

This material appears on several webs (Mises Institute, Institute for Humane Studies) and is thus available to thousands of potential students. Please look at the attached, and make any corrections you think appropriate.

I am particularly interested in being informed by you of the level of mathematical and statistical sophistication necessary to obtain the Ph.D. degree at your institution. Please be specific as to the requirements. For example, how much calculus, statistics, econometrics, LaGrange multipliers, bordered Hessians, matrix theory, linear algebra, linear transforms, modern algebra, etc. Could you please mention courses in which areas of math and stat you would you recommend to an undergraduate as prerequisites for study at your school? If you had to rate your university in terms of a single number indicating your math stat requirements, what would it be? (Ten = lots of math, zero = no math needed).

I am particularly exercised about this issue because one of my best students just went off to a graduate school in econ, and quit during her first week because of the math stat requirements there. We do indeed warn all our students about this, but, evidently, we did not do a good enough job. Ah, well, live and learn.

<http://www.mises.org/blog/archives/002182.asp>
<http://www.mises.org/fellow.asp#American>

Dear Colleagues:

We owe it to our students to give them the most full and accurate information we have about Ph.D. programs in economics. See my list, below. Don't get angry with me if I've been unjust to your school, or ignored it altogether. My info is only as good as what I've been given; please correct any errors and omissions in what appears there. *I'm limiting this to Ph.D. programs in economics!* If I am skimpy in my description of yours, it is not because I am purposefully denigrating you. It is due to the fact that I have not yet been corrected by you. Please help me make this the best list of this sort it can be.

After I put together a final draft, I would ask that you use what parts of this that make sense to you, and ignore the rest. I hope and trust it will do some good, because we want our undergrads to make good grad school choices.

I am also circulating another letter, attempting to do for law, history, sociology, political science, what I am trying to do here for economics.

Best regards,

Walter

Dear Students:

As you know, the best description of my own views is that of Austrian economics, libertarian political philosophy. Hence my focus in this direction. Virtually all Austrian economists are also libertarians in political philosophy, while the opposite does not at all hold true. That is, most free market economists are neoclassicals, public choicers, supply siders, etc., but not Austrians.

Here are my recommendations re grad schools. I have three separate lists.

In A, you can get a Ph.D. in economics, and Austrian economics is part of the official program.

In B you can get a Ph.D. in economics, and Austrian economics is *not* part of the official program (but there are Austrians and/or libertarians on the faculty).

In C, you can *not* get a Ph.D. in economics, and Austrian economics is *not* part of the official program, but there are Austrian economists on the faculty, and you *can* get a Ph.D. in some other, related, subject.

I rank the schools within each category in alphabetical order.

In A, you can get a Ph.D. in economics, and Austrian economics is part of the official program.

A1. Aix-en-Provence, France

Aix offers a Ph.D. Program where Austrian economics is considered as a primary field of interest. The Program is provided by the "Centre d'analyse économique", which is a department of the "Faculté d'Economie Appliquée" (University Aix-Marseille III). The actual director of the department is Pierre Garelo who has studied at the Austrian department of NYU. Like Pierre Garelo, the majority of the professors and lecturers on the faculty are Austrian economists, or at least oriented toward classical liberalism. For example: Jean-Pierre Centi, Gérard Bramoullé, Elisabeth Krecké, Hervé Magnouloux, Philippe Maitre, Thierry Sebah, Dominique Augey.

Their specific fields of interest include epistemology, monetary economics, law-and-economics, public choice, entrepreneurship. The department regularly invites foreign visiting professors working within the tradition of Austrian economics, such as Mario Rizzo or Bruce Caldwell. Regularly, seminars are organized, where PH.D. students or faculty have the opportunity to present their research and discuss the first draft of their papers.

