UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY:	Kevin Flynn; Chair, Academic Programs Committee
DATE OF MEETING:	January 21, 2016
SUBJECT:	Addition of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) as an Admission Qualification to the Master of Arts (M.A.) program in Economic

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended: That Council approve a new admission qualification, the submission of s Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score for the Master of Arts in Economics, effective for students who have not completed university degrees in Canada or the United States of America and who are entering the program in or after September 2017.

PURPOSE:

The Department of Economics is proposing a new admission qualification for their Master of Arts (M.A.) program—the submission of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). By implementing this new requirement, the department will be better informed when recommending students be admitted to the program.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

With the substantial differences in student evaluation systems used at international postsecondary institutions, the Department of Economics seeks to implement this new admission qualification to help identify and recruit top students from the large pool of international applicants.

Though the department will recommend the submission of the GRE for all students, this proposal is to require the submission of the GRE by students who have not completed university degrees in Canada or the United States of America. There is no minimum cutoff score for the GRE as it will be used in conjunction with other indicators of potential academic success.

By adding this admission requirement, the U of S's admissions qualifications will be consistent with other Canadian economics departs.

FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:

This admissions change will require Senate confirmation and will be presented at their April 2016 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposal for Additional Admission Requirement for M.A. in Economics



Memorandum

То:	Dr. Kevin Flynn, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of University Council
CC:	Dr. Nazmi Sari, Graduate Chair, Department of Economics Dr. Don Gilchrist, Head, Department of Economics
From:	Dr. Trever Crowe, Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR)
Date:	December 7, 2015
Re:	Request to implement a new admission requirement in the Master of Arts in Economics

The Department of Economics would like to implement a new admission requirement in the Master of Arts (MA) program; submission of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The proposal is to require submission of the GRE by students that have not completed university degrees in Canada or the United States of America, though submission of the GRE will be recommended for all students. The Department of Economics receives many applications from students who have earned undergraduate degrees from institutions where the quality of preparation is difficult to assess. The proposal for implementing this requirement uses language consistent with other comparator institutions in Canada. By implementing this new requirement, the Department will be better informed when recommending students be admitted to the program.

Attached please find:

- A memo from the Executive Committee of CGSR recommending implementation of the GRE admission requirement
- A copy of the memo from the Graduate Programs Committee recommending implementation of the GRE
- The Proposal Form for Curricular Change
- Documentation of the GRE admission requirement in comparator Economics graduate programs

If there are any questions, I would be happy to respond.

TC:kc



College of Graduate Studies and Research MEMORANDUM

То:	Amanda Storey, Committee Coordinator Academic Programs Committee of University Council
From:	Adam Baxter-Jones, Dean; College of Graduate Studies and Research
Copies:	Dr. Don Gilchrist, Head, Department of Economics Dr. Nazmi Sari, Graduate Chair, Department of Economics Dr. Trever Crowe, Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research
Date:	November 27, 2015
Re:	Master of Arts in Economics – new admission requirement: Graduate Record Examinations

(GRE)

Members of the Executive Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research met on November 19, 2015, to consider the recommendation from the Graduate Programs Committee that a new admission requirement, submission of a GRE score, be implemented in the Master of Arts in Economics.

Members of the Committee were satisfied with responses from the members of the Graduate Programs Committee that the quality of the applicants would be better assessed by implementing this new admission requirement. It was noted that this proposed change was in-line with comparator institutions.

The following motion was carried:

"Approve the implementation of an admission requirement in the Master of Arts degree in Economics." Pohler/Crowe Carried

If questions or concerns arise during the review by the Academic Programs Committee, Associate Dean Crowe would be happy to respond.

ABJ:br Attachments



Memorandum

To: Dr. Adam Baxter-Jones, Chair, CGSR Executive Committee

CC: Dr. Dionne Pohler, Chair, Graduate Programs Committee

From: Graduate Programs Committee of CGSR

Date: November 12, 2015

Re: Master of Arts in Economics – new admission requirement: Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)

The Graduate Programs Committee met on November 2, 2015, to consider implementing a new admission requirement, submission of a GRE score, in the Master of Arts in Economics.

