

Master of Science in Quantitative Economics

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Department of Economics

An eight-month STEM degree with career services

mqe.pitt.edu



University of
Pittsburgh

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The University of Pittsburgh and the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics offers one of the largest majors at the University of Pittsburgh and has a vibrant research community with more than 60 graduate students working towards their Ph.D. in economics. Faculty and Ph.D. students explore fields in all areas of economics: applied microeconomics, economic theory, macroeconomics, econometrics, international economics and experimental economics. Our department is excited to welcome a new group of MQE students into our robust community.

The University of Pittsburgh is ranked among the top research universities in the United States in both domestic and international rankings and it has been listed as a "best value" in higher education by several publications. Pitt faculty and alumni have won the Nobel Prize (in Peace and Medicine), the Pulitzer, the Academy Award, the MacArthur "Genius" Grant, the National Medal of Science, the Super Bowl, and more.

Pittsburgh is an exciting place for economics. Faculty and Ph.D. students collaborate with researchers from other Pitt units as well as from Carnegie Mellon University and RAND. Pittsburgh, also known as the "City of Champions" for its athletic teams, Steel City for its more than 300 steel-related businesses and the City of Bridges for its 446 bridges. New regional investments, including in autonomous vehicles, additive manufacturing, robotics and the ethane cracker, have the potential to add substantial new job demand, particularly for STEM workers.

MQE Overview

The Master of Science in Quantitative Economics (MQE) program will equip students with the quantitative, analytical and communication skills needed to identify and resolve complex economic issues using a broad spectrum of quantitative techniques that are useful across contexts in the private, public and non-profit sector. MQE graduates will meet employers' demand for professionals who master analytic methods and techniques of data-driven economics. The degree will be completed in two semesters. The MQE Director and Program Manager are the principal advisors for all new MQE students.

The MQE program has three goals:

1. to advance ones professional economic and data science knowledge through an intensive and balanced academic program.
2. to help formulate questions and solutions critical for organizations.
3. to develop the essential communication skills for career success.

This document describes the rules, requirements, and responsibilities of MQE students during their residency in the Department of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh. It is assumed that all students in the MQE program are familiar with the material in this document and agree to abide by the rules, requirements, and responsibilities as set forth below. Students also agree to abide by all University of Pittsburgh academic regulations for graduate students as set forth in the University's Graduate and Professional Catalog, <https://catalog.upp.pitt.edu/index.php>.

The Director of the MQE Program works with members of the department to certify the completion of MQE student requirements and to resolve any MQE program problems or disputes.

MQE STUDENT HANDBOOK

The MQE Steering Committee currently comprises:

- Patricia Beeson, Professor and Provost Emerita
- Daniel Berkowitz, Professor
- David Huffman, Professor and Chair
- Shannon Mischler, MQE Program Manager
- Luca Rigotti, Associate Professor and MQE Director
- Marla Ripoll, Professor

Students should feel free to contact the Director of the MQE Program or the MQE Program Manager regarding any problem they are having with the MQE program. Problems unrelated to the MQE program should be brought to the attention of the Department Chair.

Credit Requirements & Course Descriptions

The requirement for the MS in Quantitative Economics degree is to earn 30 credits in the academic courses listed below with cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above. Students are enrolled in ten, 3-credit courses over two consecutive Fall and Spring semesters. Courses are graded corresponding the letter grades (LG option) on the standard scale A, B, C, etc. Graded courses in which the student earns a grade of C or lower do not count toward the 30-credit requirement.

The MQE graded coursework requirement is to be completed according to the following schedule within two semesters:

Fall	Session 1	Individuals, Firms, and Markets	Quantitative Methods	Communicating Economic Insights
	Session 2	Incentives and Information	Economic Inference from Data	
Spring	Session 1	Global Economics and Finance	Applications of Economic Analysis Techniques	Data Design for Economic Applications (Capstone)
	Session 2	Evidence-Based Analysis in Labor, Public and Health Economics	Big Data and Forecasting in Economics	

Career Advising

The MQE Program offers each enrolled student individualized career services through professional:

- networking events with industry leaders.
- mentoring inside and outside of the classroom.
- development of communication and project management skills.

MQE STUDENT HANDBOOK

- workshops on writing effective cover letters and resume.
- support in the job search, application and interview process.

The MQE Program is a STEM-designated degree program (CIP Code 45.0603: Econometrics and Quantitative Economics) whose students can apply for a 24-month STEM extension of F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) (<https://www.ois.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/docs/OPT-Information.pdf>).

Along with the MQE Career Services, Pitt's Career Center (<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cdpa/>) can help you to develop the skills and experiences needed to achieve your career goals.

Satisfactory Progress, Probation and Dismissal

Satisfactory Progress toward the MQE degree is maintained with an overall 3.0 GPA minimum requirement and adherence to the University's Academic Integrity Code (www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html) which governs cheating, plagiarism, etc.

