

# **Department of Economics**

## **Ph.D. Admission Requirements**

### **Standardized Test Scores**

Most applicants to the Economics Department submit GRE (Graduate Record Exam) scores although it is possible to be considered with GMAT (Graduate Management Aptitude Test) scores. The average GRE quantitative score of recent admissions has been 760. We prefer that the test score be not more than three years old. International students must also submit a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score. The University requires a minimum score of 550 (213 on the computer based TOEFL or 80 on the internet version). Alternative exams to the TOEFL include IELTS (International English Language Testing System: 6), MELAB (Michigan English Language Assessment Battery:77) or successful completion of the University of Florida English Language Institute program. The University code for test score submission is 5812, the Department code is 1801.

### **Academic Achievement**

The applicant must have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement as an undergraduate. The minimum level of academic achievement is a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate work before graduation, though successful applicants have average scores significantly higher. The average GPA of recent admissions has been 3.8. The Department does not require students to earn a masters degree prior to admission, but a masters degree in economics or a related discipline can be beneficial.

### **Letters of Recommendation**

The applicant must submit letters of recommendation from three faculty members or others familiar with the academic potential of the applicant. Letters should speak primarily to the academic prowess of the applicant.

### **Preparation**

While some course work in economics, including both intermediate micro- and macroeconomics is required prior to starting the program, a bachelor's degree in Economics is not a prerequisite. Students with undergraduate degrees in mathematics, engineering, and the physical sciences often enter and succeed in the program. All applicants need an excellent working knowledge of mathematics and basic statistics. All applicants must have completed of calculus and one semester of statistics. Almost all students accepted in recent years have

had more mathematical preparation greater than that. It is strongly recommended that students take additional mathematics courses, including additional calculus, linear algebra, and differential equations, before enrolling in the Ph.D. program.