University of Toronto  
Major Modification Proposal – Type A:  
Significant Modifications to Existing Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Program being modified:</strong></th>
<th>Program M.A. in Economics (1 year general program – EO  MA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nature of the Major Modification:</strong></td>
<td>Modifications to the following program component: Doctoral Stream (funded through the funding commitment). See current doctoral stream program requirements at <a href="http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/graduate/maprograms">http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/graduate/maprograms</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Department / Unit (if applicable) where the program will reside:** | Department of Economics  
Max Gluskin House  
150 St. George Street  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, ON M5S 3G7  
[http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/graduate/home](http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/graduate/home) |
| **Faculty / Academic Division:** | Faculty of Arts and Sciences |
| **Faculty / Academic Division contact:** | Teresa Nicoletti, Administrative Coordinator  
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science  
Sidney Smith Hall, Suite 2005  
100 St. George Street, Toronto, ON, Canada  M5S 3G3  
Email: teresa.nicoletti@utoronto.ca |
| **Department / Unit contact:** | Shannon Elliott, Graduate Administrator  
[Graduate.administrator@economics.utoronto.ca](mailto:Graduate.administrator@economics.utoronto.ca)  
416-978-7169 |
| **Anticipated Effective date:** | September 1, 2015 |
| **Version Date:** | January 16, 2015 |
1 Executive Summary

Currently MA doctoral stream students are required to take one of our three core PhD theory sequences of courses (micro, macro, and econometrics) as part of their program requirements. Each sequence consists of three courses totalling 1.5 FCEs (see http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/graduate/maprograms and the SGS calendar at http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/calendar/Pages/Programs/Economics.aspx).

We propose to broaden the range of courses that MA doctoral students may take to meet this program requirement. Students will still have to take a minimum 1.5 FCEs from a prescribed set of PhD focussed courses of an equivalent rigour as the PhD core theory sequence courses.

2 Academic Rationale

There are two rationales for the proposed change:

(1) Current doctoral stream requirements stress theory over empirical analysis. In contrast, economics research has shifted from an emphasis in theory to empirical work. The proposed modification aligns our program to current practice in the discipline. At the same time, those students who wish to pursue theory as a focus at the PhD level will continue to be able to do so.

(2) A significant portion of students taking the MA doctoral stream experience serious difficulties in completing one of the core PhD sequences, as these courses are very mathematically rigorous even for some of our PhD students. Some of these students do end up doing excellent research in their PhDs, and, some of these same MA doctoral stream students who are admitted to the PhD program are able to handle quite well the hard theory of our core PhD sequences when they take them in their first year of their PhD studies.

3 Description of the Proposed Major Modification(s)

Currently, we require that MA doctoral students fulfill the following requirement:

Take ECO1011H and 4.0 FCE including one of the PhD core sequences: ECO2020H and ECO2030H (micro), ECO2021H and ECO2031H (macro), and ECO2400H and ECO2401H (econometrics), along with the respective associated tutorial (ECO2050H, ECO2051H, or ECO2410). These applied tutorials cannot be taken without enrolling in both courses of the associated sequence, and they do not advance more material than what is covered in these courses.

Modifications Proposed:

We propose to enhance this requirement by adding a prescribed set of PhD focussed courses of an equivalent rigour as the PhD core theory sequence courses as listed below. The current requirement of taking a complete PhD theory sequence will be retained for special cases where
a student has a suitable preparation and wishes to pursue theory at the PhD level in a PhD program (http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/graduate/courses).

At least 1.5 FCEs must be taken among the following list of courses designated to have a PhD focus: ECO2020H, ECO2021H, ECO2030H, ECO2031H, ECO2050H, ECO2051H, ECO2400H, ECO2401H, ECO2410H


Depending on the course offerings for each year, the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies may add other courses to this list.

This requirement is met if students take a complete PhD core sequence in microeconomics (ECO2020H and ECO2030H), macroeconomics (ECO2021H and ECO2031H), or econometrics (ECO2400H and ECO2401H), along with the respective associated tutorial (ECO2050H, ECO2051H, or ECO2410). These tutorials cannot be taken without enrolling in both courses of the associated core sequence.

4 Impact of the Change on Students

The greater flexibility of the new requirement for the MA doctoral stream will allow a larger group of students to successfully complete their program requirements for this stream.

The change will not affect current doctoral stream students (this funded program is customarily completed in 2-semesters); they are scheduled to complete their program requirements for June 2015 convocation and we propose an effective start date for these changes of September 1, 2015 for incoming 20159 students to the program. Should there be an anomaly, the program requirements from when the student entered the program would prevail.