A masters degree in economics is a prerequisite to enter the PH.D. program. Admission depends on acceptance of the candidate by the director of the Program. Contact person: mailto:elisabeth_krecke@yahoo.fr

A2. Angers, France

From Guido Huelsmann: I can direct PhD dissertations written and defended entirely in English. The only condition to be admitted to the Doctoral School at the

University of Angers is to have a master's degree in economics, or the equivalent of this degree at an accredited university.

A3. ESEADE, Argentina

ESEADE (Superior School of Economics and Business Management) is a 25 year old Graduate School of Business located in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2003 it started a Ph.D. program in Economics, one in Management, and one in Economic and Social History. These programs place the main emphasis on the dissertation. Director of the Ph.D. in Economics is Juan Carlos Cachanosky, who got his own Ph.D. with the eminent Austrian, Hans Sennholz. Foreign tutors are all Austrian/libertarian (see "Doctorados at www.eseade.edu.ar.) They are: Walter Block; Lawrence H. White; Peter G. Klein; Peter Boettke; Michael Wohlgemuth; Carlos Rodriguez Braun; Jesús Huerta de Soto; Jerry Ellig; George Selgin; Jan Narveson; Richard M. Ebeling; Peter Lewin; Nicolai Paul Foss; Richard N. Langlois; Wolfgang Grassl. Contact: Martin Krause [martin@eseade.edu.ar]

Krause on math:

It is hard to say but in our case I would think our requirement is around 3 (a level needed to read, for example, Varian). For admission to our phd program we make a difference if the applicant comes with an economic degree or not. In the first case he does not need an admission exam (and supposedly already has some education in math), in the second he comes with another degree (a lawyer, for example) in which case he need to go through an admission exam consisting in readings on micro, macro and history of economic thought, and those readings include some math, particularly micro.

On English: We have two mandatory courses and a dissertation workshop that are in Spanish, here in Buenos Aires, but we could eventually accept someone who could earn equivalent credits somewhere else. The other requisites (having a graduate degree such as a master; a paper before the dissertation and the dissertation itself could very well be in English)

A4. Universidad Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala.

The following comes to me courtesy of Giancarlo Ibarguen, President, Universidad Francisco Marroquín:

Universidad Francisco Marroquín (UFM) in Guatemala, under its School of Economic Sciences, offers both a master and Ph.D. program in economics based on the principles of the Austrian School of Economics. UFM's doctoral program (carried out in English) follows the European model of dissertation and defense. A masters degree in economics is recommended though not requisite, with admission based on the successful completion of a series of exams in macroeconomics, microeconomics and history of economic thought.

Juan Carlos Cachanosky, academic director of both programs, took his Ph.D. under Austrian economist Hans Sennholz. The roster of dissertation advisors is an international who's who of classical liberal scholars, many of whom are either Austrian or strong sympathizers in their economic focus: Donald Boudreaux (chairman of economics, George Mason University), George Selgin (professor of economics, University of Georgia), Lawrence White (F.A. Hayek professor of economic history, University of Missouri at St. Louis), Robert Higgs (senior fellow in political economy, The Independent Institute), Stephen Davies (professor of history, Manchester

Metropolitan University), Joseph Keckeissen (professor of economics, UFM), Pierre Garelo (professor of economics, Université Aix-Marseille), Peter Boettke (Senior Fellow, Mercatus Center; professor of economics, George Mason University), and Roger Garrison (professor of economics, Auburn University). Contact: Wenceslao Giménez-Bonet, dean, School of Economic Sciences at UFM: wgbonet@ufm.edu

A5. George Mason

There are a few Austrian economists on the faculty. Mason features formal course work in Austrian economics, and a field exam in that subject so students can specialize in Austrian economics. Contact: "Peter Boettke" pboettke@gmu.edu and check out his website; <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/economics/pboettke/workshop.html>

Re math: Up to Calculus 3, and should have stats 1 and 2.

