

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

Effective August 2009

The program requirements for the M.A. in Economics are in transition during 2009-10, as program changes approved by the department in Spring 2009 go through the University approval process. Students entering in August 2009 will be advised along a path that is consistent with the imminent requirements; the requirements are expected to be in full force in January 2010.

There are Plan A and Plan B options for the Master's degree. Students specifically targeting the MA degree follow Plan A. Plan B is reserved as a mechanism for PhD students to earn a Master's degree in the process of working toward the PhD.

PLAN A REQUIREMENTS

The Plan A requirements include 6 core courses, 3 elective courses, plus credit for the thesis work. The specifics are summarized as follows:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>
CORE COURSES		
ECON 501 ^P	Quantitative Methods for Economists	3
ECON 504 ^P	Macroeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON 505 ^P	History of Economic Thought	3
ECON 506 ^P	Microeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON 635 ^P / AREC 635 ^P	Econometric Theory I	3
ECON 735 ^P / AREC 735 ^P	Econometric Theory II	3
	SUBTOTAL	18
ELECTIVES		
	Electives ¹	9
THESIS		
ECON 699	Thesis	6
FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION		
PROGRAM TOTAL = 33 credits		

^P This course has at least one prerequisite. Check the Courses of Instruction section of the catalog or <http://catalog.colostate.edu/front/courses-of-instruction.aspx> to see the course prerequisites.

¹ Complete 9 credits of elective courses that add depth and breadth to the Program of Study, chosen with advisor approval. Electives do not include ECON 698, 699, 784 or 799. Electives must be 500-level or higher. Of the 9 credits, at least 6 must be in regular economics courses. (Regular courses are those other than independent study, supervised college teaching, and research.)

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 to the department chair. It is customary that a copy of the thesis is presented also 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 normal semester schedule for completion of the Plan A Master's is the following:

First Year	Fall	ECON 501	ECON 505	ECON 635
	Spring	ECON 504	ECON 506	ECON 735
Second Year	Fall	Elective	Elective	Elective
	Spring	ECON 699, Thesis work, Final Oral Examination		

A student may enter the program in the Spring semester, but in this case normal progress would require taking elective courses before the core courses, which may not be optimal.

Time Limits. Graduate School regulations require that courses to be 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 PhD program normally earn a Master's degree in the process of following the PhD program of study. In this case, the Technical Paper (with successful defense) and extra course work substitute for the Thesis. Plan B requires 30 credits of course work including the 9 PhD core courses and one elective or field course, plus 3 credits of ECON 698, for research toward the Technical Paper. The Technical Paper is defended in the third semester, and the course work (10 courses) is completed in the third or fourth semester.

The Plan B requirements are summarized as follows:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>
CORE COURSES		
ECON 501 ^P	Quantitative Methods for Economists	3
ECON 504 ^P	Macroeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON 505 ^P	History of Economic Thought	3
ECON 506 ^P	Microeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON 635 ^P / AREC 635 ^P	Econometric Theory I	3
ECON 704	Macroeconomic Analysis II	3
ECON 705	Heterodox Economic Theory	3
ECON 706	Microeconomic Analysis II	3
ECON 735 ^P / AREC 735 ^P	Econometric Theory II	3
	TOTAL	27
ELECTIVE		
	Elective ¹	3
THESIS		
ECON 698	Technical Paper	3
FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION		
PROGRAM TOTAL = 33 credits		

^P This course has at least one prerequisite. Check the Courses of Instruction section of the catalog or <http://catalog.colostate.edu/front/courses-of-instruction.aspx> to see the course prerequisites.

¹ Count one PhD field course or elective course. Electives do not include ECON 698, 699, 784 or 799. 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 Technical Paper. During the summer after the first year, students write papers that apply empirical methods to the theory learned in ECON 504, 506, and 705. This set of short papers constitutes the Technical Paper for the Plan B Master's degree, and is defended in the Master's Final Oral Examination the following semester. A bound copy of the technical paper must be submitted to the department chair.

Schedule. The normal semester schedule for completion of the Plan B Master's is the following:

First year	Fall	ECON 501, ECON 505, ECON 635
	Spring	ECON 504, ECON 506, ECON 705, ECON 735
	Summer	Research: Technical Paper
Second year	Fall	ECON 598, ECON 704, ECON 706, and possible field course Master's Final Oral Examination
	Spring	Field course if not completed in Fall

Time Limits. Graduate School regulations require that courses to be 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](#).