

Information regarding typical course sequences for MA students in Economics

Fall 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 2024-25 Academic Year, we will be offering ECO5185 - Econometrics and ECO6122 - Microeconomics in both the Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 semesters. ECO6120 - Macroeconomics is scheduled to be offered in the Winter 2025 semester and we plan to offer it in the Summer 2025 semester as well.

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.¹ 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. Please note that it is unlikely to be approved if the student has already taken one non-economics course.

We have also included some clarifications about the rules for dropping a course. Finally, for students that are required to complete some pre-requisite undergraduate courses, we have included some additional information about registration in these courses and adjustments to the course sequence.

¹ Access to a course must also be approved by the receiving Department, and we cannot guarantee that you will be allowed to enroll.

² Please note that Carleton courses starting with 506 are not MA level courses so they are not eligible.

Recommended course sequences with course-based option³

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Option I three semesters (most common)	ECO5185 Econometrics	ECO6120 Macroeconomics	ECO6XXX (elective)
	ECO6122 Microeconomics	ECO6XXX (elective)	ECO6XXX (elective)
	ECO6XXX (elective)	ECO6XXX (elective)	
Option II ⁴ three semesters	ECO5185 Econometrics	ECO6120 Macroeconomics	ECO6XXX (elective)
	ECO6122 Microeconomics	ECO6XXX (elective)	ECO6XXX (elective)
		ECO6XXX (elective)	ECO6XXX (elective)
Option III ⁵ 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 option⁶

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Option I three semesters (most common)	ECO5185 Econometrics	ECO6120 Macroeconomics	MRP
	ECO6122 Microeconomics	ECO6XXX (elective)	
	ECO6XXX (elective)	ECO6XXX (elective)	
Option II three semesters	ECO5185 Econometrics	ECO6120 Macroeconomics	MRP
	ECO6122 Microeconomics	ECO6XXX (elective)	ECO6XXX (elective)
		ECO6XXX (elective)	

³ The sequence of compulsory courses (in bold) is highly recommended.

⁴ During the Summer, courses are normally condensed into six-week terms instead of the standard twelve weeks used in the Fall and Winter terms. This means six hours of instruction per week per course instead of the usual three hours. Consequently, taking two courses concurrently during the Summer can be quite demanding.

⁵ Taking four courses in a given term can be 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.

⁶ Students 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 contact us regarding the meaning of the course drop deadline (Friday, November 15th, 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. Therefore, we take this opportunity to provide a brief explanation. 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 retaken. 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 Fall 2024 and a D in ECO6143 in the Winter 2025, they will be asked to withdraw from the program. The same would happen if a student gets a C in ECO5185 in the Fall 2024 and a C in ECO5185 in the Winter 2025.

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 November 15th, 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.

Some information for students who are required to take pre-requisite undergraduate courses

Admission to the MA in Economics at uOttawa requires an Honours Bachelor's degree in Economics (or equivalent). The specific list of courses that students need to have completed before starting the program can be found here: <https://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/undergrad/honours-bsocsc-economics/#programrequirements>
[text](#)

We would normally reject applications from students who do not meet this requirement. However, if the admission committee thinks that a student's file is otherwise strong, we can decide to make an exception and give them the possibility to make up for this gap. In this case, the missing core undergraduate courses are added to the MA curriculum and, unless otherwise specified, must be completed in the first term of the program. Please note that for each student, the specific undergraduate courses that are added to the MA curriculum depend on their individual academic background and on our course offer in the Fall 2024 term.

If your offer letter includes additional undergraduate courses, you must follow the course sequence and all the other conditions stated in the letter. As an example, if you are required to take ECO2151 - Introduction to Econometrics, your offer letter will typically say that you must complete the course in the first term of your program, and that you cannot take ECO5185 before having completed ECO2151. You are required to follow these conditions. Please also note that you will need to obtain a passing grade of C+ (65%) in all the undergraduate courses listed in your offer letter to meet the program requirements.

If you have any issues registering for the undergraduate courses included in your offer letter, please contact the Economics Department office and ask for their assistance. Their email address is: econ@uottawa.ca