

## ECONOMICS FINANCIAL ECONOMICS

### Program of Study

The School of Economics administers the Master of Arts in Economics and the Master of Arts in Financial Economics.

The Master of Arts in Economics emphasizes applied economics. The program has a firm commitment to economic theory, but the main focus is on economic policy analysis. The program is designed to enable students to identify the economic content of a problem, develop hypotheses, apply appropriate analytical tools and models, and develop policy alternatives.

The Master of Arts in Financial Economics prepares graduates for employment in the growing financial services sector in positions requiring advanced analytical skills and in-depth familiarity with the structure and functioning of financial markets and institutions. Graduates are thoroughly versed in economic theory, have the tools needed to conduct sound quantitative analysis, and the ability to communicate effectively in their field.

The School approaches research from an economic perspective. In order to actively participate in faculty research projects, students supported on a Graduate Assistantship from the School are required to take a core of research, economic, and statistics courses, or demonstrate they have this knowledge from previous course work.

Requirements of all the M.S. degrees offered by the School include a minimum of 30 graduate degree credit hours. A minimum of 12 credit hours (exclusive of thesis credits) of 500 and 600 level course work is required. All graduate coursework must be at the 400 level or above. Students in non-thesis degrees must complete 27 credit hours of coursework and 3 credit hours of independent study. Students pursuing a thesis degree must complete 24 hours of coursework and 6 credit hours of thesis. Additional specific requirements also apply and are listed in the School's Graduate Student Handbook.

### Financial Aid

The School has a number of 9- and 12-month assistantships available for qualified students that are awarded on a competitive basis. Students meeting assistantship requirements earn \$12-15,000 per year plus tuition and subsidized health insurance coverage. Limited other scholarship money is available. Applications should be in by early spring for timely processing and evaluation.

### Students

The School normally has 15 to 20 graduate students from around the U.S. and abroad. Students working on departmental projects receive support dollars for travel and other related costs. The Department prides itself on the close working relationship it fosters between students and faculty. Each student's program is designed individually under the supervision of the graduate coordinator, and students are advised to work closely with the graduate coordinator on matters of course selection and career preparation.

### Applying

Students come from various backgrounds. Preparation should include one course each in calculus, intermediate microeconomics, and statistics. For admission to the M.A. in Financial Economics, applicants are additionally required to have completed basic courses in economics, accounting and business finance. Applications should be received by early spring.

### Correspondence

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## **Graduate Faculty**

**George K. Criner**, Ph.D. (Washington State, 1983), Professor and Chair. Production, marketing, and waste management.

**Kathleen P. Bell**, Ph.D. (University of Maryland, 1997), Assistant Professor, Resource and Environmental Economics, land use and spatial analysis.

**Karen J. Buhr**, Ph.D. (Carleton University, 2006), Assistant Professor, Health and Labor Economics.

**Hsiang-Tai Cheng**, Ph.D. (VPI&SU, 1985), Associate Professor, Marketing, econometrics.

**Todd M. Gabe**, Ph.D. (Ohio State University, 1999), Associate Professor, Regional and community economic development.

**Gary L. Hunt**, Ph.D. (University of Colorado-Boulder, 1984), Professor. Demographic and Spatial Economics; Econometrics, Mathematical Modeling.

**Adrienne Kearney**, Ph.D., Economics, (Pennsylvania State University, 1992), Associate Professor. Macroeconomics; Monetary Theory & Policy, International Finance.

**Alan S. Kezis**, Ph.D. (Washington State, 1978), Professor and Associate Dean. Marketing

**James D. Leiby**, Ph.D. (North Carolina State, 1986), Associate Professor. Management and Production Economics.

**James C. McConnon**, Ph.D. (Iowa State, 1989), Associate Professor and Associate Extension Professor. Business and Economic Specialist.

**Michael Montgomery**, Ph.D., Economics, (University of Florida, 1988), Associate Professor. Macroeconomics; Monetary Theory & Policy, Austrian economics.

**Stephen D. Reiling**, Ph.D., Agricultural & Resource Economics, (Oregon State University, 1976), Professor and Associate Director, Maine Agricultural and Forest Experimentation Station. Recreation Management.

**Jonathan D. Rubin**, Ph.D. (University of California, Davis, 1993), Associate Professor. Resource and environmental economics.

**Stewart Smith**, Ph.D. (Connecticut, 1977), Professor. Sustainable development and agricultural policy.

**Mario F. Teisl**, Ph.D. (Maryland, 1997), Associate Professor, Environmental economics.

**Philip Trostel**, Ph.D., Economics, (Texas A & M University, 1991), Professor. Human Capital and Savings, Public Economics; Labor Economics.

**Gregory K. White**, Ph.D. (Washington State, 1976), Professor. Resource economics, internet, and food marketing.