A6. New York University

Mario Rizzo and David Harper are Austrian economists on the faculty. There are explicitly Austrian courses available, here. Most importantly, NYU features an informal weekly Austrian seminar attended by several New York City area Austro libertarians, in addition to these two, including Joe Salerno (Pace University), Bill Butos (Trinity College, CT), Sandy Ikeda (SUNY-Purchase, NY) Young Back Choi (St. John's Univ., NY), Roger Koppl (Fairleigh-Dickinson Univ., NJ), James Sadowsky (emeritus Fordham University, NYC), and Thomas McQuade (no academic affiliation but he received Ph.D. at Auburn under Garrison and Yeager). Thomas McQuade is now a visiting scholar at NYU and a frequent adjunct professor. The official colloquium name has been changed this year from Austrian Economic Colloquium to Colloquium on Market Institutions and Economic Processes. Another advantage of this program: there are Austrian Fellowships available at NYU. I.e. you can get a full ride and stipend because of your Austrian credentials. Israel Kirzner, the elder statesman of Austrian economics, is now retired, but it is my understanding that he still has some contact with the program. However, applicants should be aware that the NYU program is highly mathematical. The typical admitted student has: 3-4 semesters of calculus, a course in linear algebra, two semesters of mathematical statistics. Some have taken differential equations. The quantitative GRE minimum is around 770. There is no chance that a student who doesn't have this background can get through the first year. Economics here is now applied mathematics. A successful applicant will have the equivalent of a mathematics minor. NYU gets 700-1,000 applicants and accepts only 20-25. For further information, see <http://www.nyu.edu/econ/graduate/phd/faq.html>; Contact: mario.rizzo@nyu.edu.

A7 Rey Juan Carlos' University, Madrid, Spain

The following comes to me courtesy of Massimiliano Neri.

Jesus Huerta de Soto is an outstanding Austrian economist in Europe. Furthermore, at Rey Juan Carlos' University there are many free marketeers, albeit some of them not entirely Austrian. For example, Prof. Miguel Angel Alonso (he teaches International Monetary Theory and has received the national prize for the best PhD thesis) is not literally an Austrian but knows this school very well and often teaches the Austrian point of view in his International Monetary Theory class. The same applies to Prof. Victoriano Martín Martín, Director of the Economics PhD Program. Huerta de Soto

teaches a 5 hour weekly undergraduate class on Austrian Economics. Moreover he holds a weekly doctoral seminar called Mises Seminar (where the great economist's bust is never absent). The syllabus of both undergraduate class and the doctoral seminar is included below.

Huerta de Soto's undergraduate class starts from virtually zero and manages it to make you an Austrian economist in one year. The main textbook is obviously Mises's *Human Action*. This class attracted Erasmus students and doctoral students from other parts of Europe. Therefore one gets to interact with many other students of Austrian economics who came for the same reason to Madrid: to study with Huerta de Soto and his professorial colleagues. His enthusiasm and teaching abilities are incredibly high and well known recognized among the students. All this creates a perfect study atmosphere.

The Mises Seminar has been given regularly by Huerta de Soto for nineteen years. This seminar serves as a sort of capstone for his three PhD courses ("Economic analysis of planning and interventionism", "Market Processes and Institutions' Dynamic Efficiency", "Theory of The Business Cycle"). Its structure is the following: Huerta de Soto makes a presentation every other week, while in the rest of the sessions, graduate students present their investigations.

Contact: huertadesoto@dimasoft.es

In B you can get a Ph.D. in economics, and Austrian economics is *not* part of the official program (but there are Austrians and/or libertarians on the faculty).

B1. University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

The University of Canterbury offers a Ph.D. in Economics in the British tradition; the Ph.D. is awarded through dissertation only following the successful completion of Masters level coursework and the Masters Thesis. While there are no classes taught in Austrian economics, there are a number of faculty members who are at least sympathetic to Austrian and libertarian viewpoints.

