SJSU | DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Graduate Students Economics Courses and Electives: Policies and Recommendations

Graduate students in the ECON MA programs at SJSU have the opportunity to earn degree credits through a variety of ways, allowing an SJSU student to tailor their studies to their career objectives. With the exception of core and elective 200-level SJSU ECON courses, **all other courses must be approved by the graduate advisor or department chair in advance,** and this document describes guideless for selecting electives that are likely to be approved.

1. 100-LEVEL COURSES - In addition to ECON 104, which is required for both MA programs, every ECON MA student is typically allowed to take two additional 100-level economics elective courses. In cases where a third 100-level course is well-justified by the student's course of study, the graduate advisor may permit a maximum of three additional 100-level courses, in addition to ECON 104. All 100-level courses except ECON 104 *must be approved in writing by the graduate advisor prior to the start of the course.*

> *Recommended 100-level courses:* 108 (Cost-Benefit Analysis), 113A (US Economic History), 121 (Industrial Organization), 133 (Public Choice), 138 Forecasting, 166 (Urban Economics).

> *Graduate Students **may not** take Econ 101, 102, 103A, 103B, 104, 109, 135, and 136 for elective credit.*

2. COURSES USED TO MEET PREREQUISITES - Conditional acceptance into the program means that you are required to complete prerequisite courses (MATH 30, STAT 95, ECON 101, ECON 102, and ECON 103a) before taking graduate level courses. A prerequisite course cannot count towards the MA. However, the grade you receive in all courses counts in calculating your overall GPA.

3. ELECTIVE COURSES IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OR COLLEGE - The Department will consider including *two courses from other Departments at SJSU* as part of your program of study. These courses must usually be graduate level, but certain rigorous 100-level courses, (e.g. MATH and ENGR courses) are allowed. All outside classes must be approved by the graduate advisor prior to the start of the course.

> *Note: Taking courses outside the Economics Department reduces your options for questions that you can attempt in Section III of the comprehensive exam.*

Some courses from other departments which economics students have taken in the past are listed below. While it is the student's responsibility to check with the other Department for prerequisites and acceptance in their course, students should consult with the economics graduate advisor on external courses:

Business: ECON graduate students may wish to take a traditional business course like financial or managerial accounting, take one of the four courses that are part of The Lucas College of Business' four-course Certificate in Business Analytics, or another course suggested by the MBA Programs Coordinator in the Lucas College of Business.

Data Science: Recently SJSU has developed several graduate programs in Data Science. See the programs listed here, and follow the links for more info on the courses they offer: https://www.sjsu.edu/data-programs/ The Economics Department also partners with the College of Engineering to offer an undergraduate minor, Applied Computing for Behavioral and Social Sciences, and we have approved economics graduate students taking a course such as ENGR 121: Data Structures and Algorithms.

Mathematics: For graduate students wishing to continue their studies of economics at the Ph.D. level, familiarity with multivariate calculus, linear algebra, probability and statistics and real analysis is recommended. We have approved economics graduate students taking courses such as MATH 108 - Introduction to Abstract Mathematics and Proofs and MATH 161A - Applied Probability and Statistics.

4. COURSES FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS - The graduate advisor approves transfer credits on case-by-case basis, and in no circumstances will we accept more than 9 units of transfer credits. As an example, the graduate advisor would approve transfer credits for a program such as the MicroMasters program at MIT: https://micromasters.mit.edu/ds/

> From MIT website: To complete the SDS MicroMasters program, learners will need to take the three core courses and one out of two electives. Once learners have passed their four courses, they will then take the virtually-proctored Capstone exam to earn the MicroMasters program credential in SDS. The credential can be applied, for admitted students, towards a Ph.D. in Social and Engineering Systems (SES) through the MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS) or may accelerate your path towards a Master's degree at other universities around the world.

We have also accepted transfer credits from foreign universities completed as part of a Study Abroad Program.