



WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

# INTEGRATED BACCALAUREATE AND MASTER'S DEGREE IN ECONOMICS

*Higher Values in Higher Education*  
Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity  
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

*The integrated Baccalaureate and Master's degree program in Economics provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate Economics majors to complete both a Bachelor of Business (or Bachelor of Arts) degree in Economics and a Master of Arts degree in Economics in five years. In addition to earning both degrees a year early, the integrated program offers additional opportunities to participate in a variety of experiential educational activities such as hands-on data analysis, supervised projects with faculty, and individual research.*



## Admission Requirements

- The applicant should apply to the School of Graduate Studies for admission to the integrated degree program in Economics.
- The applicant must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher and a major GPA of 3.25 or higher.
- The applicant must have senior standing (at least 90 semester hours [SH])
- Students should have completed both Intermediate Microeconomics (ECON 330) and Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECON 331).

## Degree Requirements and Overview

The Master of Arts degree in Economics requires a total of 30 SH to include 12 SH of core coursework which includes ECON 481G, 500 (or 502), 503 (or 504), and 506. Along with the required core courses, the program provides students with the opportunity to select among one of the following three degree paths:

1. A thesis option that includes 12 SH of elective courses in Economics and 6 SH of research credit (ECON 600 and 601)
2. A capstone option that includes 15 SH of elective courses in Economics and 3 SH of capstone credit (ECON 507)
3. An internship option that includes 15 SH of elective courses in Economics and 3 SH of internship credit (ECON 599)

This variety of exit options allows student to select the path that best suits their individual career goals.

Undergraduate students in Economics are required to complete 120 SH of coursework. However, as part of the Integrated Master's program in Economics, students may take up to 9 SH as "bridge" courses and then apply them toward their Master's program. This ensures that a student enrolled in the program will graduate with both degrees in five years.

Students in the integrated program will be able to begin the core course requirements for the Master's during their senior year as an undergraduate. Specifically, students may complete up to 9 SH

of the following bridge courses and count them toward both their undergraduate and graduate degrees:

- ECON 481B, 500B, 502B, 503B, 504B, 506B, or 3 SH of any 400G level elective course in the Master's program.

## Career Opportunities

The combination of both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Economics provides substantial opportunities in today's job market. The Bachelor's degrees (BB and BA) provide students with the general analytical skills necessary for optimal decision-making, while the Master's degree teaches students the applied technical skills to enhance their general understanding. Students learn to use techniques in data analysis, basic mathematical modeling, and current software packages in order to apply their economic intuition to everyday problems. Graduates go on to work in a variety of sectors, including nonprofit, government, and private industry. Potential employers include John Deere, Caterpillar, DOT Foods, U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, U.S. Census Office, BP, Internal Revenue Service, Chase, community colleges and universities, and many others.

Along with preparing students for immediate careers, the integrated program also provides excellent preparation for a student interested in pursuing a PhD in Economics. The department offers several more rigorous electives and research opportunities that prepare students for the challenges of further graduate study. PhD placements have included Binghamton University, University of California–Berkeley, Kansas State University, Auburn University, and University of Canterbury.

## Faculty Expertise

The faculty members in the Department of Economics and Decision Sciences take an active and sincere interest in student success. Our faculty are also active in research, so students learn state-of-the-art skills and techniques. All faculty teaching graduate courses have PhDs in Economics or Statistics. Their degrees are from major research institutions such as University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Iowa, Iowa State University, University of South Carolina, West Virginia

*“The Integrated Master’s program provided me the opportunity to experience both undergraduate and graduate programs and ensured that I had both the general analytical skills as well as the technical skills to truly understand the world around me.”*

*— Brian McElroy, MA, 2012  
Survey Statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau*

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University, University of Tennessee, Binghamton University, and Kansas State University.

### **Assistantship Opportunities**

We offer a limited number of graduate assistantships on a competitive basis. The awards range from two-thirds time (requiring 13 hours of work per week) to full time (requiring 20 hours of work per week). Both awards carry full tuition waivers for two semesters and a summer term as well as a stipend for two semesters, contingent on maintaining a 3.0 GPA and satisfactory academic progress. Students work in the Economics tutoring lab as well as assist faculty with research.

Assistantship recipients must satisfy all of the admissions prerequisites without any deficiencies. To be eligible for an assistantship, entering graduate students must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.

*Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employee with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.*

### **Why Econ @ WIU?**

- Both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees can be completed in five academic years or less
- Large enough to offer a wide variety of courses yet small enough to provide individual attention
- All graduate courses taught by faculty holding a PhD in Economics
- Faculty members who are genuinely interested in students’ intellectual development
- Advising tailored to students’ personal needs and educational goals
- Opportunities for interacting with students from other cultures and countries
- Opportunities for students to present their research at department seminars
- Academic credit for internships and assistance is provided for locating internships
- Career development and employment information provided regularly
- Success in preparing students for admission to good to top quality PhD programs
- Interdisciplinary opportunities
- Opportunities to learn technical and quantitative skills that are highly sought after in the job market

### **Contact Information**

For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, [Grad-Office@wiu.edu](mailto:Grad-Office@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/grad](http://wiu.edu/grad).

For specific program questions, contact Dr. Jessica Lin, Department of Economics and Decision Sciences, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1153, [JL-Lin@wiu.edu](mailto:JL-Lin@wiu.edu) or [T-Kaul@wiu.edu](mailto:T-Kaul@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/econ](http://wiu.edu/econ).