

**Eastern Illinois University  
Department of Economics**

**Proposal to Remove GRE/GMAT/MAT As a Graduation Requirement**

The Department of Economics requires graduate students to submit their GRE, MAT or GMAT scores before they can graduate. The goal has been to see if they perform reasonably well in a standardized test setting in English or in both English and Math.

The Department has discovered several problems with this requirement. First, most students take the GRE (or another of these tests) at the very end of their program with full knowledge that there is no repercussion of a bad test score on their graduation. Thus, there is no incentive for students to work up to their potential to perform well in these tests.

Second, the Department does not use students' test score for its assessment simply because the score does not reflect their ability in reading, writing or quantitative skills. All these skills can be and are monitored through student performance in their academic work. In addition, our capstone experiences also test their skills in oral presentation.

The Department of Economics therefore requests that scores on GRE/MAT/GMAT be removed as a requirement for graduation for M.A. in Economics, *effective immediately*. We ask that the following text in the Economics section of the Graduate Catalog:

"All candidates must complete ECN 4973, 5401, and 5402 and submit GRE, MAT or GMAT scores to the department" be changed to "All candidates must complete ECN 4973, 5401, and 5402."

### **Degree Requirements**

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Degree requirements include those outlined for the master's degree by the Graduate School (see "Requirements for the Master's Degree"). The Department of Economics offers a thesis option (30 semester hours) and non-thesis option (33 semester hours) of graduate level courses approved by the Graduate Committee. All candidates must complete ECN 4973, 5401, and 5402 ~~and submit GRE, MAT or GMAT scores to the department~~. Students choosing the non-thesis option must also complete ECN 5900 and 5960

- ECN 4973 - Introduction to Econometrics. Credits: 3
- ECN 5401 - Advanced Macroeconomic Theory. Credits: 3
- ECN 5402 - Advanced Microeconomic Theory. Credits: 3
- ECN 5900 - Research Methods. Credits: 3
- ECN 5960 - Economics Graduate Forum. Credits: 1

Date Approved:

Graduate Program Committee, Department of Economics:

October 19, 2009

Department of Economics:

November 3, 2009

College of Sciences Curriculum Committee:

November 13, 2009

Council on Graduate Studies:

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