Department of Economics has been considering changes to the curriculum of its Master's of Arts in Business Economics program. These changes, which were approved by the Department on February 29, 2008, are designed to accomplish three goals. First, they bring the curriculum of the Department's MA program more into line with what is found at institutions the University designates as being its peer. Second, they reflect an improvement in the average quality of our MA students and third, they reflect certain changes in the material covered in the Department's econometrics sequence.

ECO 6120, Economic Policy Analysis, was introduced into the core curriculum of the MA program in part to provide in-coming students with a "bridge" between the levels of economic analysis found in undergraduate- and graduate-level courses. With the average quality of our students having improved, there is no longer a need for all of our entering MA students to take this course. Moreover, the study of policy analysis is typically undertaken using a general equilibrium framework, a topic that is not rigorously introduced until the following semester in Microeconomics I. This suggests that students interested in a course in policy analysis ought to take the course after Microeconomics I and do so as an elective. Thus, the Department proposes dropping it from the core. An added benefit of this change is that the level of theoretical rigor in ECO 6120 can be increased thereby making the course more effective in its goal of introducing students to how economic policy analysis is carried out in practice.

ECO 6425, Econometrics II, will also move out of the core sequence and into the set of economics electives. The decision to remove Econometrics II from the core reflects a change in the content of the Department's econometrics courses. Certain introductory material previously covered in Econometrics I has been eliminated while certain more advanced topics that had previously been covered in Econometrics II have been moved to Econometrics I. These changes have made it possible to provide a one-semester course in econometrics that provides our MA students with a set of empirical skills that will allow them to analyze economic data and to undertake empirical economic analysis either in their professional work or in more advanced programs in economics.
With ECO 6120 and ECO 6425 removed from the core sequence, the Department proposes increasing the number of economics elective courses from a minimum of two to a minimum of four. One benefit of this change is that it provides students in the MA program the opportunity to take additional courses in their areas of interest. These changes can be implemented without the need for any additional resources for the Department.

Current Catalog Copy (pp. 259-60 of 2007-08 Catalog)

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
All students are required to take courses in advanced economic theory, policy analysis, and econometrics. ...

Required Courses
ECO 6115 Microeconomics I 3
ECO 6120 Economic Policy Analysis 3
ECO 6206 Aggregate Economics 3
ECO 6405 Mathematical Economics 3
ECO 6424 Econometrics I 3
ECO 6425 Econometrics II 3
Electives 6

Proposed Catalog Copy (for 2009-10 Catalog)

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
All students are required to take courses in advanced economic theory and in quantitative methods. ...

Required Courses
ECO 6115 Microeconomics I 3
ECO 6206 Aggregate Economics 3
ECO 6405 Mathematical Economics I 3
ECO 6424 Econometrics I 3
Electives 6
BUSINESS ECONOMICS PROGRAM

Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree

DEGREE INFORMATION

Program Admission Deadlines:
- Fall: June 1
- Spring: October 15
- Summer: No admission

Minimum Total Hours: 30

Program Admission Requirements:
- Must have a 3.00 or higher upper-level GPA.
- Must have a 500 or higher GMAT; or ORE score of 430 or higher verbal portion and 570 or higher quantitative portion.

Also offered as:
Specialization/concentration under Master of Business Administration (Government & Business) and under Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) - Business Administration

CONTACT INFORMATION

College: Business Economics
Department: 
Contact Information: www.grad.usf.edu
Other Resources: www.usf4you

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The M.A. in Economics prepares students for careers as professional economists in business and government. It is also excellent preparation for continued graduate study in economics.

Accreditation:
Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS); AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Major Research Areas:
Labor economics, health economics, public economics, urban and regional economics, international trade, economic development, history of economic thought, economics of crime, macroeconomics, industrial organization, advanced microeconomics, and advanced econometrics

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

Program Admission Requirements
- Must have a 3.00 or higher upper-level GPA.
- Must have a 500 or higher GMAT; or ORE score of 430 or higher verbal portion and 570 or higher quantitative portion.
International applicants from non English-speaking countries must also have a TOEFL score of 550 or higher on the written version, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based test or a 79 on the internet-based test. Must have at least a 3.0 GPA in prerequisite courses in intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, statistics, and calculus.

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to take courses in advanced economic theory, policy analysis, and econometrics. Undergraduate economics majors at USF may complete the program in one year beyond the B.A. in the 5-Year B.A./M.A. Program. Students preparing for doctoral studies select from these and additional courses in economic theory, mathematics, and quantitative methods. Where appropriate students may select courses in other departments in the University.

Students must satisfy all University requirements for the M.A. degree. Departmental requirements include 30 hours of graduate credit selected with the approval of the department's graduate advisor. At least 24 hours must be in Economics not including Independent Study (ECO 6906) and Directed Research (ECO 6917). To graduate, a student must have at least an overall 3.0 GPA and at least a 3.0 GPA for all economics courses, and pass an oral examination.

Business Economics (M.A.)

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USF Graduate Catalog 2008-2009
Required Courses
ECO 61 15  Microeconomics I

ECO 6206  Aggregate Economics ECO 6405  Mathematical Economics ECO 6424  Econometrics I

Electives

COURSES
See http://www.ugs.usf.edu/sab/sabs.cfm