The Master of Arts in Economics is an extremely flexible degree with which graduates find employment in all sectors of the economy. A number of graduates have gone on to doctorate programs in Economics and other disciplines. The department is large enough to offer a wide selection of courses but small enough to provide individual attention. The department has alumni from over 70 countries, providing an excellent opportunity to gain exposure to other cultures.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must meet the general admission requirements of the School of Graduate Studies. An undergraduate degree in Economics is not required for admission. Majors in Mathematics and Statistics have done particularly well, but students with a variety of undergraduate majors have also been successful and have become some of our most notable and supportive alumni. The GRE is not required for regular admission but the following prerequisites are:

**Principles of Economics**
- Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 231) and Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 232) OR
- Economic Theory for Decision Makers (ECON 408G), an accelerated principles course, will satisfy this prerequisite but cannot be counted in the degree.

**Intermediate Economic Theory**
- Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECON 331) and either Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 330) or Managerial Economics (ECON 332) OR
- Fundamentals of Economic Theory (ECON 509), an accelerated intermediate theory course, will satisfy this prerequisite but cannot be counted in the degree.

**Calculus and Statistics**
Students will complete a mathematics placement exam prior to enrolling in the required Mathematical Techniques course required for graduation. This exam is based upon material covered in the following prerequisite courses:
- Math 137 or an equivalent course in calculus
- STAT 171 or an equivalent course in statistics OR
- Economic Problem Solving (Econ 381) may be used to satisfy the calculus and statistics requirements but does not count toward the degree.

The prerequisites may be satisfied by passing a proficiency examination. If you have not completed the prerequisites, you may be eligible for conditional admission. Any remaining prerequisites can be taken during your first semester.

Degree Requirements
The Master of Arts (MA) in Economics degree program is a 30 semester hour (sh) program consisting of 12 sh of core courses. These courses are Mathematical Techniques (ECON 481G), Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (ECON 500) or Macroeconomic and Growth Theory (ECON 502), Applied Price Theory (ECON 503) or Price Theory (ECON 504), and Econometrics I (ECON 506).

There are three options for completing the remaining 18 sh: (1) thesis, (2) non-thesis, and (3) internship. The thesis option consists of 12 sh of elective courses, plus Thesis Research (ECON 600) and Thesis (ECON 601). The non-thesis option consists of 15 sh of elective courses, plus Econometrics II (ECON 507). The internship option consists of 15 sh of elective courses and 3 sh of Internship (ECON 599).

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 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
“The Economics department at WIU provided me with all of the skills necessary to obtain my professional goals. I have found my degree from WIU was widely recognized and well respected. Lastly, and most importantly, the Department of Economics provided me with individual attention from professors who truly cared about my development.”

— Mark Zobel, Bank of America

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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 employer 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.

**Career Opportunities**

Thanks to their strong analytical skills, our graduates find employment in a wide variety of careers. Some recent placements include the University of Minnesota, Caterpillar, John Deere, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, American Medical Association, Chicago Board of Trade, U.S. Treasury, U.S. Comptroller of the Currency, Tennessee Department of Commerce, Principal Financial Group, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Exxon, Illinois Power, Newsweek, and Walmart.

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**Why Econ @ WIU?**

- 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 in locating internships
- Career development and employment information provided regularly
- Success in preparing students for admission to top quality PhD programs
- Interdisciplinary opportunities
- Opportunities to learn technical and quantitative skills that are highly sought after in the job market

**Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Programs**

The Department of Economics and Decision Sciences offers two 18 SH post-baccalaureate certificates (PBC): (1) the Business Analytics Certificate and (2) the Community Development Certificate. The Business Analytics PBC offers the technical skills of data mining, statistical modeling, and forecasting for data-driven decision-making and for solving the analytical problems of the contemporary business world. This PBC is closely related to the Master’s degrees in Economics, Applied Statistics and Decision Analytics, MBA, or Mathematics. The PBC in Community Development, earmarked for returned Peace Corps Fellows (PCF) program participants, is jointly offered with the Department of Geography and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA). It provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for a career in the field of community development.

**Alumni Quote**

The department’s faculty set my career path by demonstrating that sound policy analysis must have an economic dimension. In addition, they showed, repeatedly, that rigorous economic theory can be used to give meaningful policy insights.

— Dr. Steve Deller, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin–Madison

**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, 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 or T-Kaul@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/econ.