

# ECONOMICS, BA

**Banner Code:** LA-BA-ECON

D150 Buchanan Hall  
Fairfax Campus

Website: [economics.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-econ](http://economics.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-econ)

Economics is about more than money and profits. It is a way of looking at the world through the lens of incentives, choices, and markets to help uncover new solutions to the persistent problems in our society. This economic perspective sheds light on important issues in the areas of production, education, crime, the environment, international trade, immigration, health care, economic growth, poverty, and more. The BA is designed for students with a strong interest in the liberal arts. It is appropriate for those who prefer a less quantitative degree program than the BS and may be especially appropriate for students planning to attend law school or graduate programs in business or public administration.

## Admissions & Policies

### Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete a minimum of 48 credits of required coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Students in the concentration in philosophy, politics, and economics complete a minimum of 70 credits. Students must also complete ECON 103 Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core) and ECON 104 Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core) with at least a 2.00 (C) in each.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Economics majors can fulfill the Mason Core synthesis requirement with ECON 309 Economic Problems and Public Policies (Mason Core). Some economics courses may fulfill the Mason Core requirement in global understanding or the college requirement in non-Western culture. Check with the departmental advising office for more information.

### Core Courses without Concentration

#### Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ECON 103	Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 104	Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 306	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ECON 311	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
Select one from the following:		3

MATH 108	Introductory Calculus with Business Applications (Mason Core)	
HNRT 125	A Liberal Arts Approach to Calculus (Mason Core)	
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)	
Select one from the following:		3-4
IT 104	Introduction to Computing (Mason Core)	
CS 112	Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core)	
HNRS 353 & MIS 102	Technology in the Contemporary World (Topic Varies) (Mason Core) and Spreadsheet Applications for Business	
Total Credits		18-19

### Statistics

Code	Title	Credits
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
BUS 210 & BUS 310	Business Analytics I and Business Analytics II	
STAT 250 & STAT 350	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and Introductory Statistics II	
STAT 344 & STAT 354	Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II	
Total Credits		6

### Electives without Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Select 24 credits of electives from courses in economics at the 300 and 400 level <sup>1</sup>		24
Total Credits		24

<sup>1</sup> ECON 385 International Economic Policy may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

### Core Courses with Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

The 70-73 credit concentration in philosophy, politics, and economics offers students a program that explores the interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, political science, and economics.

#### Economics

Code	Title	Credits
ECON 103	Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 104	Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (Mason Core)	3
ECON 306	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ECON 311	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
ECON 412	Game Theory and Economics of Institutions	3

Select one from the following:	3
MATH 108	Introductory Calculus with Business Applications (Mason Core)
HNRT 125	A Liberal Arts Approach to Calculus (Mason Core)
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core)
Select one from the following:	3-4
IT 104	Introduction to Computing (Mason Core)
CS 112	Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core)
HNRS 353 & MIS 102	Technology in the Contemporary World (Topic Varies) (Mason Core) and Spreadsheet Applications for Business
Total Credits	21-22

### Statistics

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from the following:		4-6
BUS 210 & BUS 310	Business Analytics I and Business Analytics II	
STAT 250 & STAT 350	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) and Introductory Statistics II	
STAT 344 & STAT 354	Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I and Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists II	
Total Credits		4-6

### Electives with Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Select 18 credits of electives in economics at the 300 and 400 level <sup>1</sup>		18
Total Credits		18

<sup>1</sup> ECON 385 International Economic Policy may not be used to fulfill this requirement. If ECON 340 Introduction to Mathematical Economics is chosen as an elective, students need not take the 4-credit course MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II; however, MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II is strongly recommended for students considering a graduate school in economics since it is required for admission to most graduate programs. An additional calculus course beyond MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II is also advisable for students considering graduate study in economics.

### Philosophy

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL/GOVT 324 or PHIL/GOVT 327	Modern Western Political Theory	3
PHIL 357 or PHIL 371	Philosophy of the Social Sciences	3
PHIL 358	Ethics and Economics	3

PHIL 411	Theories of Decision	3
Total Credits		12

### Public and International Affairs

Code	Title	Credits
GOVT 103	Introduction to American Government (Mason Core)	3
GOVT/PHIL 323	Classical Western Political Theory	3
GOVT 422	Constitutional Interpretation	3
GOVT 467	Current Issues in Economic Policy	3
Total Credits		12

### Capstone Experience Course

Code	Title	Credits
GOVT 469	Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	3
or PHIL/ECON 460	Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	
Total Credits		3

### Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated as "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in economics fulfill this requirement by successfully completing one of the following courses:

