

MA IN ECONOMICS



SACRAMENTO STATE
Redefine the Possible

In Workflow

1. ECON Committee Chair (lang@csus.edu)
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3. SSIS College Committee Chair (wickelgr@csus.edu)
4. SSIS Dean (mendriga@csus.edu)
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13. Graduate Studies (jdsmall@csus.edu; mxiong@csus.edu)
14. Registrar's Office (w lindsey@csus.edu)

Approval Path

1. Thu, 21 Apr 2022 21:47:21 GMT
David Lang (lang): Approved for ECON Committee Chair
2. Tue, 24 May 2022 02:11:08 GMT
David Lang (lang): Approved for ECON Chair
3. Fri, 09 Sep 2022 20:03:16 GMT
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Rollback to ECON Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. Fri, 09 Sep 2022 20:19:29 GMT
David Lang (lang): Rollback to Initiator
5. Tue, 13 Sep 2022 22:23:56 GMT
David Lang (lang): Approved for ECON Committee Chair
6. Tue, 13 Sep 2022 22:24:37 GMT
David Lang (lang): Approved for ECON Chair
7. Fri, 23 Sep 2022 03:19:02 GMT
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
8. Tue, 27 Sep 2022 19:56:15 GMT
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

History

1. May 3, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Jan 18, 2022 by Suzanne O'Keefe (sokeefe)

Date Submitted: Tue, 13 Sep 2022 22:22:48 GMT

Viewing: MA in Economics

Last approved: Tue, 18 Jan 2022 22:02:40 GMT

Last edit: Thu, 22 Sep 2022 22:51:10 GMT

Changes proposed by: Suzanne O'Keefe (101028261)

Academic Group: (College)

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Organization: (Department)

Economics

Catalog Year Effective:

2022-2023 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Suzanne O'Keefe	sokeefe@csus.edu	9162786838

Type of Program Proposal:

Major

Program Change Type:

Substantive

Title of the Program:

MA in Economics

Designation: (degree terminology)

Master of Arts

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

These proposed catalog changes will make the catalog consistent with current practice in the Economics MA program. In the old catalog description, the quantitative nature of the program is not emphasized, and we have lost some prospective graduate students to Quantitative Economics programs. There is a newer emphasis on quantitative economics in the field, and though our program already offers strong quantitative training, the catalog does not make this clear. The new description emphasizes the quantitative nature of our existing program. We are not adding or removing courses from the MA program, but rather, we are explicitly listing possible electives, including courses in MATH, STAT and CSC, that were only referred to as course substitutions in the notes section of the old catalog description.

The MA program changes are intended as the first step to facilitate a future transition from our MA Economics program to an MS in Quantitative Economics. For this step in the transition, we are updating our existing MA Economics catalog description to highlight the quantitative emphasis of our program. Students graduating with a Master's in Economics are expected to possess quantitative skills that are in demand by employers. Emphasizing quantitative rigor will make the program more attractive to prospective students, and make our graduates more valuable to employers. In the near future we hope to rename the program Quantitative Economics, which is a STEM field, CEP code 45.0603, making international graduates eligible for the OPT visa extension. We have been advised that the best way to accomplish this transition is in two steps, first updating the MA in Economics, and then requesting the program title be changed.

We are improving the wording in Admission Requirements, removing he/she when possible, removing outdated requests (i.e. request for two transcripts). Years ago, Econ 141 was a first year course in the MA program, followed by Econ 241. Econ 141 became a pre-requisite for admission, but remained in the list of courses required for advancement to candidacy. We are changing the requirement to Econ 241, which is the first semester course that will meet the Graduate Writing requirement.

We are not adding or removing courses from the Economics MA. We have always allowed Math/Stat/Computer Science elective course substitutions, as noted. We are changing the way elective requirements are listed. In the past, the catalog began by listing classes that would not count as electives towards the MA in Economics, and never listed specific elective options. We believe it is better to list possible electives to show students options for completing elective requirements, and highlighting quantitative courses they can take towards the MA.