The proposal is to allow the department to better assess the quality of applicants. It was noted that the language in the proposal was consistent with comparator institutions' requirements for admission to graduate programs in economics.

Motion: *To recommend approval of the GRE as an admission requirement for the Master of Arts in Economics.* Waldner/Eglington CARRIED

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Clement at <u>Kelly.clement@usask.ca</u> or 306-966-2229.

:kc



PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

Title of proposal: Additional Admission Requirement for MA in economics

Degree(s): MA

Field(s) of Specialization: Economics

Level(s) of Concentration:

Option(s):

Degree College: Graduate Studies and Research

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, fax, e-mail): Nazmi Sari; 306-9665216; 306-9661641; Nazmi.Sari@usask.ca

Proposed date of implementation: May 1, 2016

Proposal Document

Please provide information which covers the following sub topics. The length and detail should reflect the scale or importance of the program or revision. Documents prepared for your college may be used. Please expand this document as needed to embrace all your information.

1. Academic justification:

- a. Describe why the program would be a useful addition to the university, from an academic programming perspective.
- b. Giving consideration to strategic objectives, specify how the new program fits the university signature areas and/or integrated plan areas, and/or the college/school, and/or department plans.
- c. Is there a particular student demographic this program is targeted towards and, if so, what is that target? (e.g., Aboriginal, mature, international, returning)
- d. What are the most similar competing programs in Saskatchewan, and in Canada? How is this program different?

2. Admissions

For applicants without a degree from a Canadian or U.S. university, the Department of Economics would like to require Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores as an additional admission requirement for the M.A. in Economics program. We would like to recommend (but not require) that applicants from a Canadian or U.S. university submit their GRE scores if available. There is no minimum cutoff score for the GRE as it will be used only in conjunction with other indicators of potential academic success.

Note that the language in the proposed requirement above is consistent with the language in admission requirements at comparator institutions. Several Canadian universities (UBC, Simon Fraser, Calgary, Alberta, Toronto, Queen's, McGill, Western, Dalhousie) also require the GRE from the students without a degree from a Canadian university. I appended a separate document describing the GRE requirement in other Canadian economics department.

Each year the Department receives more than 100 applications from students without a degree from a Canadian or U.S. university. With the substantial heterogeneities in student evaluation systems across countries around the world, this new requirement will help us to identify and recruit top students from this large pool of applicants. With this additional requirement, our admission criteria will also be consistent with other Canadian economics departments.

a. What are the admissions requirements of this program?

The admission requirements, as indicated in the program catalogue, would be as follows:

- a four-year honours degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study
- a minimum 70% average (U of S grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (e.g. 60 credit units) including courses in Advanced Micro and Macro Economic Theory, Econometrics, and Mathematical Economics
- Language Proficiency Requirements: Proof of English proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English. See the College of Graduate Studies and Research Academic Information and Policies in this Catalogue for more information
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Submission of the GRE is recommended for all applicants. Applicants who have not earned a degree from Canada or the USA are required to submit a GRE.

3. Description of the program

- a. What are the curricular objectives, and how are these accomplished?
- b. Describe the modes of delivery, experiential learning opportunities, and general teaching philosophy relevant to the programming. Where appropriate, include information about whether this program is being delivered in a distributed format.
- c. Provide an overview of the curriculum mapping.

- d. Identify where the opportunities for synthesis, analysis, application, critical thinking, problem solving are, and other relevant identifiers.
- e. Explain the comprehensive breadth of the program.
- f. Referring to the university "Learning Charter", explain how the 5 learning goals are addressed, and what degree attributes and skills will be acquired by graduates of the program.
- g. Describe how students can enter this program from other programs (program transferability).
- h. Specify the criteria that will be used to evaluate whether the program is a success within a timeframe clearly specified by the proponents in the proposal.
- *i.* If applicable, is accreditation or certification available, and if so how will the program meet professional standard criteria. Specify in the budget below any costs that may be associated.

4. Consultation

- a. Describe how the program relates to existing programs in the department, in the college or school, and with other colleges. Establish where students from other programs may benefit from courses in this program. Does the proposed program lead into other programs offered at the university or elsewhere?
- b. List units that were consulted formally, and provide a summary of how consultation was conducted and how concerns that were raised in consultations have been addressed. Attach the relevant communication in an appendix.
- c. Provide evidence of consultation with the University Library to ensure that appropriate library resources are available.
- d. List other pertinent consultations and evidence of support, if applicable (e.g., professional associations, accreditation bodies, potential employers, etc.)

5. Budget

- a. How many instructors will participate in teaching, advising and other activities related to core program delivery (not including distribution/ breadth requirements or electives)? (estimate the percentage time for each person).
- b. What courses or programs are being eliminated in order to provide time to teach the additional courses?
- c. How are the teaching assignments of each unit and instructor affected by this proposal?
- d. Describe budget allocations and how the unit resources are reallocated to accommodate this proposal. (Unit administrative support, space issues, class room availability, studio/practice rooms laboratory/clinical or other instructional space requirements).
- e. If this program is to be offered in a distributed context, please describe the costs associated with this approach of delivery and how these costs will be covered.
- f. If this is an interdisciplinary program, please indicate whether there is a pool of resources available from other colleges involved in the program.

- g. What scholarships will students be able to apply for, and how many? What other provisions are being provided for student financial aid and to promote accessibility of the program?
- h. What is the program tuition? Will the program utilize a special tuition model or standard tuition categories? (The approval authority for tuition is the Board of Governors).
- *i.* What are the estimated costs of program delivery, based on the total time commitment estimates provided? (Use TABBS information, as provided by the College/School financial officer)
- *j.* What is the enrolment target for the program? How many years to reach this target? What is the minimum enrolment, below which the program ceases to be feasible? What is the maximum enrolment, given the limitations of the resources allocated to the program?
- k. What are the total expected revenues at the target enrolment level, separated into core program delivery and distribution/breadth requirements or electives? What portion of this expected revenue can be thought of as incremental (or new) revenue?
- I. At what enrolment number will this program be independently sustainable? If this enrolment number is higher than the enrolment target, where will the resources come from to sustain the program, and what commitments define the supply of those resources?
- m. Proponents are required to clearly explain the total incremental costs of the program. This is to be expressed as: (i) total cost of resources needed to deliver the program: (ii) existing resources (including in-kind and tagged as such) applied against the total cost: and (iii) a listing of those resource costs that will require additional funding (including new in-kind support).
- n. List all new funding sources and amounts (including in-kind) and the anticipated contribution of each to offsetting increment program costs. Please identify if any indicated funding is contingent on subsequent approval by a funding authority and/or future conditions. Also indicate under what conditions the program is expected to be cost neutral. The proponents should also indicated any anticipated surpluses/deficits associated with the new program

College Statement

Please provide here or attach to the online portal, a statement from the College which contains the following:

- Recommendation from the College regarding the program
- Description of the College process used to arrive at that recommendation
- Summary of issues that the College discussed and how they were resolved

Related Documentation

At the online portal, attach any related documentation which is relevant to this proposal to the online portal, such as:

- Excerpts from the College Plan and Planning Parameters
- SPR recommendations
- Relevant sections of the College plan
- Accreditation review recommendations
- Letters of support
- Memos of consultation

It is particularly important for Council committees to know if a curriculum changes are being made in response to College Plans and Planning Parameters, review recommendations or accreditation recommendations.

Consultation Forms At the online portal, attach the following forms, as required

Required for all submissions:

Consultation with the Registrar form

Required for all new courses:

- Course proposal forms
- OR Calendar-draft list of new and revised courses

Required if resources needed:

- Information Technology Requirements form
- Library Requirements form
- Physical Resource Requirements form
- Budget Consultation form

GRE requirement in other Canadian economics departments

University of Calgary

International applicants who have obtained their undergraduate or graduate degrees from a Canadian University are not required to provide the TOEFL or the GRE.

