About the Program
The George Washington University’s Master of Arts in Applied Economics provides students with the tools to succeed as economists in today’s data-driven world. Our students learn to draw meaningful implications from economic data, apply economic theory and quantitative methods to answer real-world policy questions, and integrate economic analysis into their professional lives.

Program Highlights
• Professors with first-hand experience working in consulting companies, government agencies, think tanks and local businesses
• STEM-designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
• Full- or part-time enrollment accommodates work and busy schedules
• Coursework integrates academics with hands-on research and data projects allowing graduates to enter the job market with proven skills in applied economics
• Funding available for students for internships and to work with professors on their research or in their classrooms
• Flexibility to enroll simultaneously in a graduate certificate program

Learning Outcomes & Goals
Our learning outcomes and goals are for students to:
• attain a level of technical ability and knowledge in applied economics needed to analyze the impact and outcome of government policies and programs;
• gain research experience using the latest econometric tools and quantitative approaches;
• master the ability to present a clear analysis of economic issues using a variety of oral and written communication skills;
• acquire the skills used to evaluate and conduct econometric analysis, including interpreting regression results;
• apply microeconomic analysis to issues in the private and public sectors, from product pricing to environmental regulation;
• develop an integrated framework for analyzing the determination of macroeconomic variables, interpreting macroeconomic data and macroeconomic policy and linking applied economic theory to current economic policy;
• appreciate and understand the use of mathematics in economic analysis, including multivariable calculus, integral calculus, and linear algebra; and
• pursue a career as an applied economist in a government agency, private consulting firm, financial institution, international organization or policy research institution.

Application Requirements
We offer admission in fall, spring and summer. GRE scores are not required.
• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
• Satisfactory completion of these college-level courses:
  • Introductory microeconomics
  • Introductory macroeconomics
  • One semester of calculus
• Two letters of recommendation
• One personal statement of 500 to 1,000 words

Admissions decisions are based on the applicant’s entire package. Prospective students who do not meet these application requirements should contact the program director.

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Curriculum
The M.A. in Applied Economics requires 30 credits. Six core courses (3 credits each) provide fundamental knowledge of economic theories and quantitative analysis. Students build on these skills with 12 credits of elective courses tailored to their interests and career goals.

Students may specialize in fields including budget and fiscal policy, data science, financial economics, international and development economics, labor and human resource economics, and behavioral economics, among others.

Core Courses
- Mathematical Methods for Economics
- Applied Microeconomic Theory
- Applied Macroeconomic Theory
- Probability and Statistics for Economics
- Applied Econometrics
- Time Series Analysis and Forecasting

Elective Courses
Students select from electives in economics as well as related fields in these GW schools:

- The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration
- The Milken Institute School of Public Health
- The GW School of Business
- The School of Engineering and Applied Science

In addition to the formal curriculum, we also offer at no cost to our students, a workshop on oral and written communication skills and regular sessions on Stata, Python, R and other programming languages.

Dual Enrollment with a Graduate Certificate
Students who are enrolled in the M.A. in Applied Economics may apply for dual enrollment with a graduate certificate in fields including data science, budget and public finance, accountancy, business analytics, financial management, geographic information systems, environmental resource policy, digital marketing and communications, and more. Students who pursue this option may obtain credit for up to two courses to meet the electives requirement for the Applied Economics M.A.

Students
Our students come from the U.S. and around the world and are a mix of recent graduates and professionals with years of work experience in all sectors. While most students studied business, economics or political science as undergraduates, we also have students with degrees in engineering, math, computer science and more.

Many of our graduates pursue new job opportunities or advance in their current positions. Our alumni work in economic consulting firms, at the IMF, World Bank, the U.S. federal government and their home country governments, in the private and not-for-profit sectors, and more. Students also pursue advanced degrees (typically a Ph.D.) in applied economics, public policy, business and related fields.

Learn More
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Program Director
Dr. Joann M. Weiner, associate professor of economics and director of the Applied Economics M.A. program, received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University and her B.S. in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley. Her past projects include serving as senior economist for the Office of Tax Policy at the U.S. Treasury Department, consulting on tax policy for the European Commission, and writing for various news organizations. She has taught at GW since 2006.