University Learning Goals**Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

Critical thinking/analysis
 Communication
 Information literacy
 Disciplinary knowledge
 Intercultural/Global perspectives
 Professionalism
 Research (optional)

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome

1. Develop an advanced understanding of microeconomic and macroeconomic theory
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply econometric methods
3. Develop an in-depth understanding of one research field of interest within economics
4. Engage in and conduct economic research
5. Demonstrate the ability to communicate within the discipline
6. Demonstrate application of economics to address global problems

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan (required)

MA Economics Comprehensive Assessment Plan.docx

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix (required)

CurriculumMapMatrixECON MA.docx

Please attach a five-year budget projection (required)

5-year-budget-template-Economics.xlsx

Catalog Description:

Total units required for MA: 30

Program Description

Students in the Master's program in Economics develop analytical skills for modeling, interpreting, and understanding economic behavior with applications in business, public policy, and data analysis. Statistical analysis of economic phenomena and problems is emphasized.

In line with the applied emphasis of the graduate program, the Department maintains a relationship with both the California state government and many private organizations in the Sacramento area. Recent graduates have found careers in private businesses and corporations, federal, state, and local government, non-profits, and academia.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Economics requires:

- a minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 units attempted;
- a minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate Economics work;
- ECON 100A (Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory) or equivalent; and ECON 100B (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory) or equivalent;
- ECON 141 (Introduction to Econometrics) or equivalent;
- MATH 26A (Calculus I) or equivalent; recommend MATH 26B (Calculus II) or equivalent;
- two letters of recommendation from undergraduate instructors;
- a minimum score of 550 on the TOEFL (this requirement applies only to students earning degrees abroad whose primary language is not English); and
- a baccalaureate degree.

Students not meeting the above requirements may be granted conditionally classified graduate status with permission of the Economics Department Graduate Committee, providing the applicant submits in writing the reasons for pursuing graduate training and why the Committee should waive one or more of the above requirements. GRE scores are not required, but will be considered by the admissions committee if they are included with an application. Students accepted on a conditional basis may be required to complete a set of courses prior to beginning the Economics Graduate core, or to fulfill other conditions prior to approval for fully classified status. Failure to conform to this stipulation will result in the revocation of the conditionally classified status.

Admission Procedures

Applicants must complete a university application and also meet departmental requirements by the posted application deadline date for term applying. *For more admission information and application deadlines, please visit <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/>.* Applications submitted after the deadline will only be reviewed in the event that room for new students exists. All prospective

graduate students, including Sacramento State graduates, must file the following documents with the Office of Graduate Studies, Riverfront Center 215, (916) 278-6470:

- an online application for admission;
- official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, *other than Sacramento State*;
- two letters of recommendation. Contact information for two faculty references is sufficient if the applicant is a current Sacramento State economics student;
- TOEFL scores, if applicable.

Any applicant not meeting admission requirements as specified above should submit to the Department in writing reasons for requesting a waiver of the admission requirements.

Approximately six weeks after the application deadline, a decision regarding admission will be sent to the applicant.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 30

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

Advancement to Candidacy

Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy as soon as the graduate student has:

- successfully completed the following, and with a minimum grade of "B":

Code	Title	Units
ECON 241	Applied Econometric Analysis	3
ECON 200A	Advanced Macroeconomic Theory	3
ECON 200B	Advanced Microeconomic Theory	3

- be enrolled, or have successfully completed ECON 200C;
- been recommended for advancement by the Graduate Committee; and
- take a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento.

Advancement to Candidacy forms are available on the Office of Graduate Studies website. The student fills out the form after planning a degree program in consultation with the Economics Department Graduate Coordinator. The completed form is then returned to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

All students are required to complete the core course sequence outlined below with a minimum grade of "B" in each course. After completing the core courses, the student selects a thesis plan to finish the degree requirements. The core courses, elective options, and the thesis, are outlined below.

