

University of Montana
Department of Economics
Five-Year Track for B.A. plus M.A.
Information Sheet

The Department of Economics offers a five-year program in which one earns a B.A. in economics at the end of the fourth year and an M.A. after the fifth year. The graduate requirements are similar to the traditional M.A. program; the major difference is the scheduling of classes. Undergraduates considering the five-year program should contact the Economics Department as early as possible to consider scheduling issues.

This track allows a good University of Montana student who plans ahead to complete both a B.A. and an M.A. in Economics within five years. An undergraduate degree in economics is a strong, analytical liberal arts degree. A graduate degree is almost always necessary to be a professional economist. Under the five year program, one of our undergraduate majors may obtain this advanced degree and gain access to the good job opportunities it conveys with only one extra year of school.

The key to saving the year in earning the M.A. is planning ahead. Therefore, anyone who is interested in this track should consult their Economics advisor as soon as possible. In order to be admitted to the five year track, a student must:

1. Have a 3.0 or higher GPA
2. Have completed at least 114 (and realistically 116) total undergraduate credits by the end of fall semester of their fourth year.
3. Take the GRE in the fall semester of their fourth year.
4. Complete all the requirements for the B.A. degree by the end of spring semester in their fourth year.
5. Be sponsored by a member of the Economics Department Faculty.
6. Apply for admission to the M.A. program in the fall semester of their fourth year and be admitted for spring semester of their fourth year.
7. Pay for remaining undergraduate credits at the graduate rate in the spring semester of their fourth year.

Essentially, one must finish all their undergraduate requirements except for their senior thesis and senior seminar by the end of fall semester of their fourth year. Then their M.A. program would look like this:

Year Four

Fall - undergraduate
EC 511 Microtheory (3) u
EC 403 Econometrics (4) u
EC 488 Research Meth (2) u
Electives/Requirements u

Spring – graduate/undergrad
EC 513 Macrotheory (3) g
EC 560 Econometrics II (4) g
EC 569 Research Design (1) g
EC 499 Senior Thesis (2) u
EC 494 Senior Seminar (2) u
Total Credits (12 = 4u 8g)

Year Five

Fall – graduate
EC 599 Thesis (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Total Credits (12)

Spring – graduate
EC 599 Thesis (7)
Elective (3)
Total Credits (10)

Ideally the Senior Thesis would be used to develop the M.A. thesis proposal and carry out the literature review portion of the M.A. Thesis. It is not uncommon for M.A. students to finish their thesis in the summer of the fifth year. The thesis process is identical to the traditional track and all of the rules for the traditional track apply here. Students should review that material.

Revised Sept. 11 2009