
Economics

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Mark A. Thayer, Ph.D., Professor of Economics,
Chair of Department (Graduate Adviser)
Renatte K. Adler, Ph.D., Professor of Economics
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James B. Gerber, Ph.D., Professor of Economics
Shoshana A. Grossbard-Shechtman, Ph.D., Professor of Economics
Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics
Edmund M. Balsdon, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics
Cynthia A. Bansak, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics
Jennifer Imazeki, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics
Kusum Mundra, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics
Thitima Puttitanun, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics

Associateships

A number of teaching and research associateships are available for qualified students. Appointments permitting up to 20 hours of service per week are available. In addition, students interested in pursuing teaching careers at the community college level may apply for a teaching apprenticeship position. Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the graduate student coordinator of the Department of Economics.

Scholarships

The Department of Economics administers two scholarship programs that are available to qualified students. Incoming students may apply for a Terhune scholarship. Terhune Scholarships are designed to cover tuition and fees for the first year of graduate study. The Center for Public Economics annually awards several scholarships ranging from \$300 to \$1,500 in the spring semester. Application forms and additional information for these programs may be obtained from the graduate student coordinator of the Department of Economics.

General Information

The Department of Economics offers a Master of Arts degree in economics. The program provides students with advanced training in decision-making techniques and quantitative analysis by building on a core of applied microeconomic and econometric classes. Students learn to apply analytic methods to business and policy issues, use advanced econometric methods and computer software. An internship program provides students with valuable work experience. The program is designed to (1) prepare students for careers in consulting, domestic and multinational firms and government agencies, (2) provide students with university-level teaching experience and access to community college teaching positions, and (3) provide advanced training in economics for students planning on entering a Ph.D. program.

Admission to Graduate Study

Admission to the Master of Arts program in economics is a three-step process.

Step 1. Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.csumentor.edu>.

Step 2. The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to the Department of Economics:

- (1) Two sets of official transcripts (in sealed envelopes);
- (2) Two letters of recommendation;
- (3) A personal statement of no more than 750 words that describes why you wish to pursue graduate study in economics;

Mail or deliver your complete admissions package to:

Graduate Admissions Coordinator
Department of Economics
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4485

Step 3. Have GRE test scores sent to SDSU (SDSU code: 4682). If you are an international student whose postsecondary instruction is in a language other than English you must have TOEFL test score sent to SDSU. International students interested in applying should first contact the International Student Center.

Advancement to Candidacy

In addition to the general requirements for advancement to candidacy described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must have completed Economics 630, 631, 640, and 641 with at least a 3.0 (B) average and no individual core course grade lower than a 2.7 (B-). Deficiencies may be addressed by retaking core courses.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 22041)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must complete an approved graduate program of at least 32 units. Each program must include Economics 630, 631, 640, 640L, 641, 641L, 740, and 795. No program may contain more than nine units of approved courses outside economics. In addition, no program may contain more than six units of 500-level courses.

A written comprehensive examination covering the core fields of microeconomics and econometrics is required for Plan B students. Students selecting Plan A must include Economics 799A in their program and complete a master's thesis.

As an alternative to electing a general program, the student may choose to specialize in Latin American Policy Studies or Urban and Regional Policy. The specialization in Latin American Policy Studies with its applied and interdisciplinary focus, is designed to provide students with advanced training in Latin American policy issues. The specialization in Urban and Regional Policy, with its applied and interdisciplinary focus, is designed to provide students with advanced training in urban and regional policy issues.

Specialization in Latin American Policy Studies

- ECON 720 Seminar in Latin American Economies (3)
LATAM 601 Seminar on Methodology of Latin American Studies (3)

One course selected from the following:

- HIST 558 Latin America in World Affairs (3)
POL S 566 Political Change in Latin America (3)
POL S 567 Political Systems of Latin America (3)

Specialization in Urban and Regional Policy

- ECON 710 Seminar in Urban and Regional Economics (3)

At least one course selected from the following:

- C P 625 Quantitative Techniques in Urban Planning (6)
GEOG 584 Geographic Information Systems Applications (3)
GEOG 683 Advanced Geographic Information Systems (3)

One course selected from the following:

- C P 665 Seminar in Urban and Regional Planning Analysis (3)
GEOG 596 Advanced Topics in Urban and Regional Policy (3)
GEOG 685 Advanced Quantitative Methods in Geography (3)
GEOG 780 Seminar in Techniques of Spatial Analysis (3)

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Programs in Economics (ECON)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Graduate Division sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

ECON 507. Mathematical Economics (3)

Prerequisite: Mathematics 121 or 150. Recommended: Economics 320 or 321.

Mathematical concepts as tools in understanding, developing, and illustrating economic theories. Applications of calculus and linear equations to constrained optimization, macro models, elasticity, general equilibrium, and input-output analysis.

ECON 561. International Trade (3)

Prerequisites: Economics 320 and 321.

Theory and policy of international trade with examples drawn from current issues. Models of determinants of trade. Free trade and protectionism. Trade and economic development. Trading blocs, the European community, GATT and U.S. trade policy.

