The Master of Arts in Applied Economics

The Master of Arts Program in Applied Economics brings three distinctive features to the study of economics: emphasis on the practical application of key social science research methods; insights from alternative economic approaches as well as traditional ones; and a focus on urban economic issues. The program is designed for people currently working in a policy setting or desiring jobs as economists in business, government, or non-profit organizations. The M.A. in Applied Economics offers a unique blend of training in both graduate-level theory and directly applicable practical tools. In addition, we offer a five-year B.A./M.A. sequence for our own undergraduate majors.

Students in our program acquire the economic tools that enhance their ability to advance the functioning of economic and social systems. They deepen their understanding of economic research and develop proficiency in a range of analytical tools including econometrics, survey research, GIS and technical writing. They also sharpen and broaden their critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they examine alternative or heterodox economic theories and test these theories against observed outcomes. Students design and implement an independent applied economics research project tailored to their own policy or career interests, culminating in a master’s research capstone project or a master’s thesis.

Graduates of the M.A. in Applied Economics program possess the theoretical, analytical, and practical skills that help them get jobs as economic consultants and researchers, as well as governmental and non-governmental organization managers. Our graduates pursue or advance their careers in education; in business including banking, telecommunications, health care, and transportation; in state and federal government departments and agencies as well as non-profit research organizations as economic analysts.

**Admission Requirements**
Complete applications are due in the UMass Boston Graduate Admissions Office by March 15 for enrollment in the following September. Applications submitted after this date will be considered on a space-available basis. There are no spring admissions.

Applicants must submit the following:
- A completed UMass Boston graduate admissions application form
- Official transcripts of all prior academic work, including evidence of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution as well as a course in calculus plus at least five economics courses, including intermediate macroeconomics, intermediate microeconomics and economic statistics (all with grades of B or better)
- A personal statement about career interests and reasons for applying to the program
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can assess the applicant’s academic and/or professional preparation for graduate work
- An official report of scores on the general aptitude (verbal, quantitative, and analytic) sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)
- A professional or academic résumé

Those undergraduate students who wish to apply to the five-year B.A./M.A. option may do so after completing 75 undergraduate credits. They will be required to have the following:
- At least 75 undergraduate credits
- Proof of completion of college-level course in calculus and at least five economics courses, including introductory microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, intermediate microeconomics and economic statistics (all with grades of B or better)
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty in the Economics Department of UMass Boston
- A personal statement about career interests and reasons for applying to the program.

**Degree Requirements**
Students will be required to complete 32 credits. The curriculum provides foundational courses in economic theory and methodology, and courses focusing on the analysis of urban issues in a global context. The design of the program strongly emphasizes the skills necessary to do applied economic research.

In the first year, all students take two economic theory courses, two courses in quantitative research methods, a one-credit applied research practicum, and one special topics elective course. Full-time students take an additional elective.

In the second year, students take an econometrics-based research methods course, a third economic theory course, and a research seminar. Part-time students take one special topics elective course. Special topics elective course offerings focus on urban economics, the environment, economic demography, economic development, discrimination, and/or the political economy of race and gender.

Finally, students carry out their
individual applied research project exhibiting the quantitative and analytical skills learned in the program. Students may choose to complete a research capstone project or to do a master’s thesis prepared under the guidance of an individual faculty advisor and defended before a committee of three faculty members.

Students in the B.A./M.A. track must complete all five of the required undergraduate economics courses with a grade of B or better and the calculus prerequisite prior to taking M.A. courses.

Students who enter the program already holding an appropriate master’s degree may petition the Graduate Program Director and Dean of Graduate Studies to substitute required or elective courses.

Facilities and Resources
Department facilities include a small computer laboratory. Graduate students can use the many research and computing facilities located at our Healey Library, including the Graduate and Research Laboratory which features trained staff, state of the art equipment, and many software programs.

Special Opportunities
A number of centers and institutes with research interests that dovetail with applied economic research are located on our campus. Several economics faculty have working relationships with these institutes as fellows and research opportunities for graduate students may be possible. These institutes include the Center for Social Policy; the Center for Survey Research; the Urban Harbors Institute; the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy; the Asian American Institute; and the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture.

Teaching and Research Assistant Awards
Some partial assistantship awards are available on a competitive basis. This financial support includes a partial tuition waiver and a health insurance credit. In exchange, students will be required to work as teaching or research assistants during the semester (hours vary by amount of assistantship award). Prospective students interested in applying for assistantship awards should include a petition letter with their admissions materials outlining their skills and financial need.

Faculty and Their Areas of Expertise
Randy Albelda, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst • Public Policy
• Labor Economics • Political Economy of Gender and Race
Michael Carr, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst • Labor Economics
• Behavioral Economics • Econometrics
Anne Fitzpatrick, PhD, University of Michigan • Economic Development • Health Economics • African Development
Keren Horn, PhD, New York University • Urban Economics • Housing Economics • Affordable Housing Policy
Janis Kapler, PhD, American University • International Trade and Finance • Open-Economy Macroeconomics • Transnational Corporations
Marlene Kim, PhD, University of California-Berkeley • Discrimination and the Working Poor
Yun Kim, PhD, American University • Macroeconomics • Post Keynesian Economics • Monetary Economics
Charalampos (Harry) Konstantinidis, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst • Political Economy • Ecological Economics • History of Economic Thought
Adugna Lemi, PhD, Western Michigan University • International Trade and Finance • Development Economics • Poverty and Income Dynamics
Sripad Motiram, PhD, University of Southern California • Development Economics • Welfare Economics • Political Economy • Quantitative Methods
Julie A. Nelson, PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison • Gender and Economics • Philosophy and Methodology of Economics • Ecological Economics • Quantitative Methods
Guy Numa, PhD, Universite Paris Dauphine • History of Economic Thought • Monetary Economics • Industrial Organization
Andrew Perumal, PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln • Regional and Urban Economics • Labor Economics • Applied Microeconomics • Economics of Education
David Timmons, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst • Environmental and Ecological Economics • Renewable Energy Economics • Local Food Systems
Emily Wiemers, Ph.D. University of California – Los Angeles • Economic Demography • Household Behavior and

Family Economics • Economics of Health and Aging

The University of Massachusetts Boston
UMass Boston, part of the five-member UMass system, is an urban public university. Large enough to offer a broad range of academic choices, UMass Boston is also small enough to foster a supportive community environment. The campus houses research and teaching laboratories, two theaters, an art gallery, an observatory, intramural and intercollegiate athletic facilities, extensive computer resources, and the Healey Library. Concerts, lectures, and plays on campus offer additional opportunities for a rich and satisfying student life, and the extensive cultural resources of downtown Boston are nearby. Located on a peninsula jutting out into the scenic Boston harbor, it is accessible by both car and public transportation.

For Further Information Contact:
Please visit our website at www.umb.edu/cla/economics or contact Graduate Program Director Randy Albelda (randy.albelda@umb.edu). If you would like to receive UMass Boston application materials, please write or call: The Admissions Information Service, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125-3393 Tel: 617-287-6000 TTY/TDD: 617-287-6010 Email: Bos.admis@umassp.edu.

October 2017