Code	Title	Units
<i>Core Courses (15 Units)</i>		
ECON 200A	Advanced Macroeconomic Theory	3
ECON 200B	Advanced Microeconomic Theory	3
ECON 200C	Advanced Applied Economics	3
ECON 200M	Mathematics for Economists	3
ECON 241	Applied Econometric Analysis	3
<i>Elective Courses (12 Units)</i>		
Select 12 units of electives from the following list of courses ¹		12
ECON 213	U.S. Economic Development in Historical Perspective	
ECON 230	Public Finance	
ECON 238	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	
ECON 251	Urban Problems, Economics and Public Policy	
ECON 260	Industrial Organization and Performance	
ECON 263	Food Economics	
ECON 265	Cost Benefit Analysis	
ECON 290	International Trade	
STAT 115A	Introduction to Probability Theory	
STAT 128	Statistical Computing	
STAT 129	Analyzing and Processing Big Data	

MATH 100	Applied Linear Algebra	
MATH 130A	Functions of a Real Variable	
CSC 177	Data Analytics and Mining	
Culminating Requirement (3 Units)		
ECON 500	Master's Thesis	3
Total Units		30

- ¹ Of these 12 units, at least **six** units (i. e., 2 courses) must come from 200-level courses. Note the following:
- 100-level economics electives with prerequisites can substitute as graduate electives, but there can be no 100-level/200-level duplication of similar courses (e.g., you cannot receive credit towards the Master's degree for both ECON 130 and ECON 230, ECON 138 and ECON 238, etc.).
 - STAT 115A, MATH 100, MATH 130A, and CSC 177 have additional prerequisites.
 - Students interested in careers in data analysis are encouraged to select STAT 128 Statistical Computing and/or STAT 129 Analyzing and Processing Big Data as 100-level electives. STAT 128 is a prerequisite for STAT 129.
 - Students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics are encouraged to select MATH 100, MATH 130A, and/or STAT 115A, or other math and statistics courses as 100-level electives. A maximum of 6 units of 100-level electives can be applied to the MA degree.
 - Selected courses (e.g., Math, Statistics, or Computer Science) from other departments may be allowed as substitutes with the approval of the Graduate Coordinator.
 - ECON 295 and ECON 298 do not count as electives toward satisfying the 12 unit requirement without the approval of the Graduate Coordinator.

For graduate programs, the number of declared undergraduate major and the degree production over the preceding years of the corresponding baccalaureate program:

500+ Economics Majors and 200+ BA degrees awarded in 2020-21.

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

Approximately 10-15 students may register for STAT 128 or STAT 129 each year. Fewer students are expected to select MATH 100, MATH 130A, STAT 115A, or CSC 177 as electives.

Attach a copy of correspondence with these units:

MATH STAT correspondence.pdf

CSC correspondence.pdf

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

No. Resources required will be similar to resources currently allocated to the MA Economics. The Mathematics and Statistics Department may experience increases in enrollment in Math 100, Math 130A, Stat 115A, Stat 128, and Stat 129, and Computer Science may see increases in enrollment in CSC 177, since they will formally be listed as electives in our Master's program.

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

The modifications to the MA Economics will use the same fiscal resources that are allocated to the Department of Economics for the current MA Economics program. Eventually, we will rebrand the program as an MS Quantitative Economics, which will also use the same fiscal resources currently allocated to the MA Economics program.

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

None

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

N/A

Reviewer Comments:

Suzanne O'Keefe (sokeefe) (Thu, 21 Apr 2022 21:50:56 GMT): Please restore "Research" to list of Graduate Learning Goals.

Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr) (Fri, 09 Sep 2022 20:03:16 GMT): Rollback: See notes in email

David Lang (lang) (Fri, 09 Sep 2022 20:19:29 GMT): Rollback: To deal with the issues

Key: 232