SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN THE MA PROGRAM

The components of the MA program in Economics are described below, must be completed by the required deadline for a student to be making satisfactory progress in the program. Failure to maintain satisfactory standing in the program may result in the student being placed on probation and loss of financial aid for the following semester. If satisfactory standing is not restored during the probationary semester, the student will be dismissed from the program. Further details are provided in the Graduate Brochure on the Department website.

Course Work
At NIU only courses which are numbered 500-599, 600-699, and 700-798 carry credit toward the master’s degree. At least 15 of the 30 credit hours required in the M.A. program must be earned in courses numbered 600 and above. Students are required to earn a C or better in following courses in the first year in the program:

- ECON 590 Economic Statistics and Econometrics (3)
- ECON 591 Mathematical Methods for Economics (3)
- ECON 660 Microeconomic Analysis I (3)
- ECON 661 Macroeconomic Analysis I (3)
- ECON 690 Econometrics I (3)
- ECON 690A Econometrics Laboratory (1)

In addition to the above course, students must choose elective courses in applied fields such as public economics, labor economics, or financial economics for the remaining hours. Those whose interest is in general economics or who plan to enter the Ph.D. program may elect additional work in economic theory. With the prior written consent of the Director of Graduate Studies, students may elect to enroll in up to 6 semester hours of courses that are related to the student’s field of study and are offered outside the Department. Students may earn up to three hours in ECON 798, although these hours must be earned in excess of the 30 hours required for the degree.

M.A. Research Requirement
Students must successfully complete the Master’s Research requirement. This requirement may be satisfied by completing one of the following:

1. ECON 699A, Master’s Thesis (6)
2. ECON 699B, Master’s Research Paper (3)
3. A substantial research paper written in a 600- or 700-level economics course and approved by the professor teaching the course.

The paper must be evaluated and approved by a faculty member. The "Approval of MA Research Paper" form should be obtained from the graduate secretary and submitted to the faculty member with the paper.

Comprehensive Examinations
Written comprehensive examinations in microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis will usually be taken by each student in the master’s degree program the first time that these examinations are offered following the completion of ECON 660 and ECON 661. The Department offers the exams during the week preceding the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. A student earning a grade of B or higher in ECON 660 will be exempted from the comprehensive examination in microeconomic theory. Similarly, a student earning a grade of B or higher in ECON 661 will be exempted from the comprehensive examination in macroeconomic theory.

A student who fails either of these examinations a second time will not be permitted to continue in the M.A. program. However, in extenuating circumstances a student may submit a written appeal to the Department requesting that an examination be set aside. If the appeal is approved, the student may re-take that written examination. Appeals must be submitted within one month of notification of the results.

Limitation of Time
The University requires that the student must fulfill all requirements for an M.A. degree within the six consecutive years immediately preceding the date of the student’s graduation from the program. However, actively enrolled students are expected to complete the M.A. degree in economics no later than the end of their second year in the program. To actively enroll beyond two years, the student may submit a petition to the department outlining a timeline for completing of the requirements for the M.A. degree. Petitions for more than one additional semester will not generally be granted. A student who does not petition or whose petition is denied will be placed on probation for one semester. If the degree requirements are not completed by the end of the probationary semester, the student will be dismissed from the MA program.