Eric Crampton is a George Mason graduate and recent hire at Canterbury; his main research focus is in public choice but he's sympathetic to Austrian perspectives. Phil Meguire is a Chicago-trained economist who is knowledgeable about Austrian economics from a history of thought perspective and reasonably sympathetic; he's also quite well versed in public choice. Ken Carlaw is also knowledgeable about Austrian from a history of thought perspective and is a fan of Austrian capital theory insights. Paul Walker, a research fellow at the department rather than a member of faculty, is quite knowledgeable about Austrian theory, particularly Austrian and libertarian political economy, as well as public choice. Alan Woodfield, who is now part-time as he moves towards retirement, is published in *Public Choice*; he teaches in law and economics. Steve Tucker and Jeremy Clark do experimental economics, some of which has public economics/public choice applications. The department as a whole is friendly to libertarian perspectives (some more than others), though the modal member would approach it from a consequentialist / utilitarian perspective.

A person considering an Austrian focused Ph.D. here could likely put together a committee that would be helpful (though likely not well versed in the latest developments in Austrian theory). Also keep in mind that the Southern Hemisphere's academic year

begins in February rather than September. Contact person: Eric Crampton:
eric.crampton@canterbury.ac.nz

Crampton's statement on math: This is a really tough one for me to answer, Walter. The Masters level coursework is pretty mathy (you'll have to be able to work through Varian), but the PhD is entirely by dissertation, so one could conceivably do a low math dissertation. But, the oral exams are open to anyone on faculty, and if somebody figured that the candidate didn't do any math 'cause the candidate doesn't know any math, and if the person figuring that wanted to make a point of it, questions during the orals could turn ugly. I guess you could probably summarize as follows then: "As to the level of mathiness, expect to have to be able to work through Varian's graduate micro text, though you don't necessarily have to write a mathy dissertation."

B2. University of Chicago.

There are lots of free enterprise but non Austrian professors here. Almost all Nobel Prizes awarded to free enterprise oriented economists have had some contact with Chicago, either as students or professors. Chicago is widely known as the most prestigious of all free enterprise oriented Ph.D. programs. (However, see some interesting and critical comments on this program below under the Harvard listing).

B3. Clemson

There are several free enterprisers at Clemson. Bob Tollison, Bruce Yandle (APEE), Daniel Benjamin (PERC) and Bob McCormick.
<http://hubcap.clemson.edu/economics/faculty/intro.htm>

B4. The University of Connecticut

Steve Cunningham is pro free market, Francis Ahking is a Rational Expectations Chicago oriented economist, and Dick Langlois is a Mises/Hayek professor.

B5. Florida State, Tallahassee

Bruce Benson (President of the Association of Private Enterprise Educators – APEE) and Randy Holcombe have interests in Austrianism; James Gwartney, is a strong free enterpriser. Contacts: "Prof. James D. Gwartney" jdgwart@aol.com <<mailto:jdgwart@aol.com>, jgwartne@garnet.acns.fsu.edu; "Bruce Benson" bbenson@garnet.acns.fsu.edu <<mailto:bbenson@garnet.acns.fsu.edu> holcombe@garnet.acns.fsu.edu <<mailto:holcombe@garnet.acns.fsu.edu>

Note from Randy Holcombe on math: "We don't have a requirement, per se, for math, but I'd recommend linear algebra, a year of calculus (not business calculus), and a statistics course. The more the better, in both math and statistics. I share your frustration on this, and with regard to my own program. We've lost some good students because they were blown away by the math in our first-year courses. I had a graduate student this summer who was doing OK in her courses, so she could have stayed, but she said she was just overwhelmed by the math, and because of it didn't really understand the economics of what was going on in her classes. Things may marginally improve here. One of the most mathematical teachers (who students complained about) left this summer, and in general I think our core faculty are becoming more aware of the problem."

B6. University of Georgia, Athens.

