

Information regarding typical course sequences for MA students in Economics Winter 2024

This document was prepared to help students beginning the MA program in Economics in the Fall semester make their course choices. It is also a useful guide for those who begin in the Winter term.

Note that priority must be given to compulsory courses. In particular, the material of the course ECO5185-Econometrics is often considered as mastered, or in the process of being so, by professors who teach elective courses. Moreover, postponing a compulsory course may force a student to add a semester to their program. It is therefore important to plan well ahead by anticipating future course offerings.

In the 2023-24 Academic Year, we will be offering ECO5185-Econometrics and ECO6122-Microeconomics in both the Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 semesters. ECO6120-Macroeconomics is scheduled to be offered in the Winter 2024 semester and we plan to offer it in the Summer 2024 semester as well.

The uOttawa economics department typically offers two electives during the Summer semester; however, it is sometimes possible to take a third course outside of the Economics Department, subject to approval and with no guarantee. Registration for the Summer semester is not compulsory.¹ Summer courses are offered for convenience as it enables students to complete the program within 12 months.

Over their entire MA program, a student may take a maximum of two electives outside of the uOttawa Economics Department, after they have completed two compulsory courses and subject to approval. MA elective courses in Economics at Carleton University are automatically approved.² Approval for a graduate course outside of economics depends on its relevance to the Economics MA program and must meet the same standards. It is unlikely to be approved if the student has already taken one non-economics course.³

We have also included some clarifications about the rules for dropping a course. Indeed, these considerations often interact with the planning of a course sequence.

¹ Bursary recipients and international visa students should ask for a leave of absence if they do not plan to take summer courses.

² Carleton courses starting with 506 are not eligible.

³ Access to a course must also be approved by the receiving Department, and we cannot guarantee that you will be allowed to enroll.

Recommended course sequences with course-based option⁴

| | Fall | Winter | Summer or following Fall |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Option I three semesters (most common) | ECO5185 Econometrics | ECO6120 Macroeconomics | ECO6XXX (elective) |
| | ECO6122 Microeconomics | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) |
| | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) | |
| Option II ^{5,6} three semesters (common) | ECO5185 Econometrics | ECO6120 Macroeconomics | ECO6XXX (elective) |
| | ECO6122 Microeconomics | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) |
| | | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) |
| Option III ⁷ two semesters (demanding) | ECO5185 Econometrics | ECO6120 Macroeconomics | |
| | ECO6122 Microeconomics | ECO6XXX (elective) | |
| | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) | |
| | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) | |

Recommended course sequences with Major Research Paper option⁸

| | Fall | Winter | Summer |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Option I three semesters (common) | ECO5185 Econometrics | ECO6120 Macroeconomics | MRP |
| | ECO6122 Microeconomics | ECO6XXX (elective) | |
| | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) | |
| Option II three semesters (not common) | ECO5185 Econometrics | ECO6120 Macroeconomics | MRP |
| | ECO6122 Microeconomics | ECO6XXX (elective) | ECO6XXX (elective) |
| | | ECO6XXX (elective) | |

⁴The sequence of compulsory courses (in bold) is highly recommended.

⁵Summer courses are taught over two consecutive six-week semesters, instead of twelve weeks during fall and winter. This implies six hours per week per course, instead of the usual three hours. For this reason, taking two courses simultaneously during one Summer semester can be demanding.

⁶We typically offer two electives during the Summer semester. However, students could complement this schedule with a course outside of the uOttawa economics department. (See comment on page 1.)

⁷Taking four courses simultaneously can be very demanding and is advisable only to students who are very well prepared, typically those who have completed a strong Honours degree in Economics at a Canadian University.

⁸Students are initially enrolled in the course-based option by default. Admission to the MRP option can only be done after completing one semester and under the following conditions: "To be admissible to the major paper option, students must i) successfully complete at least three courses in their first semester in the program, of which two must be compulsory courses, with a minimum average of A- (8.0), or in exceptional cases, ii) obtain permission of the supervisor of the MA program."

Some clarifications regarding the course drop option

Some students often contact us regarding the meaning of the course drop deadline on Friday March 22nd, 2024. While this may seem obvious to many, those who have completed their undergraduate studies outside of Canada might not understand so well how this works. Indeed, in the Canadian university system, the option to drop a course is an important part of a student's planning toolkit. We therefore take the opportunity to explain a little what it is about. Please note that the explanations below are not substitutes for the faculty's official rules; the aim is simply to help you interpret them for better planning.

The passing grade for a graduate course is C+ (65%). If you fail a compulsory course, the same course must be redone. If you fail an elective course, you can retake that course or replace it with another elective. A failed course can never be credited (count towards your degree).

A student cannot have more than one course failure throughout their entire MA studies, whether it is the same course or different ones. That holds regardless of how well a student does in the other courses, how many courses you need to complete your program, and even includes "out-of-program" courses. For example, if a student gets a C in ECO5185 in the Winter 2024 and a D in ECO6143 in the Fall 2024, they will be asked to withdraw from the program. The same would happen if a student gets a C in ECO5185 in the Winter 2024 and a C in ECO5185 in the Fall 2024.

As you can imagine, failing one course at the beginning of the program can put a lot of pressure on the remaining semesters. For this reason, we tell students to avoid that situation at all costs. This is where the option to drop a course becomes relevant. This option will not be available after March 22nd, 2024.

Note finally that if one considers dropping an elective course, the trade-off is somewhat straightforward. The situation is however more complicated if one must consider dropping a compulsory course, such as ECO5185 Econometrics, as professors in elective courses often consider that the students have mastered the material in that course or are in the process of doing so. We could require that the student drop an elective instead.