We conduct a graduate student survey at the end of every academic year. The requirement of completing a core PhD sequence during the MA year has appeared very often as a flaw of our MA doctoral stream. In the conversations we have had with the MA doctoral students who did poorly in the core PhD sequences, they have repeatedly told us that they did not have the proper background to do well in these sequences, and they wished they had had more flexibility in the timing for taking this material.
5 Consultation

Consulted with Vice-Dean Graduate Studies and Program Reviews, Prof. Sandy Welsh, and officers from her office in December 2014 and January 2015. Consulted with economics faculty and former graduate directors and instructors of the proposed broader list of courses during the fall 2014. Reviewed department MA and PhD student survey results from 2009-2014. Inside the Economics Department discussed and approved at the Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting December 10, 2014.

We do not foresee a negative impact on the MA regular stream (unfunded) as their program requirements remain the same.

6 Resources

Administrative – to update all print and electronic media and future changes to the prescribed list of courses to meet program requirements, review and adjust the course timetable to avoid conflict, provide academic counselling, and monitor prerequisites and program progress.

7 Governance Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Approval Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Office Sign-Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit level approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/ Divisional Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission to Provost's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP&amp;P – reported annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Quality Council – reported annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A: Current Calendar Copy

In “Degree Programs, Economics, Master of Arts,” the second bullet in “Program Requirements” reads as follows:

“For the MA doctoral stream, successful completion of the mathematics and statistics course (ECO1011H) and 4.0 FCEs, including the core courses micro, macro, and econometrics. Of the three core courses, one sequence must be taken at the PhD level. The corresponding courses at the PhD level are ECO2020H and ECO2030H (micro), ECO2021H and ECO2031H (macro), and ECO2400H and ECO2401H (econometrics), along with the respective associated tutorial (ECO2050H, ECO2051H, and ECO2410H).“
Appendix B: Proposed Calendar Copy

In “Degree Programs, Economics, Master of Arts,” the second bullet in “Program Requirements” will read as follows:

“For the MA doctoral stream, successful completion of the mathematics and statistics course (ECO1011H) and 4.0 FCEs, including three core courses: micro (ECO2020H or ECO2060H), macro (ECO2021H or ECO2061H), and econometrics (ECO2400 or ECO2408). As part of the 4.0 FCEs mentioned above, students must take at least 1.5 FCEs among the following list of courses designated to have a PhD focus: ECO2020H, ECO2021H, ECO2030H, ECO2031H, ECO2050H, ECO2051H, ECO2400H, ECO2401H, ECO2410H, ECO2300H, ECO2301H, ECO2304H, ECO2404H, ECO2600H, ECO2601H, ECO2800H, ECO2801H, ECO2803H and ECO2901H. This requirement is met if students take a complete PhD core sequence in micro (ECO2020H and ECO2030H), macro (ECO2021H and ECO2031H), or econometrics (ECO2400H and ECO2401H), along with the respective associated tutorial (ECO2050H, ECO2051H, or ECO2410). These tutorials cannot be taken without enrolling in both courses of the associated sequence.”
Appendix C: Current Learning Outcomes, and Degree Level Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Level Expectations</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>How the program design / structure supports the degree level expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge**
  Defined as theory and empirical analysis for this degree | Depth and breadth of knowledge is understood in Economics as the ability of use the set of tools that comprise economic theory and econometrics in both abstract reasoning and empirical analysis. This is reflected in students who are able to: | The program design and requirement elements that ensure these student outcomes for depth and breadth of knowledge are: |
| **2. Core Fields (1)** | Know one of the core fields (micro, macro, or econometrics) at a level close to the research frontier | Take one of the three core PhD sequences (micro, macro, or econometrics) |
| **3. Core Fields (2)** | Know the other two core fields at a basic graduate level | Take an MA level course for the other two core fields |
| **4. Applied Fields** | Have some familiarity with applied field research | Take 1.5 FCEs among our list of graduate courses |
### Appendix D: Proposed Learning Outcomes, and Degree Level Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Level Expectations</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>How the program design / structure supports the degree level expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge**  
Defined as theory and empirical analysis for this degree | Depth and breadth of knowledge is understood in Economics as the ability to use the set of tools that comprise economic theory and statistics in both abstract reasoning and empirical analysis.  
This is reflected in students who are able to either achieve the outcomes expressed in Appendix C or have a broader knowledge of field research instead of mastering one of the core fields at the research frontier. For students who chose this alternative path, they will achieve the following outcomes: | The program design and requirement elements that ensure these student outcomes for depth and breadth of knowledge are:  
Take at least one semester course in micro, macro, or econometrics. These courses can be taken at the MA level or at the PhD level. In the alternative path we are allowing with the proposal, we contemplate the students taking these core courses at the MA level. |
| **2. Core Fields**          | Know the three core fields (micro, macro, and econometrics) at a basic graduate level.                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| **3. Applied Fields**       | Have broad familiarity with applied field research. Some of this field research is mastered at a level close to the research frontier.                                                                                     | Take 2.5 FCEs in applied field research. At least 1.5 FCEs must be taken among courses with a PhD focus.                                                                                                                                                         |