George Selgin is highly knowledgeable about Austrian economics. Dwight Lee is a libertarian. I think there are two or three other libertarian non Austrian profs there. Contact: "Prof. Dwight R. Lee" DLEE@cbacc.cba.uga.edu; "selgin@terry.uga.edu" selgin@terry.uga.edu.

B7. Guelph University

Glenn Fox is an Austro libertarian. There are Ph.D. programs available in Agricultural Economics, Economics, Environmental Economics and Rural Studies. He can supervise students in all of these programs. While he is the only Austrian at Guelph, his is a relatively free-market oriented department. However, Canada is even more socialistic than the U.S., hard as that is to believe. Contact: Glenn C. Fox Gfox@agec.uoguelph.ca

B8. Harvard University

No, this is not a typographical error. I pass along the following statement, which came to me as a result of circulating an earlier version of this list:

“One thing about Chicago- most of the somewhat pro free market types are gone- the old limited government crowd of Friedman, Coase, Stigler and so on are long gone. Lucas and Becker are still around, but Becker is in poor health. Many of the newer Chicago guys are just run of the mill Neoclassicals.

“On the bright side, Harvard has improved immensely. Galbraith is gone. Robert Barro, Andrei Schleifer, Alberto Alesina, and Martin Feldstein are all at least as free market as Lucas or Becker (better than most economists, though not an Austro libertarian). Feldstien is the premier mainstream critic of Social Security. Schleifer likes Hayek. Greg Mankiw is also vastly different from the old Keynesians, though not as good as Barro or Feldstein. Harvard is arguably more free market than Chicago these days, not that either school is as good as GMU.”

In my own view, Chicago is better from a free enterprise point of view than in the opinion of this correspondent; I include his statement because I didn't realize that Harvard was so good. At the University of Chicago law school alone there are Richard Epstein, Richard Posner and William Landes, all strong advocates of free enterprise; I say this despite the fact that I have had my disagreements with all three.

B10 University of Mississippi

William Shughart is the Frederick A. P. Barnard Distinguished Professor of Economics and holder of the Robert M. Hearin Chair in Business Administration at the University of Mississippi. "William F. Shughart II" shughart@bus.olemiss.edu. Robert Tollison is also a free enterprise oriented economist. "Prof. Robert D. Tollison" <tollison@bus.olemiss.edu>

B10. University of Missouri at Columbia

Offers a Ph.D. in agricultural economics. Peter Klein is a libertarian Austrian. There are also offered Ph.D.s in economics, political science, history, finance, management, etc. Klein can be on the dissertation committees in any of those

departments. Ag Econ is his home department, so he can only chair dissertation committees in that subject. Todd Chiles, in the Department of Management, is interested in Hayek, Lachmann, and Kirzner. Jeff Milyo, in the Department of Economics, and Thom Lambert, in the School of Law, are non-Austrian libertarians. Contact: Peter Klein pklein@missouri.edu

B11. North Carolina State.

It has a Ph.D. program in economics. While it is not Austrian it is very free market. Steve Margolis is the department chair and many other faculty members are free market, supply-side, Chicago types such as David Ball, Lee Craig, Walter Wessels (Grove City undergrad), Ed Erickson and Mike Walden. Wally Thurman, a PERC fellow, free market environmentalist, has a joint appointment with the Ag and Resource econ dept, as does Tom Grennes with Econ & Ag Econ. Also, there are Austrians around. E.C. Pasour is emeritus but occasionally still teaches. Roy Cordato, an Austro-libertarian, teaches a course there, but only for upper level undergrads. rcordato@johnlocke.org

B12. University of Oklahoma.

