



# **Welcome to the MS program in Applied Economics**

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***School of Economic Sciences  
Graduate Orientation  
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# Overview

- **Before Fall semester begins**
- **Fall semester**
- **Spring semester**
- **Summer semester**
- **Fall semester 2022**
- **Responsibilities of graduate students**
- **Concluding thoughts**

# Before Fall semester

- **Summer Math Camp**
  - We hope you enjoyed it. If you couldn't attend to all classes, please go over the materials: <http://michaelmahoney.website2.me/ms-math-camp-2021>.
- **Math refresher**
  - Basic materials from undergrad, always available for you to check: <http://ses.wsu.edu/math-refresher/>.
- **Student offices**
  - Large office space, only for MS students (second floor).
- **Economics Graduate Student Association**
  - Activities and resources here: <http://ses.wsu.edu/graduatestudies/resources-for-students/sesgradstudentassociation/>.
- **More graduate student resources**
  - You can find checklists and interesting information here: <http://ses.wsu.edu/helpful-information/>.
- **Checklist for incoming graduate students**
  - Please check the items in <http://ses.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SES-MS-STUDENT-CHECK-LIST.pdf>.

# Fall semester

- **Required courses:**
  - EconS 526 (Mathematical Economics with Applications),
  - EconS 527 (Microeconomic Analysis),
  - EconS 528 (Macroeconomic Analysis), and
  - 1 credit in either:
    - EconS 700 (if you plan to complete a thesis by the end of the MS program) or
    - EconS 702 (if you plan to complete a project by the end of the MS program).
- This is a rather intense semester, so we don't recommend you enrolling in elective courses.

	Core Courses:	Application Courses	Research Courses	Total
Thesis Option ( <a href="#">See examples</a> )	9	15	6	30
Non-Thesis Option	9	18	4	31

# Fall semester

- **What about research?**
- You should start thinking about your topic of research (general idea).
- Contact a faculty member who you would like to work with.
- He/she will be your main advisor, starting in the Spring semester.
- In the Fall semester, the Graduate Studies Chair, Prof. Salvador Ortigueira, will be the advisor, by default, of all incoming MS students.

# Spring semester

- **Courses:**

- EconS 525 (Masters Econometrics), required.
- At least two electives (max. 6 credits at the 400-level)
  - EconS 536, Applied Statistics and Econometrics for Economics and Finance, 3 cr.
  - EconS 521, Applied Machine Learning for Economics and Business, 3 cr.
  - EconS 522, Financial and Commodity Derivatives, 3 cr.
  - EconS 533, International Trade and Policy, 3 cr.
  - AgEc 535, Applied Industrial Organization, 3 cr.
  - Stat 437, High Dimensional Data Learning and Visualization, 3 cr.
  - EconS 424, Strategy and Game Theory, 3 cr.
  - EconS 425, Industrial Organization, 3 cr.
- You can take courses from any discipline (EconS, Finance, Engineering, Stats, etc.)
- For more information about these and other elective courses, visit:  
<http://ses.wsu.edu/graduatestudies/msprograms/courses/>

# Spring semester

- **What about research?**
  - You should also enroll in at least 1 credit of EconS 700 or 702.
  - You should have a clear advisor, who you start meeting at least every other week with updates of your research plan and progress.
  - From our experience, it's more effective to meet regularly, to talk about small issues/progress than meeting 2-3 times per semester.
  - During the Spring semester, you should discuss with your advisor which other professors to contact to serve in your MS committee (at least 2 more).

# Summer semester

- **Courses:**

- You can take courses during the Summer semester.
- Be aware that few 400- and 500-level courses are offered, so you may need to be more flexible.

## **Thesis/project defense in the summer semester:**

- If you plan to graduate by August 2022:
  - Double check that you have all the necessary credits, both graded credits (typical courses with a grade) and research credits (EconS 700 or 702).
  - Please coordinate with your advisor, so he/she agrees with your plans.

# Fall 2022 semester (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

- **Courses:**

- You can take courses during the Fall semester.
  - *Advantage:* You distribute your course load over one more semester, rather than taking a big load in the Spring.
  - *Another advantage:* Several 400- and 500-level courses offered.
  - *Disadvantage:* You stay one more semester to finish.

## **Thesis/project defense in the Fall semester:**

- If you plan to graduate by December 2022:
  - Double check that you have all the necessary credits, both graded credits (typical courses with a grade) and research credits (EconS 700 or 702).
  - Please coordinate with your advisor, so he/she agrees with your plans.

# PhD-bound students

- **Fall semester:** same required courses (EconS 526, 527, 528).
- **Spring semester:** EconS 525 required, but choose only two electives, so your GPA doesn't fall from 3.5.
- **Thesis/project:** After transitioning to the PhD program, most students defend their MS thesis/project in the summer between years 2 and 3 of their PhD studies.

# Concluding thoughts

- Please talk to your instructors, we are here to help.
- Go to the instructor's and TA's office hours.
- Meet with other graduate students, both MS and PhDs, there are over 80 in this building!
- Time to work and time to play every week.
- Start thinking about courses and topics that you like, to start narrowing down your potential advisor.
- Be responsible and show initiative.

# Graduate Student Information

- **Graduate School**

- <http://www.gradschool.wsu.edu>

- **Good Practices**

- <http://www.gradschool.wsu.edu/CurrentStudents/PoliciesAndProcedures/>

- **Grievances**

- <http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/Documents/Pdf/GrievanceProcedures.pdf>

**Questions?**