Admission Requirements
Applicants must meet the general admission requirements of the Western Illinois University School of Graduate Studies with a cumulative GPA of 3.0. An undergraduate degree in Economics is not required for admission. Majors in Mathematics and Statistics have done particularly well, but students with a variety of undergraduate majors have also been successful and have become some of our most notable and supportive alumni. The GRE is not required for regular admission, but the following prerequisites are:

Principles of Economics
- Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 231) and Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 232) OR
- Economic Theory for Decision Makers (ECON 408G), an accelerated principles course, will satisfy this prerequisite but cannot be counted in the degree.

Intermediate Economic Theory
- Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECON 331) and either Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 330) or Managerial Economics (ECON 332) OR
- Fundamentals of Economic Theory (ECON 509), an accelerated intermediate theory course, will satisfy this prerequisite but cannot be counted in the degree.

Calculus and Statistics
Students will complete a mathematics placement exam prior to enrolling in the required Mathematical Techniques course required for graduation. This exam is based on material covered in the following prerequisite courses:
- Math 137 or an equivalent course in calculus
- STAT 171 or an equivalent course in statistics or
- Economic Problem Solving (Econ 381) may be used to satisfy the calculus and statistics requirements, but does not count toward the degree.

If you have not completed the prerequisites, you may be eligible for conditional admission. Any remaining prerequisites can be taken during your first semester.

Degree Requirements
The Master of Science (MS) in Quantitative Economics degree program is a 30 semester hour (sh) program consisting of 5 sh of core courses. These courses are Advanced Mathematical Economics (ECON 581), Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (ECON 500), Price Theory (ECON 504), Econometrics I (ECON 506), and Statistical Programming (DS 490G).

There are three options for completing the remaining 15 sh: (1) thesis, (2) non-thesis, and (3) internship. The thesis option consists of 9 sh of elective courses, plus Thesis Research (ECON 600) and Thesis (ECON 601). The non-thesis option consists of 12 sh of elective courses, plus Econometrics II (ECON 507). The internship option consists of 12 sh of elective courses and 3 sh of internship (ECON 599).

STEM
The Quantitative Economics degree program has been designated as a STEM-eligible degree program (CIP code 45.0603) which allows eligible graduates on student visas access to Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension up to 36 months. The longer work authorization term may help international students gain additional real-world skills and experience in the U.S.

Faculty Expertise
The faculty members in the WIU Department of Economics and Decision Sciences take an active and...
sincere interest in student success. Our faculty are also active in research, so students learn state-of-the-art skills and techniques. All faculty teaching graduate courses have PhDs in Economics or Statistics. Their degrees are from major research institutions such as the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of South Carolina, West Virginia University, the University of Tennessee, Binghamton University, the University of Memphis and the University of Alabama.

Assistantship Opportunities
The department offers a limited number of graduate assistantships on a competitive basis. The awards range from two-thirds time (requiring 13 hours of work per week) to full-time (requiring 20 hours of work per week). Both awards carry tuition waivers for two semesters and a summer term, as well as a stipend for two semesters, contingent on maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA and satisfactory academic progress. Students work in the Economics tutoring center, as well as assisting faculty with research.

Assistantship recipients must satisfy all of the admissions prerequisites without any deficiencies. To be eligible for an assistantship, entering graduate students must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability and veteran status.

Career Opportunities
Thanks to their strong analytical skills, our graduates find employment in a wide variety of careers. Some recent placements include the University of Minnesota, Caterpillar, John Deere, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, the American Medical Association, the Chicago Board of Trade, U.S. Treasury, U.S. Comptroller of the Currency, the Tennessee Department of Commerce, Principal Financial Group, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Exxon, Illinois Power, Newsweek and Walmart.

Why Econ at WIU?
- The degree program can be completed in one academic year
- One of the few STEM recognized Economics degrees in the country
- Evening and online classes available for working and commuting students
- It is large enough to offer a wide variety of courses, yet small enough to provide individual attention
- All graduate courses are taught by faculty holding a PhD in Economics
- Faculty members are genuinely interested in students’ intellectual development
- Advising is tailored to students’ personal needs and educational goals
- Opportunities are available for interacting with students from other cultures and countries

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Programs
The WIU Department of Economics and Decision Sciences offers two 18 sht post-baccalaureate certificates (PBC): (1) the Business Analytics Certificate and (2) the Community Development Certificate. The Business Analytics PBC offers the technical skills of data mining, statistical modeling and forecasting for data-driven decision-making and for solving the analytical problems of the contemporary business world. This PBC is closely related to the master’s degrees in Economics, Applied Statistics and Decision Analytics, MBA or Mathematics. The PBC in Community Development, earmarked for returned Peace Corps Fellows (PCF) program participants, is jointly offered with the WIU Department of Geography and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA). It provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for a career in the field of community development.

Alumni Quote
“The department’s faculty set my career path by demonstrating that sound policy analysis must have an economic dimension. In addition, they showed, repeatedly, that rigorous economic theory can be used to give meaningful policy insights.”

– Professor Steve Deller, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin – Madison

“WIU.EDU/ECON

“The Economics department at WIU provided me with all of the skills necessary to obtain my professional goals. I have found my degree from WIU was widely recognized and well respected. Lastly, and most importantly, the WIU Department of Economics provided me with individual attention from professors who truly cared about my development.”

– Mark Zobel, Bank of America