We have a PhD program that would be sympathetic to libertarian students. We have five faculty members (amongst those with any discernable political interests) who could be characterized as libertarian or free market. There would certainly be support for libertarian students interested in working on research related to free markets. In addition we also have one graduate class which covers Austrian economics, although we don't offer a field and wouldn't encourage students to write an Austrian dissertation. Our program is very applied, although rigorous, and a libertarian student could easily write a dissertation related to a public policy topic and bring Austrian and public choice perspectives to bear. Contact: Dan Sutter, Graduate Director, dsutter@ou.edu

B13. University of Rochester

The professors were generally free-market in orientation. The Chicago school viewpoint was very common, in fact a number of professors at Rochester are Chicago PhDs, among them Steven E. Landsburg, Ron Hansen, Gregg Jarrell, former dean Charles Plosser, G. William Schwert, Jerold Warner, and Ross Watts.

Contact: http://www.ssb.rochester.edu/faculty/faculty_directory.aspx(Link)

B15. Washington University, St. Louis

Murray Weidenbaum is a free market oriented professor, but teaches only undergraduate courses. Douglass North is a Nobel Laureate in Economics with a free market orientation, who thinks Hayek the most important economist of the 20th century. In addition, John Nye (an I.H.S. fellow) and Lee Benham are advocates of economic freedom. To the best of my knowledge, Wash U has more libertarian students than at any other school, virtually none of whom are econ majors. Wash U is also home of the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences, a program of interest to Austrians. Contact: Art Carden, carden@wueconc.wustl.edu who is a graduate student in economics.

Note from Art Carden on math:
Math at Wash U

Absolutely required: 3 semesters of calculus (NOT b-school calculus—the real thing), 1 semester of matrix algebra. You probably won't get in without this plus a good math score on the GRE (I got a 730—not great, but good enough). If I had it to do over again... For students in b-schools, skip the business math & stat requirements. Take calculus with the engineers and take "mathematical statistics" instead of business stats. Since I have a field in applied econometrics, I also would have taken a course in probability and a course in real analysis. Between my time at Alabama and my time at Wash U, I've taken seven graduate courses in econometrics & statistics, 6 at the PhD level. I still don't really understand it, but I keep hearing that you don't really "get it" until you start doing it. Personal advice to prospective grad students who are interested in the Austrian paradigm: Learn how econometrics can be useful for answering the questions Austrians are asking. "Praxeology" can only carry us so far--when we have four or five candidate explanations for a particular event, logic alone can't tell us which factors "really mattered" and which factors didn't. Most people will tell you that the epistemological foundations of applied econometrics are somewhat shaky, but the discipline is useful for people who are interested in what happened. What's more, the foundations are rapidly improving with the increasingly sophisticated Bayesian approach. On what prospective grad students should do: 1. Figure out which questions you're interested in answering before you start filling out applications. Look at old JELs or ask professors which scholars are working in the fields that interest you. 2. If you're interested in "theory," take analysis, measure theory, etc. If you're interested in applied work, you'll never see the phrase "metric topology" after your first year math course. Take stats classes instead.

In C, you can *not* get a Ph.D. in economics, and Austrian economics is *not* part of the official program, but there are Austrian economists on the faculty, and you *can* get a Ph.D. in some other, related, subject.

C1. Auburn University

There is no Ph.D. in economics. The agricultural school has a Ph.D. program in agricultural economics. There is a Ph.D. in applied economics, interdepartmental with agricultural economics and forestry, and integrated with the masters in economics. It is flexible so students can write dissertations with people from the economics department. You can also get a "resource" economics Ph.D. from the forestry department which is similarly flexible. Most students take most of their core courses in the economics department. Professors sympathetic to free enterprise include John Jackson in economics, David Laband (formerly of econ. department) now in forestry, Henry Thompson (formerly of econ. department) now in agriculture. Roger Garrison, an eminent Austrian macroeconomist and Sven Thomessen, an Austrian economist instructor, teach only undergraduate courses. Mark Thornton (an Austro libertarian) serves on a few dissertation committees. Further, Roderick Long, a professor of philosophy with a strong interest in the philosophy of Austrian economics, serves on economics dissertation committees. Contact: John Jackson, Economics Department Director of Graduate Studies; jacksjd@auburn.edu or Greg Traxler, Director of the Applied Economics Ph.D. gtraxler@acesag.auburn.edu.

