Graduate study in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics is rooted in the conviction that economics is a powerful tool for understanding society. Those admitted to the MAPSS-Econ program are advised directly by the department and have the option to work with a member of the Economics faculty on the MA thesis. International students who graduate are eligible for three years of work authorization in the United States, as a STEM-approved field of study.

“My time in MAPSS was phenomenal. I was able to take the first year PhD macroeconomics sequence, work on my thesis about the effect monetary policy has on the wage distribution with valuable input from my advisor Professor Greg Kaplan, and add to my math and statistics background by taking an optimization course and courses in applied econometrics at both the economics department and the Harris School of Public Policy.

The rigorous coursework I did at Chicago combined with the research experience I gained working on my thesis left me well-suited for pre-doctoral research assistantships. After finishing the master’s, I was able to work as a research assistant for Professor Atif Mian at Princeton University where I used applied microeconomic methods to answer questions in macroeconomics and household finance.

Now back at the University of Chicago to pursue a PhD in economics, I can look back and say that my time in MAPSS gave me the necessary base to begin my career as an economist.”

—MICHAEL VARLEY
MAPSS-ECON PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Complete the summer departmental doctoral math camp (August/September prior to the MAPSS year)
- Complete two of the following three courses in the Fall Quarter, achieving a minimum grade of B+ in each:
  — Price Theory (Econ 30100)
  — Theory of Income (Econ 33000)
  — Empirical Analysis (Econ 31000)
- Achieve a minimum grade of B in subsequent graduate courses in the Department.

MAPSS-ECON APPLICATION PATHWAY TO UCHICAGO ECONOMICS PHD

Recognizing that continuing to a doctoral program is a priority for many in MAPSS-Econ, a second admission deadline – March 15 – has been established. Those interested in this pathway are encouraged to discuss the opportunity with their faculty thesis advisor and other members of the Department early in their MAPSS year.

The Department is also committed to supporting student interests and opportunities at other institutions as well as research assistantships and private sector placements during and following the MAPSS-Econ program.

MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

The MA Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), an intense, intellectually transformative one-year program, places more students for funded doctoral study than any other MA program. With access to the faculty and resources of the University of Chicago, students concentrate in a discipline through eight graduate courses and work directly with UChicago faculty on an MA thesis. Learn more at mapss.uchicago.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Victor Lima, Senior Instructional Professor in Economics, and Min Sok Lee, Asst. Senior Instructional Professor in Economics, at mapss-econ@uchicago.edu.

MAPSS Econ prepared me for my PhD studies, both in applying to doctoral programs and in building my knowledge. While in MAPSS, my preceptor met with me every half quarter to offer advice on class choices, PhD application, thesis, etc. He was always willing to help when needed, and allowed me to make the best use of my year in MAPSS. During my year in MAPSS Econ, I took six economics and finance courses at the doctoral level. I gained advanced knowledge, and the field courses helped me to focus on my research interest. Because of MAPSS, I acclimated to PhD-level academics quickly and did very well in the first year of my PhD study. Now in my second year of PhD study, I remain convinced that MAPSS was incredibly useful. In addition, the MAPSS thesis requirement offered the opportunity to learn how to do research and work closely with a professor. Throughout my thesis project, I met with my faculty advisor every week. With the help of all these resources, I finished the year fully prepared for my PhD program.

— JINGXIONG HU
PhD Student
Northwestern University