The Master of Arts Program in Applied Economics brings three distinctive features to the study of economics: a focus on urban economic issues; emphasis on the practical application of key social science research methods; and insights from both traditional and alternative economic approaches. 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. Although people engaged in urban public policy discussions will find it particularly suitable, the program will also appeal to high school or community college teachers of economics. In addition, we offer a five-year B.A./M.A. sequence for our own undergraduate majors.

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

Graduates of the M.A. in Applied Economics program will possess the theoretical, analytical, and practical skills required of economic consultants, researchers, and governmental and non-governmental organization managers. Our graduates can also pursue or advance their careers in education; in business including insurance, banking, telecommunications, environmental services, and transportation; and in other fields that address the needs of diverse urban populations.

**Admission Requirements**
Complete applications are due in the UMass Boston Graduate Admissions Office by February 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)
- A professional or academic résumé

**Degree Requirements**
Students will be required to complete 30 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, students will take one full-year course in economic theory, one course in quantitative research methods, one special topics elective course, and one applied economic policy research workshop.

In the second year, students will take a second quantitative methods course focusing on applied econometrics, one special topics elective course, political economic theory, and a research seminar. Special topics elective course offerings will focus on urban labor markets, poverty, migration, health, housing, the environment, education systems, local development, discrimination, and/or the economic roles of governments and non-profits.
Finally, students will carry out their individual applied research project exhibiting the quantitative and analytical skills learned in the program. Most students will choose to complete a research capstone project but students can also choose to do a traditional masters’ 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 any M.A. courses. They will be allowed to take M.A. courses beginning in their fourth undergraduate year.

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 Edward Collins Center for Public Management; 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**
A limited number of partial assistantship awards are available on a competitive basis. This financial support includes a full tuition waiver as well as a partial fee waiver and a health insurance credit. In exchange, students will be required to work as teaching or research assistants for 4.5 hours per week during the semester. 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Randy Albelda, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst</th>
<th>Public Policy • Labor Economics • Political Economy of Gender and Race</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Carr, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst</td>
<td>Labor Economics • Behavioral Economics • Econometrics</td>
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<td>Jeremiah Cotton, PhD, University of Michigan</td>
<td>Social Welfare • Poverty and Discrimination • Labor Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kade Finnoff, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst</td>
<td>Economic Development • Political Economy of Violent Conflict • Gendered Violence • African Development</td>
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<td>Arjun Jayadev, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst</td>
<td>International Economics • Economics of Distribution • Political Economy • Macroeconomic Dynamics</td>
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<td>Janis Kapler, PhD, American University</td>
<td>International Trade and Finance • Open-Economy Macroeconomics • Transnational Corporations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlene Kim, PhD, University of California-Berkeley</td>
<td>Discrimination and the Working Poor</td>
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**Andrew Perumal**, PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln • Regional and Urban Economics • Labor Economics • Applied Microeconomics • Economics of Education

**Peter Spiegler**, PhD, Harvard University • Philosophy of Economics • Economic Methodology • History of Economic Thought

**David Terkla**, PhD, University of California-Berkeley • Environmental and Natural Resource Economics • Public Finance • Regional Economic Development

**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](http://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.