Code	Title	Credits
ECON 345	Introduction to Econometrics	
ECON 355	The Political Economy of Nonprofit Institutions	
ECON 365	Topics in Economic History	
ECON 435	Economics of Energy	
ECON 470	Economics of Regulation	

### Upper Level Requirements

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

### Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

### College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

### Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
PHIL <sup>1</sup>		
RELI		

<sup>1</sup> Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

### Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) <sup>1</sup>		

ANTH
CRIM
ECON
GOVT
HIST <sup>2</sup>
LING
PSYC
SOCI

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)
GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)
GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
GGS 301	Political Geography
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)
GGS 305	Economic Geography
GGS 306	Urban Geography
GGS 315	Geography of the United States
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America
GGS 320	Geography of Europe
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States
GGS 357	Urban Planning
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia

<sup>1</sup> The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

<sup>2</sup> HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

### Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by: <sup>1</sup>		

Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202 (or higher level courses taught in the language)	
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Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test	
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Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:	
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EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I
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EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II
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EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III
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<sup>1</sup> Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

### Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) <sup>1</sup>		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 301	Native North Americans	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of the Andes	3
ANTH 306	Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3
ANTH 316	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 323	Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 383	Cities of the Global South	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3

ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 326	Stalinism	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3	HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3	HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3	HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3	HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3	HIST 354	Modern China	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3	HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3	HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3	HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3	HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3	HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3	HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3	HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3	HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3	HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3	HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3	HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3	HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3	JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3	JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3	KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
GOVT 328	Global Political Theory	3	MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3	RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3	RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia	3	RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3	RELI 272	Islam	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3	RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3	RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3	RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3
HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3
HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3
HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3	RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3
HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3	RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3
			RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3

<sup>1</sup> A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

## Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Foundation Requirements</b>		
	Written Communication (ENGH 101)	3
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology and Computing	3
<b>Exploration Requirements</b>		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
<b>Integration Requirements</b>		
	Written Communications (ENGH 302)	3
	Writing-Intensive <sup>1</sup>	3
	Synthesis/Capstone <sup>2</sup>	3
	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>40</b>

<sup>1</sup> Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

<sup>2</sup> Minimum 3 credits required.

## Honors

### Honors in the Major

Students pursuing departmental honors must complete 6 hours of ECON 495 RS: Honors Thesis in Economics culminating with an original work of research and an oral presentation. Requirements for departmental honors are in addition to the coursework required for the major. Students must complete ECON 495 RS: Honors Thesis in Economics with a grade of B or higher to receive departmental honors.

Economics majors who have completed 90 credits with an overall GPA of 3.50 and a GPA of 3.50 within the major are eligible to apply. Not all applicants who meet the minimum requirements are guaranteed acceptance.

Applications will be available starting May 1st of each year. Applications are due by August 1st.

To be accepted into the program and enroll in ECON 495 RS: Honors Thesis in Economics students must submit a research proposal. Research proposals can be developed independently or by completing ECON 494 Introduction to Independent Research in Economics with a grade of B or higher. Completion of ECON 494 Introduction to Independent Research in Economics is not required for departmental honors.

## Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's program listed below specifies the BA in economics as a feeder degree for its program. It is important to note, however, that many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason, including this one. See the full list of master's degrees with accelerated programs at George Mason.

### Economics, BA or BS/Economics, Accelerated MA

#### Overview

Highly-qualified Mason economics majors may apply to the accelerated master's degree program. If accepted, students will be able to earn both a BA or BS and a MA in economics after satisfactory completion of 144 credits. Graduates are exceptionally well-prepared for professional school or a PhD program in economics or a related discipline.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

#### Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in economics, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://economics.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-MA-ACEL-ECON>) on the departmental web site.

#### Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students will be required to complete two master's courses to be applied to the undergraduate degree as upper level credit. These two courses must be selected from the following five courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		6
ECON 535	Survey of Applied Econometrics	
ECON 611	Microeconomic Theory	
ECON 612	Microeconomic Theory II	
ECON 615	Macroeconomic Theory	
ECON 630	Mathematical Economics I	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>6</b>

Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work and earn a grade of B or better (3.00 or higher) in course work applied to their major. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/

Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

### **Reserve Graduate Credit**

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students may take an additional two master's courses as reserve graduate credit. These two additional master's courses must be selected from the following five courses:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Select two from the following:		6
ECON 535	Survey of Applied Econometrics	
ECON 611	Microeconomic Theory	
ECON 612	Microeconomic Theory II	
ECON 615	Macroeconomic Theory	
ECON 630	Mathematical Economics I	
Total Credits		6

These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/ Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.