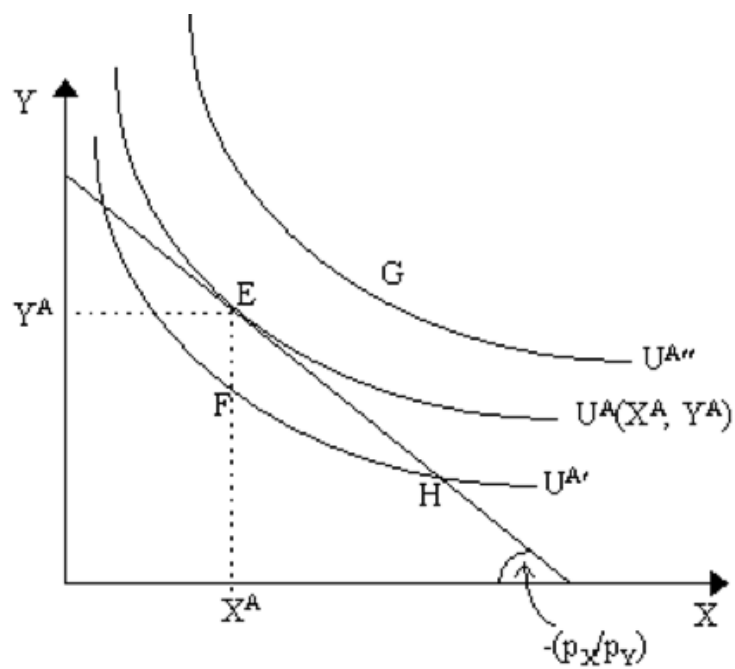


Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Economics

Department of Economics

Texas Tech University



Fall 2016

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The department offers a thesis plan and a non-thesis plan.

Part I: Requirements for the Non-Thesis Plan

The non-thesis plan requires completion of 12 courses (36 credit hours) and passing of a comprehensive written examination for the M.A. degree.

Course work: ECO 5311 Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (3 hrs)

ECO 5312 Microeconomic Analysis (3 hrs)

Economic Electives (21 hrs)

Approved General Electives (9 hrs)

Part II: Requirements for the Thesis Plan

The thesis plan requires completion of 12 courses (36 credit hours), writing an M.A. thesis and a successful final defense of the M.A. thesis.

Course work: ECO 5311 Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (3 hrs)

ECO 5312 Microeconomic Analysis (3 hrs)

Economic Electives (15 hrs)

Approved General Electives (9 hrs)

ECO 6000 Thesis (6 hrs)

Note:

- (1) Students will not receive credit towards the M.A. degree for taking ECO 5310. This applies to both the non-thesis and the thesis plans.
- (2) Normally, Approved General Electives will also be courses in economics. This applies to both the non-thesis and the thesis plan.

(3) M.A. students in the thesis plan cannot register for ECO 6000 thesis credit hours before they select a supervisor and form a thesis committee. A student can only register for ECO 6000 after her/his thesis advisor sends a letter to the Director of Graduate Studies indicating willingness to supervise the student's thesis.

(4) M.A. students in the non-thesis plan must pass a comprehensive written examination for the M.A. degree. If a student receives an unsatisfactory result on the first attempt, the Graduate School permits the student to take the exam for a second (and final) time. In this case, the department requires the student to re-take the exam during the semester that directly follows the semester in which the student took it for the first time.

(5) The M.A. comprehensive exam consists of questions from core courses as well as elective courses. For graduate students who are in the dual MA/Ph.D. programs, the Ph.D. core courses **cannot** count as electives for the purpose of formulating the MA comprehensive exam, i.e., ECO 5313, 5314, 5315, 5318, 5381, and 5382 **cannot** be declared as electives. These courses may be declared as electives for students in the M.A. program ONLY.

Part III. Annual Review of Progress in the M.A. Program

The Director of Graduate Studies will conduct a formal, annual review of each masters student's progress in the program. Any student not making satisfactory progress may be placed on probation and given conditions to meet to stay in the program. Continued unsatisfactory progress in any area of a student's work will be cause for dismissal.

Part IV. Financial Assistance

Financial support (scholarship, teaching assistantship) is awarded on a competitive basis for the duration of the two long semesters (fall, spring) of the academic year. Continued financial support is contingent on the student's academic progress in the program as well as satisfactory performance of all the duties associated with the assistantship. The following are events that would lead to losing your financial support from the department:

- a. A student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.33 at any point during his/her graduate studies.
- b. A student receives a grade of "D" or lower in any core, field, or elective course at any point of his/her graduate studies.
- c. A student doesn't successfully complete the Ph.D. Core Comprehensive Examination in both Micro and Macro after the completion of his/her fifth semester in the department.

Furthermore, Ph.D. students, who are making satisfactory progress in the program, are supported for four years. If a student needs more than four years to complete the requirements for the Ph.D. degree and seeks funding for an additional fifth year (or sixth year), he/she needs to submit a proposal to the Graduate Committee by November 15 of their fourth (fifth) year containing the following:

- CV
- A research statement that includes the research topic and what has been done so far.
- An outline that describes the work to be done in the next academic year with a clear timeline showing when graduation is being planned.
- A statement from the dissertation advisor.

In addition to the requirements above, international teaching assistants are required to attend the International Teaching Assistant Workshop (ITA Workshop). This is a university requirement (see Operating Policy 64.03). The ITA Workshop is conducted each summer to assess the language skills of ITA's. The department offers international students employment in the form of a teaching assistantship with the presumption that they will teach at some point during their employment. As per OP 64.03, an international student will not be allowed to teach without having fulfilled all the requirements of the ITA workshop. This workshop is offered every summer, starts around middle of July, and lasts for three weeks. Please note that if an ITA does not pass all requirements of the ITA workshop at the end of his/her second year in the program, he/she may lose all or part of his financial support from the department.

Part V. Important University Operating Policies and Procedures

It is very important that you familiarize yourself with University Operating Policies and Procedures (OP). They define your rights and responsibilities as a graduate student and, in the case of many of you, as a teaching assistant. The majority of the OP's related to you are listed in Section 64 of the OP. The following is a list containing the most important OP's concerning you that you must read:

OP 64.02: Defines full-time studies, continuous enrollment, and residency conditions. <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP64.02.pdf>

OP 64.03: Defines the responsibilities and procedural guidelines for TA's and GPTI's. <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP64.03.pdf>

OP 64.04: Defines the academic requirements for continuation of graduate studies. <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP64.04.pdf>

OP 64.07: Outlines the disposition of cases involving graduate student appeals.
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP64.07.pdf>

OP 64.11: Defines guidelines for handling graduate student employee insurance.
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP64.11.pdf>

OP 70.05: Defines university policy and employee eligibility for insurance programs and other benefits. <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP70.05.pdf>

OP 32.25: Defines guidelines for tutoring for payment.
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP32.25.pdf>

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Additional information can be found at the following websites:
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/economics/>