ECON 565. North American Economic Relations (3)

Prerequisites: Economics 101 and 102. Recommended: Economics 360.

Socioeconomic development of U.S., Mexico, and Canada since World War II. Issues affecting the three countries' relations, including trade investment, technology, and international organizations and agreements.

ECON 592. International Monetary Theory and Policy (3)

Prerequisite: Economics 320 or 490.

International monetary spillovers from domestic macroeconomic policies. Foreign exchange markets and balance of payments. Fixed, flexible and managed exchange rates. Bretton Woods, international monetary fund, and world debt crisis.

ECON 596. Experimental Topics (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Intensive study in specific areas of economics. Topics to be announced in the *Class Schedule*. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of nine units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

GRADUATE COURSES

ECON 630. Microeconomic Theory (3)

Prerequisite: Economics 321.

Theories of the consumer, the firm, and the market. Topics in welfare and general equilibrium. Duality and uncertainty.

ECON 631. Applied Microeconomic Methods (3)

Prerequisite: Economics 630.

Decision-making techniques in applied microeconomics including cost-benefit analysis, choice under uncertainty and applied game theory techniques.

ECON 640. Econometrics (3)

Prerequisites: Economics 321; Mathematics 120 or 121 or 150.

Measurement in economics. Use of economic models involving multiple regression analysis, simultaneous equation systems, and time series analysis.

ECON 640L. Econometrics Laboratory I (1)

Two hours of laboratory for 12 weeks.

Prerequisite: Concurrent registration in Economics 640.

Data analysis and econometric modeling using SAS. Applied statistical skills and SAS programming skills necessary to perform advanced data analysis to construct datasets, build, and estimate statistical models covered in Economics 640.

ECON 641. Applied Research in Econometrics (3)

Prerequisite: Economics 640.

Econometric applications and techniques including discrete choice, panel data simultaneous equations and time series. Data analysis and statistical software training in STATA, SAS, and SPSS.

ECON 641L. Econometrics Laboratory II (1)

Two hours of laboratory for 12 weeks.

Prerequisite: Concurrent registration in Economics 641.

Data analysis and econometric modeling using STATA. Applied statistical skills and STATA programming skills necessary to perform advanced data analysis to construct datasets, build, and estimate statistical models covered in Economics 641.

ECON 696. Experimental Topics (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Intensive study in specific areas of economics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

ECON 700. Seminar in Microeconomic Applications (3)

Prerequisites: Economics 630 or classified graduate standing in another department and consent of instructor.

Microeconomic applications to individual, firm, or government. Maximum credit six units of Economics 700 applicable to a master's degree. See Class Schedule for specific content. Seminar topics include:

- Seminar in Industrial Organization and Firm Behavior
- Seminar in Labor Economics
- Seminar in Economic Issues in Demography
- Seminar in Experimental Economics

ECON 710. Seminar in Public Economics (3)

Prerequisites: Economics 630 or classified graduate standing in another department and consent of instructor.

Government in a market economy. Impact on individual and firm behavior. Maximum credit six units of Economics 710 applicable to a master's degree. See Class Schedule for specific content. Seminar topics include:

- Seminar in Environmental Issues
- Seminar in Public Expenditures
- Seminar in Urban and Regional
- Seminar in Regulation
- Seminar in Tax Policy

ECON 720. Seminar in Development and Planning (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Development process and policies. Planning techniques. Relations among developing and developed countries. Maximum credit six units of Economics 720 applicable to a master's degree. See Class Schedule for specific content. Seminar topics include:

- Seminar in Development Economics
- Seminar in Development Planning
- Seminar in International Trade and Commercial Policy

ECON 730. Seminar in Macroeconomic Policy (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Applications of macroeconomics to open economics. Maximum credit six units of Economics 730 applicable to a master's degree. See Class Schedule for specific content. Seminar topics include:

- Seminar in National Monetary Institutions
- Seminar in International Monetary Policy
- Seminar in Business Cycles
- Seminar in Macroeconomic Modeling and Prediction

ECON 740. Seminar in Applied Economic Research (3)

Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy and consent of graduate adviser.

Advanced treatment of research design and methodology. Application of empirical techniques to selected problems. (Formerly numbered Economics 740A.)

ECON 750. Seminar in Economic History and Institutions (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Economic development in historical perspective. Maximum credit six units of Economics 750 applicable to a master's degree. See Class Schedule for specific content. Seminar topics include:

- Seminar in U.S. Economic History
- Seminar in Economic Growth in Historical Perspective
- Seminar in Contemporary Economic Systems

ECON 795. Internship in Economics (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Economics 630, 640, and approval of graduate adviser.

Students will be assigned to various jobs in which economic theory can be applied to decision making. Supervision will be shared by the graduate adviser and on-the-job supervisor.

ECON 797. Research (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: Classified graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Independent research project in an area of economics.

ECON 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair and instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

ECON 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

ECON 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

ECON 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.

Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.
