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 GW 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 data using economic theory, and how to apply these answers to policy questions.

Students develop skills in macro- and microeconomics and learn to analyze and forecast economic trends in budgetary and fiscal policy, international trade, labor and urban economics, among others. Graduates of the program 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?

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.

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 one-on-one advising and mentorship from a faculty of internationally-recognized experts and practitioners. The faculty guide students through their education, as do a number of local professionals who teach at GW on a part-time basis.

Graduates prepare a job market paper that allows them to launch their career with a competitive advantage, especially at the institutions and government agencies in D.C.

Learning Goals

The program teaches students to:

• Measure the impact and outcome of government policies and programs
• Analyze and forecast trends in economic indicators
• Independently undertake empirical economic analysis

Concentrations

Students may specialize in one or more applied fields of economics including:

• Budgetary and fiscal policy
• Regulatory and anti-trust economics
• Financial economics
• Economic forecasting
• Development economics
• Labor and human resource economics
• International trade and monetary policy
• Urban and regional economics

Those interested in continuing on to doctoral studies will be prepared for programs in applied economics, business economics and public policy.

Curriculum

The master’s program requires the completion of 30 credits, including six core courses and four electives. Up to two of these courses may be taken at other GW schools. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis, and many classes are available in the evening.
Program Director

Dr. Joann M. Weiner, associate professor of economics and director of the Applied Economics Program, received her MA and PhD from Harvard University and has taught at GW since 2006. She has written for the Washington Post, Bloomberg Government, AOL’s Politics Daily and numerous Tax Analysts publications. Her past projects include consulting for the European Commission on company tax reform, serving as the 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

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Prospective students must also have satisfactorily completed the following courses at the undergraduate level:

- Introductory Macroeconomics
- Introductory Microeconomics
- One semester of college-level calculus

Applicants must also submit one letter of recommendation and a personal statement, and participate in an interview.

GRE scores are not required.

Prospective students who are interested in the program but lack some specific requirements are encouraged to contact the program for individual advice on alternative ways to meet the requirements.

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.

Each class is worth three credits. The six core courses are:

- Mathematical methods for economists
- Applied microeconomic theory
- Applied macroeconomic theory
- Probability and statistics for economists
- Econometrics
- Time series analysis

Example electives include:

- Environment and natural resource economics
- Economics of technological change
- International economics and development
- Financial economics and markets
- Public economics and regulation

Want to learn more?

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

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