

The MA in Economics at DU

If you're looking for a career as a business or government economist, the University of Denver's MA in economics program offers excellent preparation. Our program helps you build the solid skills and respected credentials that employers want. The degree also prepares students for doctoral studies, particularly if they want to explore alternative approaches and develop further insights about economics before entering doctoral programs.

Our department's strengths include:

- Macroeconomics
- Economics of money, banking and finance
- Environmental economics
- Health economics
- International and development economics
- Alternative approaches to economics
- History of economic thought
- Econometrics

Our program is also geared toward your schedule — all of our required courses, and some of our electives, are taught between 6 p.m. and 7:50 p.m. to accommodate students who work during the day. Other elective courses are typically offered between 4 p.m. and 5:50 p.m.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The program requires 45 credit hours of graduate work in economics, including four required courses (ECON 4050, ECON 4020, ECON 4030, and ECON 3670) and a required thesis (ECON 4995). Each 4000-level course carries five credit hours, while 3000-level courses carry four credit hours. Up to 10 credit hours may be earned in thesis research, and the three required 4000-level courses add up to 15 hours, which means each student has to take at least five 3000-level courses, totaling 20 credit hours. A student must earn a grade of B- or better in each of the three required courses. The minimum grade for an individual elective course is C- but the minimum GPA is 3.0. The student must also defend her/his thesis in an oral exam and pass it, and then she/he must complete whatever revisions the thesis committee suggests. Different students may take different amounts of time to finish the program, but it is best to plan on finishing in the second year of study. MA students normally take two courses per quarter, and first-year students each quarter normally take the 4000-level required course which is offered in each quarter. All of the 3000-level courses are also open to upper-division undergraduate students, but there are extra requirements for the MA students in these classes.

The three required 4000-level courses are offered in sequence: ECON 4050 – Origins of Modern Economics – in Fall Quarter, ECON 4030 – Advanced Microeconomic Theory – in Winter, and ECON 4020 – Advanced Macroeconomic Theory – in Spring. There is much value in taking these courses in this order, because of connections among them. The other required course, ECON 3670 – Econometrics – is usually offered in Spring or Winter. These courses give you the economic theory and tools expected of someone with an M.A. in Economics. Another course, ECON 3850 – Mathematics for Economists – is normally offered in Fall Quarter and is especially desirable to take as preparation for ECON 4030 and ECON 4020 if a student wants to make sure that his or her mathematical skills are adequate for doing economics. It is possible to take courses in other departments in the University, but to be able to count such courses towards your Econ MA requirements, you must have received permission from the

Department Chair. A student considering pursuing a PhD in Economics after finishing our program should also think about improving their math skills, perhaps by taking courses in the Math Department. Only under unusual circumstances will such courses be allowed to count towards your Econ MA requirements.

Dual or Joint Degree Programs

Applicants may also apply for a flexible dual-degree program, earning a master's degree jointly in economics and another discipline offered by the University of Denver, subject to approval by the Associate Provost of Graduate Studies. In these programs, the number of credit hours of graduate work in economics may be reduced, and the thesis can be written for an examination committee from both areas. For more information about flexible dual-degrees, please visit <http://www.du.edu/learn/graduates/degreeprograms.html>.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Courses Offered Annually

ECON 3670 Econometrics

Builds on knowledge of statistics to provide training necessary to use statistical techniques in economic analysis and forecasting. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3850 Mathematics for Economists

This course introduces some of the mathematical methods that can be used in modeling economic theories and analyzing economic problems. The goal of the course is to help students develop their skills and prepare themselves for both undergraduate- and graduate-level economics courses where mathematical methods are used. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 4020 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory

Determinants of national income and its components, and of the level of employment and the general price level. This course also examines business cycles and alternative macroeconomic theories. 5 qtr. hrs.

ECON 4030 Advanced Microeconomic Theory

The orthodox microeconomic approach to determining prices and income distribution in competitive general equilibrium based on utility and profit maximization of consumers and firms. 5 qtr. hrs.

ECON 4050 Origins of Modern Economics

The development of economic theory from the decline of the classical school through the emergence of the Keynesian theory. Investigates the structure of the neoclassical theory and the degree to which Keynesian economics provides an alternative. 5 qtr. hrs.

