

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

Effective August 2015

There are Plan A and Plan B options for the Master's degree. Students in the Master's, but not in the Ph.D., program follow Plan A. Plan B is reserved as a mechanism for Ph.D. students to earn a Master's degree as part of the process of working toward the Ph.D.

PLAN A REQUIREMENTS

The Plan A requirements include 5 core courses, 12 credits worth of electives (generally 4 courses), plus credit for thesis work. The specifics are summarized as follows:

Course	Title	Credits
CORE COURSES		
ECON 501	Quantitative Methods for Economists	3
ECON 504 or 604	Macroeconomics	3
ECON/AREC 506	Applied Microeconomic Theory	3
AREC 507	Applied Welfare + Policy Analysis	3
ECON/AREC 535	Applied Econometrics	3
	SUBTOTAL =	15
ELECTIVES	Electives ¹	12
THESIS	ECON 699 Thesis	6
FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION		
	PROGRAM TOTAL =	33 credits

Check the Colorado State University General Catalog to see course prerequisites.

¹ Complete 12 credits of elective courses that add depth and breadth to the Program of Study, chosen with advisor approval. Electives do not include ECON 699, 784 or 799, but may include courses from other departments in addition to those from Economics. Electives must be 500-level or higher.

GPA Requirements

Students must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA across 500+ level ECON courses, as well as for University course work in general.

The Thesis

The Master's thesis is a scholarly inquiry into an economic problem where the student performs independent, original research which contributes to knowledge and generally represents the application of existing theory to an empirical problem. The Master's Final Oral Examination is an oral presentation and defense of the thesis, in which the student is examined on the contents and methods of the thesis research as well as related areas of economics. A hard-bound copy of the thesis must be submitted by the student to the department chair. *It also is customary that another copy of the thesis is presented by the student to the student's committee chairperson.* The thesis format must comply with the standard specified in the Graduate School's Thesis Manual and be approved by the Department prior to binding.

Schedule

The typical semester schedule for completion of the Plan A Master's is the following:

FIRST YEAR	Fall	ECON 501, ECON/AREC 506, ECON/AREC 535
	Spring	ECON 504/604, AREC 507, Elective
SECOND YEAR	Fall	Electives
	Spring	ECON 699, Thesis Work, Final Oral Examination

Time Limits

Graduate School regulations require that courses applied toward fulfilling the requirements for a Master's degree must have been completed within the ten years immediately preceding the date of completion of requirements for the Master's degree. In addition to this general requirement, the Department has its own stricter standards for timely progress; see Satisfactory Progress.

PLAN B REQUIREMENTS

Students in the Ph.D. program normally earn a Master's degree in the process of following the Ph.D. program of study. In this case, the Research Replication (with successful defense/presentation) and extra course work substitute for the Thesis. Plan B requires 30 credits of course work including the 9 Ph.D. core courses as listed below and either the remaining 2 Ph.D. core courses or one elective/field course, plus 3 credits of ECON 698, for research toward the Research Replication paper. The Research Replication Paper is defended at the end of the fourth semester in a special department seminar, and the course work is typically completed in the fourth semester.

The Plan B requirements are summarized as follows:

Course	Title	Credits
CORE COURSES		
ECON 501	Quantitative Methods for Economists	3
ECON 505	History of Economic Thought	3
ECON/AREC 535	Applied Econometrics	3
ECON 604	Macroeconomics Analysis I	3
ECON/AREC 606	Microeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON/AREC 635	Econometric Theory I	3
ECON 704	Macroeconomic Analysis II	3
ECON 705	Heterodox Economic Theory	3
ECON/AREC 706	Microeconomic Analysis II	3
Choose:		
ECON/AREC 735 and ECON/AREC 736 (A, B, C, or D)	Econometric Theory II and Quantitative Analysis respectively	3
OR Substitute an Elective	Elective ¹	
	SUBTOTAL =	30
THESIS	ECON 698 Research Replication	3
	PROGRAM TOTAL =	33 credits

Check the Colorado State University General Catalog to see course prerequisites.

¹ Count one graduate field course or elective course. Electives do not include ECON 504, 506, 698, 699, 784 or 799, but may include courses from other departments in addition to those from Economics. Electives must be 500-level or higher.

GPA Requirements

Students must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA across 500+ level ECON courses, as well as for University course work in general.

The Replication Exercise

During the spring of the second year, students write papers based on replicating research from a published paper and adding their own modifications as part of ECON 698. These papers are presented in a special Department seminar to satisfy the presentation/defense requirement for the M.A. (Plan B).

Schedule

The typical semester schedule for completion of the Plan B Master's is the following:

FIRST YEAR	Fall	ECON 501, ECON 505, ECON/AREC 535
	Spring	ECON 604, ECON/AREC 606, ECON 705
SECOND YEAR	Fall	ECON/AREC 635, ECON 704, ECON/AREC 706
	Spring	ECON 698 and Research Replication Paper, ECON/AREC 735 and ECON/AREC 736 (A,B,C, or D) or 1 Field/Elective

Time Limits

Graduate School regulations require that courses applied toward fulfilling the requirements for a Master's degree must have been completed within the ten years immediately preceding the date of completion of requirements for the Master's degree. In addition to this general requirement, the Department has its own stricter standards for timely progress; see Satisfactory Progress.