There are no substitutions for the GRE. Applicants should score at least 155 in the Quantitative Section and at least 3.5 in the Analytical Writing Section.

University of Alberta

Applicants whose most recent degree is from a non-Canadian university are required to write the verbal, quantitative and analytical sections of the <u>Graduate Record Examinations</u> (GRE) administered by the Educational Testing Service (Princeton, NJ). The examinations should be written early enough for scores to be available at the same time as the applicant's other supporting documents. No minimum cutoff score is specified as GRE results are used only in conjunction with other indicators of potential academic success. No substitutions for the GRE (such as the GMAT) will be accepted.

The GRE requirement will not be waived.

Simon Fraser University

A copy of unofficial scores. Applicants who have completed or are currently completing their post-secondary studies at an institution outside of Canada are required to take the Graduate Record Examination General Test (GRE). There is no minimum requirement however, please note that the GMAT cannot be substituted for the GRE. To have the test results sent to Simon Fraser University, use Institution Code 0999 and Department Code 1801.

<u>UBC</u>

The GRE (General) is required for all applicants **except those graduating from a Canadian university**. The GRE is optional for applicants graduating from Canadian universities. A minimum score of 156 or higher in the Quantitative section is required. The GRE must have been written in the last 2 years. Score reports that are more than two years

old are not accepted. A photocopy of your GRE test scores is acceptable at the time of application. We must receive official scores directly from <u>ETS</u> before commencement of the M.A. program. When ordering your GRE score, use 0965 as the institution code for UBC, and identify "Economics" (1801) as the department.

Note that we require your scores on the GRE and not the GMAT. Scores on the GMAT are **not** a substitute for GRE scores.

Dalhousie University

PhD applicants from non-Canadian universities are required to submit the results of the Graduate Record Examination with their applications.

University of Waterloo

GRE Score (recommended for all international applicants)

Carleton University

You can apply for the M.A. program without submitting Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. However, it is recommended that applicants with degrees from universities outside Canada (especially from very different university systems) take the GRE so as to enable a more accurate assessment of their backgrounds. A copy of the *GRE*® *Information and Registration Bulletin* can be found at <u>www.ets.org/gre/subject/about/bulletin</u>. GREs are required for application to the Ph.D. program.

University of Toronto

All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit official GRE test scores, and applicants without a degree from a Canadian university are **required** to submit these scores. Applicants without a degree from a Canadian university **may** also be required to submit official test scores for English Language Facility tests acceptable by the University of Toronto. Be sure to read the <u>GRE</u> and <u>English Language Facility</u> information for important details on test score requirements. **Note**: The GMAT *cannot* be substituted for the GRE test score.

Queen's University

Applicants whose previous degree is not from a Canadian or U.S. university, are *required* to submit the GRE.

McGill University

If your education has been interrupted or **if you do not have an undergraduate or graduate degree in Economics from a Canadian university, you must take the Graduate Record Examination** (General Test). The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) cannot be substituted for the GRE. McGill University's institutional code is 0935. The Department of Economics' code is 1801.

Western Ontario

All candidates are encouraged to take the Graduate Record Examination General test and submit their scores. **Applicants whose previous degree is not from a Canadian university are** *required* **to submit the GRE.** Others who feel that their academic record may not provide an accurate measure of their promise for graduate work in economics, as well as for those who do not have an Honours Economics degree, will find it in their interest to take these tests also.

Concordia University

It should be noted that especially for non North American students, a strong case for admission and, in particular, funding, depends not only on your transcripts and letters of recommendation but also on your GRE scores. While writing the GRE is NOT required, such scores certainly enhance an application for admission and especially for funding.

University of Victoria

All applicants coming from a university outside North America are expected to complete the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

University of Guelph

GRE/GMAT scores are not required but will be considered if submitted