

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

CGS Agenda Item: 18-84 Effective Spring 2018
---

**Proposal to Change Credit Hour Requirement  
for Master of Arts in Economics with Non-thesis Option**

M.A. degree in Economics currently requires 30 credit hours with the thesis option and 33 hours with the non-thesis option. Under the non-thesis option, students take ECN 5960: Economics Graduate Forum for two credit hours which they receive after completing and making oral presentation of their research as directed by a Forum Advisor. Both the topic of the research and the Forum supervisor are provided to students by the Graduate program. In 2017 the CGS passed an economics graduate program proposal to make the non-thesis capstone experience much more rigorous by changing the Forum credit hours from one to two.

Because of twice as much work required in ECN 5960 now, it has become highly desirable to change the graduation requirement for Forum students from the existing 33 credit hours to 32 credit hours. This arrangement will make the thesis and non-thesis options comparable with regard to the amount of work students must accomplish to complete the degree. Continuation of the existing minimum of 33 hours for non-thesis students would effectively raise the graduation requirement for them to 35 hours as compared to the existing 30-hour rule for the thesis students. This will widen the disadvantage that the Forum students already had previously. Hence, to make the academic work comparable between the two options, we request that the minimum credit hour requirement for M.A. in Economics with non-thesis option be reduced from 33 hours to 32 hours.

Effective Year/Term: Spring 2018

Approved by Economics Department: May 1, 2018

Approved by COSCC: September 7, 2018

Approved by CGS: