

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Departmental honors in economics

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Specifics (see instructions):

We want to revise the requirements for departmental honors in economics. Please see the following page for the current and proposed departmental honors requirements.

Rationale (see instructions):

Currently, departmental honors in economics are essentially defunct. The requirement that students arrange one-on-one with their professors for honors sections of four upper-level economics courses has proved a significant impediment to student interest. The proposed requirements remove the need for designating individualized honors sections of upper-level courses. Instead, the proposed requirements include upper-level quantitative analysis and econometrics, independent economic research, and one graduate-level economics course. More so than the current departmental honors requirements, the proposed requirements prepare undergraduate students for graduate work in economics.

Requirements for Department Honors in Economics – Current

Students are qualified to enroll in the departmental honors program if they have completed a minimum of 60 credit hours of academic work with a minimum GPA of 3.5 and have completed at least [ECON 101](#), [ECON 102](#), [ECON 311](#) and [ECON 312](#) with a minimum GPA of 3.5. Completion of the departmental honors program requires that students maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.5 and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in economics courses. Four of the upper-level ECON courses to complete the major must be designated as honors courses; students will complete supplemental research in these courses under the guidance of the instructor. Students must attain a minimum GPA of 3.75 in their upper-level honors courses. Interested students should contact their major advisor or the departmental honors advisor for complete information on departmental honors. Students in the Honors College may request an Honors section of a 400 level course with the permission of the instructor. Such courses typically require additional responsibilities on the part of the student.

Requirements for Department Honors in Economics – Proposed

The proposed requirements for departmental honors in Economics are:

- Both of the following courses with a combined GPA of 3.5 or higher:
 - ECON 311 – Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis
 - ECON 312 – Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
- Both of the following courses with a combined GPA of 3.5 or higher:
 - ECON 421 – Introduction to Econometrics
 - ECON 490 – Analytic Methods in Economics
 - instead of taking ECON 490, students can take both of the following with a combined GPA of 3.5:
 - MATH 152 – Calculus and Analytical Geometry II
 - either MATH 215 – Applied Finite Mathematics or MATH 221 – Introduction to Linear Algebra
- One of the following:
 - ECON 493 – Individual Research in Economics
 - ECON 495 – Research Seminar
- One of the following:
 - ECON 601 – Microeconomic Analysis
 - ECON 602 – Macroeconomic Analysis
 - ECON 611 – Advanced Econometric Analysis I
- Students must graduate with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher