



**WESTERN  
MICHIGAN**  
UNIVERSITY



**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**



## Master of Arts in Applied Economics

The Master of Arts in Applied Economics (MA) is a STEM-designated program and provides students with a strong foundation in economic analysis combined with the ability to apply theory to contemporary problems. Recent graduates have been employed as data analysts, research analysts and economists, while others have chosen to pursue a PhD in economics or related fields.

Most students complete the program in 16 months, which is 3 semesters plus one summer course. However, the program can be taken part-time or completed in as little as 12 months. Part-time students are welcome, and our courses are typically offered in the evening or online to accommodate students who work.

### The Program

Students who choose the non-thesis option will take 10 courses (30 credit hours) and choose one of three tracks: (1) the general MA, (2) a concentration in Economic Development, and (3) a concentration in Statistics and Econometrics. Students who wish to write a thesis will take eight courses plus 6 credits for the thesis.

Six courses are required courses and are common to all tracks.

<b>ECON 5040</b> - Mathematics for Economists (Fall)	<b>ECON 6030</b> - Microeconomic Analysis (Spring)
<b>ECON 6220</b> - Economic Statistics (Fall)	<b>ECON 6190</b> - Econometrics Analysis (Spring)
<b>ECON 6620</b> - Macroeconomic Analysis (Fall)	<b>ECON 6290</b> - Research Methods (Summer I)

**Students then choose 4 electives** (2 for the thesis option), at least one of which must be in the economics department. For the general MA, the 3 remaining electives can come from any WMU department subject to approval. In the development concentration, at least two electives should relate to the economic issues and analysis in low-income countries. These courses are typically in the economics or political science departments. In the statistics and econometrics concentration, at least two electives must be in econometrics or statistics and at least one of these courses must be taken from WMU's Department of Statistics. All electives are approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Economics.

In addition, WMU seniors may enroll into the Accelerated Graduate Degree Program in Applied Economics (MA) to begin accumulating as much as 12 credits (four courses) toward the completion of a master's degree while completing their bachelor's degree. Students are charged the undergraduate tuition rate for these courses. Student must apply to the Accelerated MA program, and should meet with the department's Undergraduate and Graduate Advisors, during their junior year. [Click here or scan the QR code below to see a full description of our courses:](#)



### Admission

To be admitted, students should have taken intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, statistics, and calculus at the undergraduate level. Students who need to take some of these courses may be admitted on a conditional basis until these courses have been taken.

The GRE is not required and students may submit unofficial transcripts at the time of application.

### Deadlines

#### Domestic

Fall:	July 1
Spring:	November 15
Summer One:	Feb 15
Summer Two:	May 15

#### International

Fall:	July 1
Spring:	November 1
Summer:	February 1

### Funding

A limited number of graduate assistantships are awarded to MA students on a competitive basis. Students must apply to the program by February 1 to be considered for funding for the following fall. Students competitive for funding typically have a strong background in economics and mathematics.

### Career Opportunities

Having a graduate degree in economics pays. On average, graduate degree holders in economics earn over 43% more than those with only a bachelor's in the field. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary of economists (typically requiring at least a master's degree) was \$105,630 in 2021, and job growth in this area is expected to remain strong through 2031. Economists work in a wide range of fields including finance, insurance, tech, government, international organizations and thin tanks.



### Contact

**Department of Economics**  
wmich.edu/economics/academics/masters  
(269) 387-5535

**Dr. Christine Moser**  
Director of Graduate Studies  
christine.moser@wmich.edu

**College of Arts and Sciences**  
wmich.edu/arts-sciences  
9269) 387-4366



# MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED ECONOMICS

## The Department of Economics

The Department of Economics has an active faculty engaged in research in a range of areas, including labor, development, environmental, and international economics, and macroeconomics. Faculty have research interests that span the globe—from Michigan and the US to Latin America, South Asia, East Asia, and Africa.

## The University

Western Michigan University (WMU), located in Southwest Michigan, is a vibrant, nationally recognized student-centered research institution with an enrollment of nearly 18,000. We seek to recruit and retain a diverse workforce to maintain the excellence of the University, and to offer students richly varied disciplines, perspectives, and ways of knowing and learning. WMU delivers high-quality undergraduate instruction, has a strong graduate division, and fosters significant research activities. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has placed WMU among the 76 public institutions in the nation designated as research universities with high research activities. Western Michigan University is a globally engaged university that promotes success for learners at all levels and stands out among America's more than 4,600 public and private degree-granting colleges and universities.



Western Michigan University Main Campus



Downtown Kalamazoo, Michigan

## Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo is located only two and a half hours by car from Chicago and Detroit and only 45 minutes from the beaches of Lake Michigan. It is located in one of Michigan's designated research corridors, maintaining a strong life sciences/biotech presence and supporting two leading medical centers. With 263,000 people in the greater Kalamazoo area, the community offers an array of cultural events, entertainment, and all-season recreation. The city supports a nationally recognized symphony and has earned a reputation for a vibrant community theatre and visual arts scene. Relatedly, Kalamazoo is committed to social justice, community development and the elimination of generational poverty through its Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo initiative, with structural budgetary support provided by the City of Kalamazoo's Foundation for Excellence program. Kalamazoo also is the home of the Kalamazoo Promise, a scholarship program offered to all Kalamazoo Public School students that covers up to 100% of tuition and mandatory fees to all Michigan public (and many private) institutions of higher learning.