About
Applied economics is the use of economic theories, models and data to solve real-world issues. A master’s degree in applied economics from the George Washington University provides students with the tools to succeed as economists in today’s data-driven world. The program teaches students how to draw meaningful implications from economic data, how to apply economic theory to answer real-world policy questions, and how to integrate economic analysis into their professional lives.

Students develop fundamental tools of macro- and microeconomic analysis. Depending on their chosen specialization, students develop skills in budgetary and fiscal policy, an understanding of the role of international trade and finance on the global economy, how labor policies affect household welfare, and more. Econometrics and time series analysis are core elements of the program, and the skills students develop in these courses give them the quantitative tools needed to analyze large data sets. Graduates are prepared for positions as economists in government agencies, private consulting firms, financial institutions, international organizations and policy research institutions.

Why Applied Economics at GW?
Students actively participate in the program and develop the ability to communicate ideas through seminars, workshops and intensive writing and revision. Additionally, students benefit from advising and mentorship from a faculty of internationally-recognized experts and practitioners.

Students studying for a Master’s degree in Applied Economics at GW benefit from the outstanding resources of the George Washington University. Our courses are held on GW’s campus, thus allowing students easy access to the library, economics department, computer lab, and the career center.

GW is located within walking distance of the Federal Reserve, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Federal Trade Commission, the Office of Management and Budget and numerous other influential entities related to economics. Relationships with such organizations provide ample opportunity for hands-on experience and internships.

Learning Goals
The program teaches students to:
- Measure the impact and outcome of government policies and programs;
- Analyze and forecast trends in economic indicators; and
- Independently undertake empirical economic analysis.

Specializations
Students may specialize in one or more applied fields of economics including:
- Budgetary and fiscal policy
- Financial economics
- Economic forecasting and data analysis
- Development economics
- Labor and human resource economics
- International trade and monetary policy
- Industrial organization
- Behavioral economics

Students interested in doctoral studies will be prepared for programs in applied economics, business economics and public policy.

Curriculum
The master’s program requires completing 30 credits, including six core courses and four electives. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis, and many classes are available in the evening. Full-time students may complete the program in three semesters.
Program Director

Dr. Joann M. Weiner, associate professor of economics and director of the Applied Economics Program, received her MA and PhD in Economics from Harvard University and has taught at GW since 2006. Her past projects include consulting for the European Commission, serving as senior economist for the Office of Tax Policy at the U.S. Treasury Department, and working at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Admission Requirements

• A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
• Satisfactory completion of the following courses at the undergraduate level:
  • Introductory macroeconomics
  • Introductory microeconomics
  • One semester of college-level calculus
• Two letters of recommendation and a personal statement

GRE scores are not required.

Students may apply for admission in the Fall semester (April 1 deadline) or in the Spring semester (October 1 deadline). Admissions decisions are based on the applicant’s entire package. Prospective students who do not meet these requirements should contact the program director.

Courses

Required courses for the MA in Applied Economics provide foundational knowledge of analytical techniques and economic theories, which students then build upon with electives tailored to their career ambitions. Classes integrate academic scholarship with hands-on projects that allow graduates to enter the market with proven skills in applied economics.

The six core courses are:

• Mathematical methods for economics
• Applied microeconomic theory
• Applied macroeconomic theory
• Probability and statistics for economics
• Applied econometrics
• Time series analysis and forecasting

Students may take electives in economics and related fields in the following GW schools:

• The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration
• The Milken Institute School of Public Health
• The Graduate School of Business
• The School of Engineering and Applied Science

Want to learn more?

For more information or to apply, visit go.gwu.edu/appliedecon or email appliedecon@gwu.edu

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