

CONSUMER SCIENCES, MS

The Master of Science in Consumer Sciences is a 30-credit-hour degree program that offers advanced study in two complementary concentration areas.

Consumer Economics Concentration

The Consumer Economics concentration offers an applied microeconomics approach to understanding consumers in home, policy, and market environments. This concentration prepares students to continue study in a doctoral program or employment in a research-oriented setting investigating consumer decision-making, personal finance, and related family and consumer policy. This research-oriented concentration requires the successful completion of a thesis.

Family Financial Planning and Counseling Concentration

The Family Financial Planning and Counseling concentration focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary for a career in financial planning and related careers. The curriculum fulfills the educational requirements to sit for the CFP® certification exam that leads to the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification registered with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. Students who successfully complete the concentration may sit for the CFP® certification exam that leads to the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification. The concentration also fulfills the educational requirements to sit for the Accredited Financial Counselor® exam offered by the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education®. Successful completion of a capstone project, practicum, or portfolio is required.

Admissions

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Curricular Requirements

Consumer Sciences, MS		Hours
Core Courses		
CSM 555 or CSM 560	Research Methods and Analysis Finan Plan Case Study Capstone	3
BER 540 or CSM 558	Statistical Methods In Educ Spreadsheets in Fin. Decisions	3
BER 640 or CSM 554	Adv Statistical Methods in Ed Personal Income Tax Mgt Plang	3
Concentration Requirements		21
Total Hours		30

Consumer Economics Concentration

Code and Title	Hours
Consumer Sciences, MS Core Courses	
CSM 599	Thesis Research
Choose from the following:	
CSM 501	Consumer Protection
CSM 505	Public Policy
CSM 506	Consumer Mgt Quality Assurance
CSM 507	Consumr Qual Mgt Facilitn Skil
CSM 508	Consumer Quality Mgt Systems
CSM 515	Customer Service Management
CSM 525	Conflict Resolution Workplace

CSM 550	Consumer Economics
CSM 551	Consumer Demographics
CSM 580	E-Commerce@Ches
CSM 586	Principled Negotiation

Total Hours 30

Family Financial Planning and Counseling Concentration

Code and Title	Hours
Consumer Sciences, MS Core Courses	
CSM 500	Personal Insurance Plan & Mgt
CSM 504	Personal Investment Plan & Mgt
CSM 510	Pers Retire Plan Empl Benefits
CSM 520	Personal Estate Planning
CSM 535	Psychology Of Money
CSM 559	Tech of Counsl in Cons Science
Approved Elective	
Total Hours	

30

9

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

30

Transfer Credit

See the Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Accelerated Master's Program

See the Accelerated Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Comprehensive Exam/Capstone

See the Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Fieldwork/Practicum/Internship

See the Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Plan I: Thesis

The Consumer Economics Concentration requires completion of a thesis (Plan I). Upon admission to the M.S. program in Consumer Sciences, students are assigned an interim advisor (i.e., program coordinator or program director). The interim advisor will assist the student in the evaluation of previous work and selection of coursework. Students identify a permanent master's program advisor no later than the end of the first year of study for Consumer Economics concentration and end of the first semester of study for FFPC concentration. Advisors help students plan a course of study and research or professional internship experiences. Students should consult their advisor at least once per semester to review their progress. Students pursuing the Consumer Economics Concentration will select a thesis advisor who will assist in the formulation of the thesis committee. A student's advisor may also serve as their thesis advisor.

See the Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Plan II: Non-Thesis

The Family Financial Planning and Counseling Concentration is a Plan II program. As such, no thesis is required. Instead, Plan II students complete a supervised practicum or a capstone project.

See the Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Time Limits for Degree Completion Requirements

See the Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Student Progress Requirement

See the Master's Degree Academic Policies section of this catalog for more information.

Academic Misconduct Information

See the Academic Misconduct section of this catalog for more information.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

See the Withdrawals and Leave of Absence section of this catalog for more information.

Academic Grievances Information

See the Academic Grievance Procedures section of this catalog for more information.

Grades and Academic Standing

See the Grades and Academic Standing section of this catalog for more information.

Graduate School Deadlines Information

See the Graduate School Deadline page for more information.

Application for Graduation Information

See the Application for Graduation section of this catalog for more information.

A limited number of graduate assistantships and graduate school fellowships are available. The number of assistantships available varies each year. Graduate assistants must be available in-person approximately 20 hours/week. These assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis. Graduate assistants may be asked to assist with teaching, research, and service missions of the academic unit to which they are assigned. The application for Graduate Assistantship should be submitted before January 15 of each year for full consideration. For more information on the Financial Support, contact the Department of Consumer Sciences Graduate Coordinator.

Further financial assistant information is available at <https://catalog.ua.edu/graduate/about/general-information/financial-assistance/index.html>