Why get a Master’s in Economics?
What is the Master’s in Econ?

• Master of Arts (MA) in Economics
• Normally a 2-year program
• You can complete in as little as 1 year with the Accelerated BA/MA program

• Take graduate classes alongside other MA and PhD students
• Small classes (often 5-10 students), so lots of individual attention
Why do I need the Master’s?

• Increases earnings
  • Average starting pay for MA in econ: $61,600
  • Average mid-career pay: $113,600
  • Bachelor’s only: $49,000 starting, $95,000 mid-career

• Gives you options outside Memphis
  • Much more competitive for jobs in DC, NY, etc.

• Huge advantage for admission to PhD programs
  • Very difficult to go to good PhD program straight from your bachelor’s
Flexible paths

• Our program offers some choice of courses
• Can even take courses from other departments
  • Math, computer science, finance
• Can set your own “path”, depending on your goal
  • Professional path
  • Academic path
The “professional path”

• Goal: jobs in finance, consulting, banking, data science, etc.
  • Typical starting salary in these jobs is $70-90k

• Recent job outcomes for our MA students:
  • Associate, Argus Information and Advisory Services (NY)
  • Actuarial Analyst, Willis Towers Watson (Memphis)
  • Senior Analyst, Summit Consulting (DC)
  • Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
  • Senior Operations Analyst, Autozone (Memphis)
  • Raymond James, various positions (Memphis)
The “academic path”

• Goal: entry to highly-ranked PhD programs in economics, finance, public policy, etc.
  • Increasingly hard to go straight from BA/BBA to PhD
  • Really only possible for graduates from elite colleges

• Recent MA graduates are now attending PhD programs at:
  • Stanford
  • Vanderbilt
  • UC-Santa Barbara
  • Colorado

• All of these students tell us how well-prepared they were by our MA program
What should you do now?

• If you have time, take more math!!!
  • Graduate economics is very mathematical
  • Students without much math often struggle in the MA
  • Calculus 1 & 2 and Statistics are a must
  • Calculus 3, linear algebra, differential equations, real analysis are bonus (but all very helpful if going for PhD eventually)

• Email Dr. Speer!
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• Questions?