A great advantage for Austrian students at Auburn is that the Mises Institute is located right next door. The Mises Institute is the preeminent institution for the teaching of Austrian economics and libertarian theory. They hold numerous conferences, workshops, where those among the best Austro libertarians lecture several times a year. This list includes the senior faculty of the Mises Institute:
<http://www.mises.org/faculty.asp>.

At the Mises Institute, the resident faculty includes eminent Austrian Mark Thornton, and Austro-historian and Rothbard scholar Joseph Stromberg. In addition the Mises Institute features such visiting scholars as Ralph Raico, Robert Higgs, John V. Denson, Sudha Shenoy, and Hans-Hermann Hoppe. For more information on the Mises Institute, contact: Pat@mises.org

C2. University of Nevada at Las Vegas

There is available a Ph.D. in Political Science and Sociology, but not Economics. Hans Hoppe, in my opinion the foremost Austro-libertarian now writing, can be a member of either of these dissertation committees. Contact: hoppeh@nevada.edu

Comment from Prof. Peter Boettke of George Mason on this letter:

“Unfortunately, opportunities for advanced study in Austrian economics are limited and good information for graduate students interested in Austrian economics is rare and should be made available to all possible parties. Professor Walter Block is doing an invaluable service in this regard. When I was a student I was fortunate because Bettina Bien Graves (FEE) and Walter Grinder (IHS) took a special interest in me and directed me to study at GMU, but these individuals have since retired and it is my opinion that many students interested in pursuing the advanced study of Austrian economics are falling between the cracks.”

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pboettke@gmu.edu; mario.rizzo@nyu.edu; huertadesoto@dimasoft.es;
eric.crampton@canterbury.ac.nz; jdgwart@aol.com, jgwartne@garnet.acns.fsu.edu;
bbenson@garnet.acns.fsu.edu; holcombe@garnet.acns.fsu.edu;
DLEE@cbacc.cba.uga.edu; selgin@terry.uga.edu; Gfox@agec.uoguelph.ca;
tollison@bus.olemiss.edu; pklein@missouri.edu; rcordato@johnlocke.org;
dsutter@ou.edu; carden@wueconc.wustl.edu; jacksjd@auburn.edu;
gtraxler@acesag.auburn.edu; hoppeh@nevada.edu

9/3/05

Dear Colleagues:

This material appears on several webs (Mises Institute, Institute for Humane Studies) and is thus available to thousands of potential students. Please look at the attached, and make any corrections you think appropriate.

I am particularly interested in being informed by you of the level of mathematical and statistical sophistication necessary to obtain the Ph.D. degree at your institution. Please be specific as to the requirements. For example, how much calculus, statistics, econometrics, LaGrange multipliers, bordered Hessians, matrix theory, linear algebra, linear transforms, modern algebra, etc. Could you please mention courses in which areas of math and stat you would you recommend to an undergraduate as prerequisites for study at your school? If you had to rate your university in terms of a single number indicating your math stat requirements, what would it be? (Ten = lots of math, zero = no math needed).

I am particularly exercised about this issue because one of my best students just went off to a graduate school in econ, and quit during her first week because of the math stat requirements there. We do indeed warn all our students about this, but, evidently, we did not do a good enough job. Ah, well, live and learn.

Best regards,

Walter

Dear Walter,

We do. It's a great program and most of the classes are taught by libertarians.

Send lots of students!

--Ed

----- Original Message -----

From: "WALTER BLOCK" <WALTERBLOCK@cba.loyno.edu>

To: <Edward.Stringham@SJSU.EDU>

Sent: Friday, September 10, 2004 12:46 PM

Subject: masters?

> Dear Ed:

>

> You guys offer a masters in econ, correct? I may have a student for you,

if

> so.

>

> Best regards,

>

> Walter