

Northwestern

Department of **Economics**

Ad-hoc Combined Master's Degree Graduate Student Handbook

September 2026

Changes since Last Edition

- Recommendation to enroll in ECON 401 as a non-credit preparation for ECON 410-1, 411-1 and 480-1.
- Revised non-discrimination statement

This handbook is reissued as needed and represents the policies and degree requirements of the Department of Economics as of the date on the cover.

The requirements in this document are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, the general degree requirements and the policies on satisfactory progress, probation and exclusion adopted by The Graduate School of Northwestern University.

The Graduate School Combined Degree Requirements

Students in The Graduate School (TGS) are admitted to approved PhD programs and must follow a plan of study related to that academic program. Doctoral students may propose to pursue a TGS master's degree outside of their approved academic program. This allows doctoral students to pursue a secondary (supplemental) master's program administered by The Graduate School that is not a part of their existing program of study.

Eligibility

- Doctoral students in The Graduate School may petition to pursue a master's degree outside of their approved academic program when:
 - the secondary master's degree relates to the student's area of specialization and can enhance the student's scholarship, and
 - it would be impossible for a student to fulfill academic/intellectual goals solely through the program into which they were initially admitted, or through an existing cluster or certificate.
- Students proposing to pursue a master's degree outside of their approved PhD program must be in good academic standing.
- The petition requires permission from the student's Director of Graduate Studies, the student's faculty adviser, the Director of Graduate Studies for the master's degree, and The Graduate School, per the procedure outlined below.
- In order to receive a master's degree outside of the approved academic program, students must satisfy The Graduate School's minimum requirements for each of the degrees without double-counting courses or other requirements.
- The master's degree outside of the approved PhD program may not be conferred before the PhD is conferred. A student who departs (withdraws, is dismissed, or otherwise discontinued from) the PhD program to which the student was originally admitted becomes ineligible for the secondary master's degree.

Procedure for Requesting Permission to Pursue an Ad Hoc Combined Degree

To request permission to pursue concurrent degrees outside of an existing combined degree program, students must submit the Permission to Pursue an Ad Hoc Combined Degree form to TGS Student Services that provides:

- An explanation of the academic/intellectual rationale for the plan of study
- A written description of the student's plan to fulfill all published requirements for each degree without double counting The Graduate School's minimum requirements for courses and other work
- A statement from the student's faculty adviser(s) supporting the rationale for pursuing a master's degree outside of the approved PhD program and confirming that the student is making acceptable progress in the approved PhD program
- Statements from the Directors of Graduate Studies in both the student's PhD program and the master's degree program confirming that the outlined plan of study is acceptable and that the student has permission to pursue the degrees concurrently.

Ad-Hoc Combined M.A. in Economics Degree Requirements

Coursework Requirements

Total Units Required: 9 of which at least six are at the 400 level

Course	Title
Core Courses	
ECON 410-1	Microeconomics
ECON 411-1	Macroeconomics
<i>either</i>	
ECON 410-2 & ECON 410-3	Microeconomics
<i>or</i>	
ECON 411-2 & ECON 411-3	Macroeconomics
<i>either</i>	
ECON 480-1 & ECON 480-2 & ECON 480-3	Econometrics
<i>or</i>	
ECON 381-1 & ECON 381-2	Econometrics
Economic History	
<i>One of those listed below</i>	
ECON 315-0	Topics in Economic History
ECON 323-1	Economic History of the United States Before 1865
ECON 323-2	Economic History of the United States 1865 to Present
ECON 324-0	Western Economic History
ECON 420-1	American Economic History
ECON 420-2	European Economic History
Electives	
Additional Economics (300- or 400-level) courses approved for graduate credit, excluding ECON 310-1, ECON 310-2, ECON 311-0 and ECON 499-0.	

Students cannot double count classes to meet the requirements of the Economics MA and their PhD. If any of these classes are also used to meet their PhD requirements, it is permissible to substitute another Economics 400-level class.

To prepare students for ECON 410-1, 411-1 and 480-1/381-1, the Department recommends that students take the non-credit ECON 401 *Mathematical Methods for Economic Theory*. ECON 401 is held prior to the start of the Fall Quarter. Students register for it in Fall Quarter so that they can access materials in the *Canvas* course material management system. ECON 401 is a non-credit course graded as satisfactory/unsatisfactory. It is not counted as part of the student's grade point average.

It is not formally part of the Ph.D. degree requirements and cannot be used to satisfy any of the elective course requirements.

Other MA Degree Requirements

Examinations: none specified

Research/Projects: none specified

Master's Thesis: none specified

Other: paper in one course carrying graduate credit

Nondiscrimination Statement

Northwestern University prohibits discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ethnicity, caste, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, height, weight, or any other class of individuals protected from discrimination under federal, state, or local law, regulation, or ordinance or any other classification protected by law in the matters of admissions, employment, housing or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended in 2008; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; and any other federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or ordinances that prohibit discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation.

Read The Graduate School's full statement, including contact information for compliance officers at:

<https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academic-policies-procedures/policies/nondiscrimination-statement.html>