

This document includes answers to several frequently-asked questions about the Economics Graduate Programs at the University of Tennessee.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Q. Do you review applications on a rolling basis?

A. Applications are reviewed on an annual basis during February and March for fall entry only.

Q. Do you admit students for spring semester?

A. No, students are generally admitted only for the fall semester. This reflects in part the structure of the first-year curriculum, in particular the offering of micro I and macro I in the fall, and micro II and macro II in the spring; the first courses in micro and macro are not offered in the spring term.

Q. I sent in my application during the months of November or December but haven't heard anything from you. Have you received my application?

A. We receive many applications each year and the majority of these are received between the middle of November and the end of January. You will be notified by the Graduate School when a decision is made by the department. You will be notified by the department only if you are awarded an assistantship.

Q. I cannot afford the application fee, so if I provide you with my GPA and scores for the GRE and TOEFL and copies of my transcripts, could you evaluate the information and tell me about my chances for admission and financial aid before I apply?

A. The application fee is a requirement of the Graduate School, not the Department of Economics. The Department cannot evaluate your application prior to your acceptance into the university by the Graduate School.

Q. I graduated several years ago and have been employed since graduation. Would recommendation letters from my employers be acceptable instead of letters from former professors?

A. You may include letters from your employers, but you should also include at least one letter from a former professor who is able to address your academic ability to complete a graduate degree.

Q. Is any work experience required for admission?

A. Previous work experience is not a requirement for entry or funding.

Q. What courses will I be able to transfer from my master's or Ph.D. program?

A. Only in exceptional circumstances will courses be transferable from other programs, especially courses not taken at the University of Tennessee. This means that virtually all incoming students regardless of background are required to take core coursework in econometrics, micro theory and macro theory and are further required to pass qualifying exams. Transfer credit will be determined on an individual basis.

QUESTIONS ABOUT QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

Q. What are the average GRE scores for admitted students?

A. Based on those who applied for Fall 2013 admissions, the average percentile scores for admitted students were as follows:

Verbal = 73

Quantitative = 88

Q. How many students apply to the Ph.D. program each year, how many are admitted, and how many can get financial aid?

A. We receive approximately 100 applications per academic year. We normally admit 30-50% of applicants. Of those accepted, only the top 10-20 students are offered financial aid in the form of an assistantship.

Q. Do I need an undergraduate degree in economics to be admitted to the M.A. or Ph.D. program?

A. Neither entry to the program nor funding is contingent on having an undergraduate degree in economics. However, some background in economics will be necessary to ensure a strong performance in the program.

Q. Do I need a master's degree in economics to be admitted to the Ph.D. program?

A. Only a bachelor's degree is required for admission to the Ph.D. program. The overall number of credits required to complete the Ph.D. is, however, lower for those entering with an MA or MS in economics or a related field.

Q. What are the English language requirements for admission?

A. Please refer to the Graduate School's web site (<http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/int-adm-guide.shtml>) for complete details.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID DECISIONS

Q. Is financial aid available for first-year international students?

A. Awards of financial assistance are based entirely on academic qualifications.

Q. Do you provide funding for students who seek only the master's degree?

A. Funding is generally targeted for Ph.D. students.

Q. Do I need to fill out a separate funding application?

A. No. As part of the application administered by the Graduate School, there is a place (checkbox) to indicate you wish to be considered for funding.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE IN THE PROGRAM AND/OR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Q. What is the typical time required for the completion of an Economics Ph.D.?

A. Time to completion varies between 4 and 5 years for students who stay actively involved in their program of study.

Q. Can I participate in the graduate program on a part-time basis?

A. Students may participate on a part-time basis. However, this can lead to significant delays in completing the degree requirements. Core courses like micro, macro, mathematical economics and econometrics are not offered every semester, graduate field courses are offered every other year, and few if any courses are offered during evening hours. This creates problems in moving smoothly through the curriculum.

Q. Is a foreign language required?

A. The department has no foreign language requirement.

Q. Is insurance provided for graduate students?

A. Graduate students on assistantship employed at least one-quarter time (10 hours/week) receive University-administered health insurance at no additional cost. If students already have insurance coverage through another insurance carrier, this would function as additional coverage. Students can elect to add spouse or dependent coverage at their own expense. Students not on assistantship can purchase health insurance through the University, and are eligible to receive subsidized health care through the Student Health Center. Details can be found at: <http://gradschool.utk.edu/orientation/health.shtml>.