Students may be dismissed from the program for any of the following reasons:

- Violations of the University's Academic Integrity Code (www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html) which governs cheating, plagiarism, etc.
- Failure to achieve the minimum required GPA or to maintain satisfactory progress.

Any student who is not making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree, as defined above, may be placed on probation by the department. The student will be informed in writing of such action. The MQE Steering Committee will serve to arbitrate disputes, and the Dietrich School Ombudsperson (<https://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/student-life/ombudsperson>) can assist graduate students with resolving conflicts and issues that arise during their graduate education that have not or cannot be addressed within their academic department.

Financial Resources

Please visit the MQE Financial Resources webpage (<https://www.mqe.pitt.edu/resources/financial-resources>) for links to external funding, Veteran Benefits, Pitt Fund\$Me and loans.

Graduate Student Resources

Pittsburgh

Check out Pitt's Cool Pittsburgh (<http://www.coolpgh.pitt.edu/>) resource about where to live, eat, play, shop and go in Pittsburgh.

Housing

MQE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Graduate students and visiting scholars are not eligible to live in University residence halls, and therefore, need to find off-campus accommodations.

Off-Campus Living Web site, <https://www.ocl.pitt.edu/student-housing>

The Foreign Student and Scholar Housing Guide,
<https://www.ois.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Off-Campus-Housing.pdf>

Transportation

In addition to Pittsburgh city buses, there are also Pitt shuttles that run to the neighborhoods around campus (20A serves East Liberty / Shadyside). A late-night SafeRider (<http://www.pc.pitt.edu/transportation/>) service is also available.

International Students

The Office of International Services (OIS) (<https://www.ois.pitt.edu/office-international-services>) is the University's immigration specialist, serving all campuses and the 6000 international students, scholars, staff, and faculty who call Pitt their academic home.

Health & Wellness

Student Health Services (<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/>) is available on-campus for basic medical, psychiatric, and immunization services. The \$130 wellness fee charged to your account each term covers an unlimited number of visits to the clinic.

Disability Resources and Services (DRS) (<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>) is the designated department by the University to determine reasonable accommodations and services to provide equal opportunities in higher education to academically qualified students with disabilities.

University Counseling Center (<http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cc/>) is staffed by a team of psychologists, social workers, and graduate trainees. Group therapy sessions, workshops, and substance abuser services are also available.

Wellness Resources Guide for Graduate and Professional Students,
<https://www.gradstudents.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/GradStudent%20WellnessGuide.pdf>

Campus Recreation and Facilities, <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/campus-recreation/facilities-and-hours/>

Campus Resources

Graduate Student Resources (<https://www.gradstudents.pitt.edu/>)

Academic, Teaching, Research, Career Preparation, Student Life, Health & Wellness

Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/>) helps build the University into a world-class model of diversity and inclusion defined by inclusive excellence and an environment that allows everyone to thrive.

Ombudsperson (<https://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/student-life/ombudsperson>) assists graduate students in the Dietrich School with resolving conflicts and issues that arise in the course of their graduate education that the students believe have not or cannot be addressed within their academic department.

Graduate Student Organizations

<https://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/student-life/graduate-student-organizations>

Graduate and Professional Student Orientation

<https://www.provost.pitt.edu/students/graduate-studies/graduate-student-events/2019-graduate-and-professional-student-orientation>

Graduate Student Lounge

<https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/news/lounge-opens-graduate-and-professional-students>

University Center for Teaching and Learning (<http://teaching.pitt.edu/>) offers numerous free workshops throughout the term related to teaching, technology in the classroom, managing the classroom effectively, and more.

University Library System (<http://www.library.pitt.edu/>) offers free workshops throughout the term on library resources and academic issues.

Hillman Library (Chinese-, Japanese-, and Korean-language library orientations)

<http://www.pennsylvasia.com/2019/07/library-orientations-for-new-chinese.html>

University of Pittsburgh Academic Calendar 2019-2020

https://www.registrar.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/Academic%20Calendar%202019-2020_Apple.pdf

Student ID Cards & Student Portal

Student ID cards are available for all registered students in Panther Central, an office located on the ground floor of Litchfield Towers, the set of three cylindrical dormitories between Fifth and Forbes Avenues (pictured at right). The Panther Central office will take your photo and print your card in a few minutes. Students with a University ID and password can login to My Pitt Portal to access email, Courseweb (for course work), Student Center (for scheduling), PittPay (to pay bills), Box (for unlimited cloud storage), Emergency Notification System, free downloadable software, and the Technology Help Desk. Benefits to the Panther Card include free transportation on city buses, the subway, and the Incline; access to libraries and computer labs; access to on-campus fitness centers; free admission to local museums. To learn more about the card and its benefits, please visit Panther Central.

Off Campus Emergency Resources

If you are experiencing an crisis or emergency situation, please contact the Pitt Police at 412-624-2121 or dial 911. In addition to University resources, the following community resources are available:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Resolve Crisis Services](#)
- [Pittsburgh Action Against Rape](#)