ECON 4991 Independent Study

ECON 4995 Thesis Research

Courses Normally Offered Annually

ECON 3740 Health Economics

This course is designed to study the nature of the organization of health care provision, delivery, and utilization according to economic theory. It introduces the current problems and issues in the U.S. health care system by studying the demand for and supply of health care services, health care production and costs, and market analyses of the health care industry. Parties that play important roles in the health care industry — e.g., private health insurance firms, physicians, the pharmaceutical industry and hospital services — will be studied in detail. In addition, the course considers the role of the government in the health care industry, including an examination of various health care reforms that have been proposed in the United States. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3900 Growth, Technology, and Economic Policy

This course will introduce students to the important issues related to technological change and how it relates to economic growth. The lectures seek to explain how technology and innovation determine growth and development with special emphasis on learning-by-doing, organizational capability, appropriation and spillover effects. The core topics that will be covered include: (1) origins of new technology and its market introduction, (2) the process of technological adoption and advancement, (3) the dissemination of technology and innovations within and across firms, industries and countries, (4) the impacts of technological change, including benefits and costs, on individual and society at large and (5) policy implications to promote innovation and to reduce its negative effects. The rest of the course will focus on the relationship of technological change to human development, social welfare, as well as prior experiences of industrialized economies and emerging economies. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3970 Environmental Economics

Economic perspectives of environmental and resource problems, ranging from hazardous waste disposal, to air pollution, to global warming. Topics include the property-rights basis of pollution problems, environmental ethics, benefit-cost analysis, regulatory policy, clean technology, population growth and consumption, and sustainable development. 4 qtr. hrs.

Courses Normally Offered Biennially

ECON 3040 Marxian Political Economy

An exposition of Marx's theory of value through a detailed reading of "Capital, Vol. I" and excerpts from other works by Marx. Some of the relevant secondary literature will also be used. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3110 European Economic History: 1500 to Present

The emergence of capitalism from feudal society; the Industrial Revolution, English capitalism; European industrialization; state and economy in capitalism; 20th century Europe and the global economy. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3460 Monetary Theory and Policy

Studies the interaction between money and the economy. Examines the workings of financial institutions and how they affect the economy. Looks at the questions of what serves as money, what determines interest rates and how the central bank conducts monetary policy and its effect on the performance of the economy. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3480 Money and Financial Markets

Examines workings of the money and financial markets and their relation to the monetary system and to the macroeconomy. 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3500 Economic Development

Careful re-examination of the works of prominent development economists from the immediate postwar decades to critically shed light on the treatment of topical development problems by modern economists. Can underdevelopment be simply considered as situations of “market failures?” What are the different conceptualizations of increasing returns and their different applicability to studying development? Is the “new growth theory” of use in shedding light on the process of development? Other topics include, but are not restricted to, globalization, cultivating technological capability, and a critical examination of the notion of “government failure.” 4 qtr. hrs.

ECON 3610 International Trade Theories and Policies

This course carefully examines mainstream trade theories, including the theory of commercial policy, to show the structure of reasoning that lends general support to a policy of free trade but one that is against “protectionism.” It then challenges the student to consult the original works of both the classical economists and the so-called “protectionists” to piece together a developmentalist framework that shows uneven development with a widening technological gap through free trade and foreign investment. Geared with these alternative frameworks, policies as implied by and allowed in evolving trade agreements (e.g., reached under GATT and the WTO) are carefully examined. 4 qtr. hrs.

Other Course Possibilities

There are other courses that may be offered as well. These include International Finance, which is now on the books of the School of International Studies as INTS 3600, International Monetary Relations. We also may be offering ECON 3410, Economics of Industrial Organization, or ECON 3120, Economic History of the United States, at some point. We are offering this academic year ECON/PHIL 3075, Marxism, and last year we offered ECON/PHIL 3620, Philosophical Perspectives on Economic and Social Sciences. We may be offering special topics courses from time to time. We hope to be hiring a new faculty member to start next Fall, who will likely have something to add to our course offerings.

OUR GRADUATE FACULTY**Tracy Mott**

Associate professor and chair

PhD, Stanford University

Fields: Macroeconomics; monetary economics; history of economic thought; philosophy of economics; alternative theories of value and distribution

Peter Sai-wing Ho

Associate professor

PhD, Stanford University

Fields: Development economics; international economics

Christine Ngo

Assistant Professor

PhD School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Fields: political economy of economic development, international economics, technological change and economic growth

Chiara Piovani

Assistant professor

PhD, University of Utah

Fields: Environmental economics, Chinese economy, political economy

Markus Schneider

Assistant professor

PhD, New School for Social Research

Fields: Microeconomics; econometrics

Robert Urquhart

Associate professor

PhD, New School for Social Research

Fields: History of economic thought; economic history; political economy

Yavuz Yaşar

Associate professor

PhD, University of Utah

Fields: Political economy; health economics; macroeconomics; Money

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The department of economics' website offers the most current information on courses, requirements, faculty and student news. Go to <http://www.du.edu/ahss/schools/economics/> for more information on the program.

The University of Denver is an Equal Opportunity institution. We admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the university. The University of Denver does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other university-administered programs. University policy likewise prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status or veteran status. Inquiries concerning allegations of discrimination based on any of the above factors may be referred to the University of Denver, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.



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ARTS, HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Economics